

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents

November 20, 2008

Action Request

Subject: Posthumous bachelor's degree

Action Requested: Awarding of a Bachelor of Science Degree for Milo Radulovich


Milo Radulovich, a native of Detroit, was born in 1926. In 1944 he joined the Army Air Force, where he was trained as a meteorologist. He was discharged in 1952 following eight years of service and then, while serving as a lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve, enrolled at the University of Michigan. In August of 1953, at the height of the McCarthy era and the "Red Scare," two Air Force officers came to Mr. Radulovich's home in Dexter, Michigan to deliver a letter informing him that he had been removed as an officer in the Air Force Reserve. The letter gave no reason, but he later learned that the only charge against him was his association with his father, who subscribed to a Serbian newspaper, and his sister, who was a civil-rights activist.

Mr. Radulovich fought back by challenging the discharge. His case drew national attention and thousands of letters of support after Edward R. Murrow broadcast a report on the television newsmagazine program, "See It Now." The publicity generated by the airing of Radulovich's story is generally believed to have led to the beginning of the end of the McCarthy era. Shortly after the program aired, Mr. Radulovich was reinstated in the Air Force.

During that summer of 1953, as a physics major and working two jobs, Mr. Radulovich took two courses at the University of Michigan. He continued his studies during the fall semester of 1953 and winter semester of 1954, all the while fighting to clear his name. But the events of the past year took a toll on Mr. Radulovich and his family. He left the University without having received his degree and moved to California, where he eventually became a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. In his later years, he spoke out publicly in defense of civil rights and freedom of the press. He died on November 19, 2007, at the age of 81.

We have conducted a thorough review of Milo Radulovich's academic career as a student at the University of Michigan, and have concluded it is likely that he would have completed his baccalaureate degree within a minimum of two terms if these circumstances had not intervened during his senior year. For this reason, we recommend the awarding of a posthumous Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in physics to Milo John Radulovich.

Respectfully submitted:



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
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