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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Carol Studenmund honored posthumously with NCRA 2025 Distinguished Service Award
Late captioner from Portland, Ore., becomes 65th to earn the national award

RESTON, Va., July 26, 2025 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, today posthumously bestowed its highest honor, the 2025 Distinguished Service Award (DSA), on Carol Studenmund, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, a captioner and agency owner from Portland, Ore. Studenmund was honored at a special awards ceremony held at the [2025 NCRA Conference & Expo](#) July 24-26 in Minneapolis, Minn. The award was accepted by her husband on her behalf.

The NCRA DSA recognizes the distinguished work and service by an individual member for the benefit of the court reporting and captioning professions, including service to NCRA as a member, a committee member, a director, or an officer of the Association. Other displays of distinguished work include contributing to the *JCR*, the official membership magazine, service to a state or local court reporting association, or service in the field of public relations or public affairs. Award winners are nominated by their peers and are recognized each year at the NCRA Conference & Expo.

Studenmund held the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), and Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC), and was also a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters (FAPR). She passed away in December 2024 and was nominated for the 2025 award by numerous peers and colleagues, including her business partner Robin Nodland, FAPR, RDR, CRR. The pair started LNS Court Reporting & Captioning in 1987 after launching their careers together as freelance court reporters with the same firm. Studenmund served as president of the firm until her passing. Studenmund earned a bachelor's degree in arts in 1979 from the University of Chicago, Ill., and graduated from the Court Reporting Institute in 1983.

At the national level, she served on or chaired numerous committees including the Certified Realtime Captioner, Captioning Regulatory Policy, CART and Broadcast Captioning, Captioning



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Community of Interest, and the Realtime Testing committees. She was also a frequent seminar speaker at NCRA events and a frequent contributor to the *JCR* magazine.

At the state level, Studenmund served as president of the Oregon Court Reporters in 2001-2002, on the Distinguished Service Award Committee, and as chair of the Legislative Committee. She was the driving force along with the Portland City Council to launch the grassroots campaign "Turn on the Captions." She was also instrumental in helping Portland become the first city in the United States to require closed captions to be turned on permanently on all televisions in public spaces including hospitals, gyms, restaurants, and bars. More than a dozen cities followed the move after Oregon and Washington state mandated the same requirement to ensure equity for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Within her community, Studenmund served as chair, vice chair, and commissioner of the Mount Hood Cable Regulatory Commission, as well as provided pro bono captioning for a local church for a group of deaf/hard of hearing friends.

"Carol's enthusiasm for caption was contagious," wrote Nodland in her letter of nomination. "Carol's advocacy continued thought her life. She inspired me to caption at the church associated with the school my daughter attended and to volunteer to caption the monthly Portland chapter of Self-Help for Hard of Hearing. She referred to us as the captioning church ladies."

Studenmund's service on the Mount Hood Cable Regulatory Commission gave her the voice that the cable company Comcast could not ignore and added that, because of her, "the quality of captions improved dramatically."

According to Darlene Parker, FAPR, RPR (Ret.), who co-wrote the first Captioning Best Practices for NCRA, which was later adopted by the Federal Communications Commission, Studenmund was one of the most accomplished women she had ever met. "Beside court reporter and captioner, Carol's other titles included leader, champion, advocate, businesswoman, president, chairperson, speaker, teacher, diplomat, negotiator, consummate professional, volunteer, good friend, wife, and mother. She tirelessly advocated for the captioning industry and for access for the deaf and hard of hearing community," Parker wrote in her nomination letter.

"Not only was Carol extremely intelligent and impassioned about the causes she believed in, but she knew how to inspire and deal with all types of people, while being strong, fair, and kind. She was a force of nature, whose determination and advocacy work will be sorely missed," Parker noted.

"Carol was a pioneer in captioning and was instrumental in creating the standards that are in use today," wrote longtime colleague Doug Friend, FAPR, RDR, CRR (Ret.), a past president of



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NCRA and current Chair of the National Court Reporters Foundation, of which Studenmund was an Angel Donor and fundraising contributor.

Court reporters and captioners rely on the latest in technology to use stenographic machines to capture the spoken word and translate it into written text in real time. These professionals work both in and out of the courtroom recording legal cases and depositions, providing live captioning of events, and assisting members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities with gaining access to information, entertainment, educational opportunities, and more.

If you're looking for a career that is on the cutting edge of technology, offers the opportunity for work at home or abroad, like to write, enjoy helping others, and are fast with your fingers, then the fields of court reporting and captioning are careers you can explore at NCRA/discoversteno.org.

To arrange an interview with a working court reporter, captioner, legal videographer, or a current court reporting student, or to learn more about the lucrative and flexible court reporting or captioning professions and the many job opportunities currently available, contact pr@ncra.org.

About NCRA

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has been internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 125 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 12,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator, and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership.

Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to be one of the fastest areas of projected employment growth across all occupations. Career information about the court reporting profession — one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree — can be found at [NCRA DiscoverSteno.org](http://NCRADiscoverSteno.org).