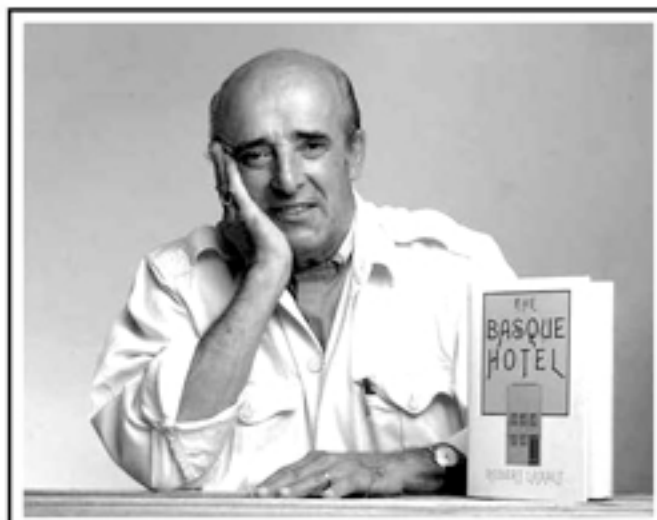


## Distinguished Achievement Award Winner Robert Laxalt



The late Nevada writer and University of Nevada journalism professor Robert Laxalt (1923–2001) will be presented with a posthumous award, to be accepted by members of his family and friends, including the author's daughter Monique Laxalt, a respected western author in her own right, and Professor David Rio of the University of the Basque Country, who has published a Spanish translation of *Sweet Promised Land*.

The son of immigrant parents from the Basque Country of southwestern France, Robert Laxalt is the author of seventeen books and dozens of newspaper and magazine articles. *Sweet Promised Land* (1957) is a non-fiction account of his father's immigrant experience, opening with the memorable line, "My father was a shepherder,

and his home was the hills." The book earned Laxalt the reputation as the voice of the Basques in the American West. It inspired the first National Basque Festival, held in Sparks, Nevada, in 1959, spawning many other festivals throughout the American West, celebrating Basque culture and honoring Basque immigrants.

Other works by Laxalt include the Basque family trilogy of novels about three generations of Basque immigrants in Nevada, as well as several books about the Basque country of Europe, two histories of Nevada, and several novels chronicling the "Other Nevada," namely, the vast landscapes and isolated communities of rural Nevada. Laxalt received Spain's prestigious Tambor de Oro award. In 1961, he founded the University of Nevada Press and directed it for more than twenty years.