



Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award: Terry H. Klein

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The Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award was first presented in 1990 to recognize individuals who have given sustained and truly outstanding service to the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). Carol V. Ruppé was the first recipient. At the 2020 annual conference in Boston, Terry H. Klein (Fig. 1) was honored with the 2020 Ruppé Award for his instrumental role in professionalizing SHA's approach to historic preservation and government-affairs advocacy.

Terry's distinguished service centers on his role as chair of the SHA Government Affairs Committee for over a decade (2009–present). The committee works with the SHA Board of Directors to respond to national and state historic preservation issues and concerns, and Terry represents SHA during educational efforts with members of the U.S. Congress and federal agencies in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the time Terry took over as head of the committee, SHA had relied on Loretta Neumann and then Nellie Longworth to lead its government advocacy efforts. Loretta and Nellie effectively supported SHA in this area for many years and helped historic preservation weather many challenges. But, as individuals, there was only so much that Loretta and Nellie could do. Threats to cultural resources and heritage protection continue to increase exponentially, and it was no longer



Fig. 1 Terry H. Klein. (Photo courtesy of David Cushman.)

possible for each of the major archaeological societies to operate in isolation.

Terry was instrumental in professionalizing SHA's approach to historic preservation advocacy by bringing the cultural heritage law and policy firm Cultural Heritage Partners (CHP) on board to serve as the society's voice in Washington, D.C. In 2017, when Republicans controlled both the House of Representatives and the Senate, Terry worked with CHP to create the Coalition for American Heritage. The coalition was created in

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order to take a proactive approach in defending federal and state historic preservation laws, regulations, and policies. With CHP, he worked to bring SHA and other partners into the coalition. The combined voices of the membership of SHA, the Society for American Archaeology, the American Anthropological Association (AAA), the American Cultural Resources Association, and the Archaeological Institute of America make a much stronger advocacy impact than one society speaking on its own. Terry is the SHA representative on the coalition's leadership council. Together with its sister organizations, the society is poised to help in confronting the extremely serious threats to preservation that are facing archaeology today.

As chair of the SHA Government Affairs Committee, Terry has been involved in numerous initiatives. Some of these began before he was chair, but, under his tenure, they were increased in frequency and became more structured through the coalition and work with CHP.

The SHA Board of Directors relies on him to keep them informed of actions by the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and state governments that might negatively impact the protection of historical archaeological resources. In addition he suggests actions that would support and improve existing protections.

Terry monitors and prepares comments on proposed national laws and regulations that might endanger the protection of historical archaeological resources, and works with the board to submit the comments to Congress and to federal agencies. Also, he meets with members of Congress and their staff concerning these proposed laws and regulations. In some cases, he prepares "calls for action" to be sent out to the SHA membership concerning these proposed laws and regulations.

He meets on a regular basis with members of the U.S. Congress and their staff, educating them about the value of historic preservation and historical archaeology, demonstrating the ways streamlining historic preservation laws and regulations can improve infrastructure-project delivery, and that SHA can serve as a resource on any issues involving historic preservation and archaeology. He has also worked with members of Congress to continue and in some cases increase funding for historic preservation within federal agencies and for state historic preservation offices and tribal historic preservation offices. Funding for these offices is critical to enable them to perform the roles assigned to them by law.

In addition, he has cultivated relationships with federal agency personnel and regularly meets with them to

advocate for improved implementation of historic preservation laws and regulations, and for effectively balancing historic preservation with infrastructure development. These agencies include, but are not limited to, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. This has been a new area of advocacy for SHA under his tenure.

Terry organizes and facilitates sessions at SHA annual conferences on the ways to communicate with members of Congress and state legislators, and how to demonstrate the value of historical archaeology and historic preservation to these policy decision makers. He has also organized and facilitated sessions on archaeological advocacy, supporting legislation such as the African-American Burial Grounds Network Act.

He was the plenary speaker at the 2016 SHA annual conference in Washington, D.C., where he discussed the significance of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act and also the ongoing and anticipated attacks on the act, historic preservation, and archaeology, and what SHA could do to combat these attacks. He also co-organized, with CHP, the conference reception held at one of the Congressional-committee meeting rooms on Capitol Hill. The reception was attended by members of Congress and their staff and SHA's historic preservation partner organizations located in D.C.

Not all of his contributions to SHA relate directly to historic preservation advocacy. He pioneered the idea of combining the Past Presidents' Student Reception with a mentoring event for students at the 2019 annual SHA conference. During the reception, students were provided opportunities to sit down with and talk to past presidents, committee chairs, and professionals in cultural resource management (CRM) and academia about possible career paths in historical archaeology. These included careers in CRM, academia, underwater archaeology, federal and state agencies, and curation, collections management, and museums. This idea grew out of the extremely successful "Careers Expo" held yearly at the AAA meeting and coordinated by the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology. The mentoring event continued at this year's conference in Boston with great success.

Terry has been a member of SHA since 1983. He served on the board of directors from 2005 to 2007, and

was co-organizer of the 2008 SHA annual conference in Albuquerque—the theme was the “Public Benefits of Historical Archaeology.” Just this January he volunteered to co-organize the society’s 2023 meeting in Albuquerque.

Even though the Ruppé Award is about distinguished service to SHA, it is worth mentioning Terry’s service to other professional organizations. He was president-elect of the Register of Professional Archaeologists from 2014 to 2015 and president from 2016 to 2017; served on the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Board of Directors 1986–1990 and 1998–2000, and as CNEHA chair from 1987 to 1989; and as secretary of the American Cultural Resources Association 1999–2001.

Despite his extensive service to other professional organizations, Terry’s greatest love is SHA. During his long tenure as chair of the SHA Government Affairs Committee, he has worked to make the society a leader in advocating for historical resources and in devising solutions to the many preservation challenges being faced. Largely due to his leadership and meticulous approach to historic preservation advocacy, SHA has become very influential on the preservation scene and sets the standard for other archaeological organizations.

This is crucial to the health and sustainability of the discipline. He also communicates the value of preservation advocacy through training, conference sessions, and serving as a role model.

The Society for Historical Archaeology expresses its gratitude to Terry for his long and impressive service to the organization and to the discipline of historical archaeology more generally. His leadership has made SHA very influential on the historic preservation stage through commitment, education, outreach, and advocacy, setting a model for all to follow. Terry H. Klein is an extremely worthy recipient of the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest The author states that there is no conflict of interest.

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