About ERI

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Education and Research Institute (ERI)  

Description:

The Education and Research Institute (ERI) is a tax-exempt, educational organization founded in 1974. Its purpose is to create greater awareness and understanding of America’s history and traditional values. ERI has been researching and publishing studies on public policy issues for more than 30 years.

Stakeholder(s):

M. Stanton Evans:
Founder, The Education and Research Institute — July 20, 1974 – March 3, 2015 — Stan Evans graduated from Yale, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1955, the year Bill Buckley launched National Review. And like Buckley, Stan had served on the Yale Daily News. At Yale he read a book by Frank Chodorov, One Is a Crowd, which, he said, "opened up more intellectual perspectives . . . than did the whole Yale curriculum." After Yale, he did graduate work in economics at New York University under Ludwig von Mises. Stan was for a while an assistant editor at The Freeman, where Chodorov was the editor. In 1956 he joined the staff of Human Events as managing editor. Then in 1959, Stan became the head editorial writer of The Indianapolis News, and the following year, at the age of 26, the editor of the paper, making him the nation’s youngest editor of a metropolitan daily newspaper. He also joined the staff of National Review, where he served as associate editor from 1960 to 1973. It is not surprising that there is so much to say about Stan, given how young he was when he first came into public view.

ERI Board of Directors:
The Institute is governed by a board of directors that is chaired by Daniel Oliver, former chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. He succeeded the founding chairman, M. Stanton Evans, following Evans’ death in 2015. Other board members include Terrance Scanlon, Allan Ryskind, James Roberts and Ralph Bennett.

Daniel Oliver:
Daniel Oliver is chairman of The Education and Research Institute. He has a broad background in government and public policy, having served as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, General Counsel at the Departments of Education and Agriculture. He also served on the boards of National Review magazine (of which he is a former chairman), the Centre for the Study of the New Europe, the International Policy Network, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and was Vice President and on the Advisory Board of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy. He received his B.A. from Harvard College and his LL.B. from Fordham Law School. He served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1962. He is married to Louise Victor Oliver, the former U. S. Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris. They have five children and ten grandchildren.

Terrance Scanlon:
Terrance Scanlon retired in January 2016 after more than 22 years as President of the Capital Research Center, a conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C. From 1989–1994, he was Vice President of the Heritage Foundation. In 1983, he was appointed a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission by President Ronald Reagan. He became Chairman of the CPSC in 1985, a position he held until 1989. He was the highest ranking Democrat during the last two years of the Reagan Administration. He has been married to Judy Scanlon for 48 years. They have three adult sons and four granddaughters.

Allan Ryskind:
Allan Ryskind has been associated with the politically influential Human Events from 1959 through 2015 as a reporter, editor and owner. Called a “masterful reporter” by The Washington Post, Ryskind covered nine presidencies, beginning with John F. Kennedy’s election in 1960. He travelled to numerous Cold War hot spots, reporting on the Soviet Union, Cuba, South Africa and Chile. Edited by Thomas Winter and Ryskind for over three decades, the publication had a profound impact on conservative politics and significantly affected policy and personnel decisions in both Democratic and Republican Administrations. President Ronald Reagan heavily relied on its contents in shaping his policies, even informing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that HE’s support of The Strategic Defense Initiative was a major reason he would not abandon it. Ryskind has been published in scores of publications, including National Review, The Weekly Standard and Breitbart News. He has appeared on numerous radio and TV programs such as Meet The Press, CSPAN and the Voice of America. After two years of Army duty, he earned a Masters in Journalism from UCLA. He is the author of Hubert, a biography of liberal icon Hubert Humphrey, and Hollywood Traitors, a critical look at Hollywood’s blacklisted screenwriters.

James Roberts:
James C. Roberts is the President of the American Studies Center, a non-profit foundation in Arlington, Virginia. He is the founder of Radio America, a news/talk network and of the American Veterans Center. Roberts is a graduate of Miami University and served in the U.S. Navy as anti-submarine warfare and nuclear weapons officer during two extended
deployments in the Western Pacific. He is a former executive director of the American Conservative Union, and was director of the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships from 1983 to 1984. He is the author of two books: The Conservative Decade: Emerging Leaders of the 1980s and Hardball on the Hill: Baseball Stories from the Nation’s Capital. Roberts and his wife, Patricia (O’Connor) Roberts have four children and two grandchildren and reside in Great Falls, Virginia.

Ralph Bennett

Ralph Kinney Bennett is a writer, writing coach and editorial consultant living in Ligonier, Pa. and Delray Beach, Fla. He was a reporter and feature writer for The New Haven Register, The Philadelphia Inquirer and The National Observer. He retired in 2001 as Assistant Managing Editor in the Washington Bureau of The Reader’s Digest, where he covered national and international affairs for more than 30 years, traveling the world while writing on a wide variety of subjects and heading up major investigative projects. As a White House correspondent, he covered seven U.S. Presidents. In recent years many of his articles have appeared on-line at TCS Daily, The American, National Review and numerous on-line sites. After 35 years as a Washington journalist he retired to his hometown, Ligonier, Pa., site of a historic British frontier fort of the French and Indian War. He proudly serves as an active firefighter with Ligonier Volunteer Hose Co. No. 1, and as a trustee of the Fort Ligonier Association, which oversees the restored fort and its museum.

Mission

To create greater awareness and understanding of America’s history and traditional values

Values

Freedom
Studies

**Undertake studies on a broad range of topics, from tax and budget matters, to health care topics, to foreign policy and defense-related issues**

Projects — The range of studies undertaken by ERI researchers has been broad—from tax and budget matters, to health care topics, to foreign policy and defense-related issues. Also included in the mix have been in-depth studies of the role of religion in the American political system.

1. American History

*Provide a critique of the weaknesses and shortcomings of American history textbooks*

The American History Book Project — Recently, ERI launched an American History Project, which will provide a detailed critique of the weaknesses and shortcomings found in the four main American history textbooks used in secondary schools throughout the United States.

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Stan Evans:**
*Under the aegis of Education and Research Institute, Stan Evans published two major books on communism: Blacklisted by History and Stalin’s Secret Agents. No discussion of communists in the U.S. government is worth listening to if the discussants haven’t read Stan’s books. They are a major achievement in U.S. history writing, and they are, almost certainly, the final words on the subject. But there can be no finality on the writing or teaching of American history in general. That history is always “up for grabs.” And so the Directors of ERI have decided to embark on an American history project.*

**High Schools:**
*We want to do something about the biased teaching of American history in the country’s high schools. One of Stan’s greatest books was his American history book, The Theme Is Freedom. It should be read by every high school student. It is not.*

**Howard Zinn:**
*The most widely used American history textbook in American high schools used to be Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States. Howard Zinn was a communist, and not, unfortunately, the under-the-bed kind, but the kind that makes trouble, which in Zinn’s case included messing up people’s understanding of history. Zinn, who died not a moment too soon in 2010, influenced generations of American high school students. Zinn’s book has now been supplanted by several others, but the new books also present Zinn’s classic left-wing interpretation of American history: decades and decades of exploitation and discrimination by privileged upper classes. Who knew? That’s rubbish, of course, but how are students supposed to know that?*

**Burt Folsom:**
*We asked Burt Folsom of Hillsdale College to go through, first, one of the most widely-used textbooks, page by page, section-by-section, and critique it.*

**Parents:**
*When he had finished, we put that critique up on our website where parents and students can find out what the problem is with what the textbook says on any given page or section: what content is biased, and how; and what was omitted.*

**Students**

**History Textbook Publishers:**
*It is one of our goals to do the same for other biased American history textbooks. That should be easier because we can use, probably, much of the same copy. We think this is such a good idea that we are surprised no one has done it before. We hope others will steal our idea and do likewise.*

2. Cold War

*Provide historical data on the Cold War*

A further emphasis throughout has been the historical question of internal security in America’s long-running struggle with the Soviet Union. To aid in these studies ERI in 1988 founded its Center for Security Research as a collection point for Cold War historical data. The history of America’s long struggle with the Soviet Union, which ended with its collapse in 1991, was often poorly understood at the time, and remains so today. Long-classified documents shed important light on the many dimensions of the struggle, and ERI’s Center for Security Research was founded in 1988 to provide a collection point for historical data on the Cold War. A key
collection of information is the Silvermaster File, containing more than 26,000 pages of documents relating to the FBI’s investigation of the penetration of U.S. Government agencies during the Cold War. The Education and Research Institute has obtained much of the file’s contents through the Freedom of Information Act, and makes it available here, for the use of historians and researchers seeking a fuller and more complete understanding of Soviet espionage in the United States.

**Stakeholder(s):**
Center for Security Research

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**Administrative Information**

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