September 10, 2016

To the FRID Board and Membership

I would like to nominate Adam Ledo as the next recipient of the FRID 2016 Distinguished Service Award.

Adam is a **nationally certified interpreter** with the RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf), a **graduate of Gallaudet University**, an active member of the Orlando deaf and interpreting communities and currently serves as the **President of FRID**.

Over the past several years, Adam has worked behind the scenes in various supportive roles; meeting with legislators **advocating for interpreter licensure** and regulation in Tallahassee, volunteering for **conference committee work** with FRID, and **promoting a Deaf Art Gallery** here in Orlando. Last October, Adam stepped forward into a leadership role with our state affiliate chapter and has served as its’ president.

This has been a difficult year for Orlando, and the impact of the Pulse Nightclub shooting was felt around the world. In the midst of personal loss and grief, Adam again stepped forward to serve his community. He checked on friends, he rallied support, he advocated for communication access at public events, he pulled himself together and interpreted pro bono.

Adam does not deserve this award because a tragedy happened in his city. Adam deserves this Distinguished Service Award because when a tragedy tore a community to shreds, he gathered his courage and helped bind up the wounds of those who’d been traumatized. He mustered his resolve and went to work. He got by without sleep so that others could be comforted. He made communication access one of his highest priorities. He had his own wounds to dress, but found comfort and solace in service to others.

His actions, in the midst of his own sorrow, to me, epitomize what “distinguished service” is all about. I am both proud and honored to nominate my friend and colleague, Adam Ledo.

Sincerely,

Nancy Osborn