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StoryCorps to Release “History Lessons,” a Series of Animations Documenting Pivotal Moments in History

StoryCorps, Currently Celebrating Its 20th Anniversary, Brings to Life Four Recordings from Its Vast Archive at the Library of Congress

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 (Brooklyn, NY) – **StoryCorps**, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of people from all backgrounds and beliefs, will digitally release a new animation series, **“History Lessons,”** beginning May 29. The collection of four new animations will be released during StoryCorps’ 20th anniversary year and features stories of Americans who have been eyewitnesses to history.

“History Lessons” features the following animations:

- **“The Echoes of War”** (May 29): When Sean Guess brought his grandfather, Harrison Wright, to a mobile booth in Austin, he asked about Harrison’s service during World War II. Harrison was drafted in early 1943 and soon after, shipped out to Europe. He played the bugle in his unit, and, at the end of the war, he was called upon for a special assignment. The animation tells a perfect Memorial Day story.
- **“The Busboy”** (June 6): On June 5, 1968, Senator Robert F. Kennedy won California’s Democratic primary in his bid to become President of the United States. That night, after his victory speech at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Kennedy was shot in the head and neck in what turned out to be a successful assassination attempt. He died the following day. In a famous photograph taken seconds after he was shot, Kennedy lies on the floor. A teenaged hotel busboy kneels beside him, cradling the Senator’s head. That busboy was Juan Romero, who came to the United States from Mexico as a child. At StoryCorps, Romero remembered the night of the assassination—and

how he met Senator Kennedy the day before, when Romero helped deliver his room service. StoryCorps releases the animation of Romero's story just before the 55th anniversary of the assassination on June 5.

- **“The Room”** (June 14): Debra Fisher's father was a Holocaust survivor. Throughout her childhood, she would ask him questions about his time in Auschwitz, but—wanting to protect his daughter from the horrors he experienced—he would only share a sanitized version of his time in the concentration camp. At the end of his life, Debra was finally able to get him to share his painful truth with her. She came to StoryCorps with her friend, Terrance Hicks, to remember her father and one of their final conversations.
- **“Role Models”** (June 22): Growing up in the 1950s in Montgomery, AL., Rev. Farrell Duncombe, or “Little Farrell,” as he was known by his family and friends, had a mischievous side. One of the many role models who kept him in line was his father, Rev. Henry A. Duncombe Sr., the pastor of their church, St. Paul A.M.E. Church of Montgomery. Farrell also drew inspiration from his Sunday school teacher, Miss Rosalie, eventually known to the rest of the world as Rosa Parks. Farrell went on to become a public school band teacher, and then a principal. He also stepped into his father's shoes and became a pastor at his childhood church. In 2010, he came to StoryCorps with his friend and fraternity brother, Howard Robinson, to reflect on the people who nurtured him.

These stories exemplify the uniquely powerful, wide-ranging historical record that StoryCorps' archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress represents—a body of recordings of Americans, in their own words and voices, telling one another about the lives they've lived.

StoryCorps began producing animated shorts of select recordings in 2010. The following year, the organization won both a Peabody Award and a Columbia-DuPont Award for animations and audio commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In 2016, StoryCorps received a News & Documentary Emmy Award for “Traffic Stop,” the story of Alex Landau, an African American man who was severely beaten by Denver police during a routine traffic stop. Past StoryCorps animations can be viewed [here](#).

About StoryCorps

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given over 630,000 people, in all 50 states, the chance to record interviews about their lives. The award-winning organization preserves the recordings in its archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered, and shares select stories with the public through StoryCorps' podcast, NPR broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms, and best-selling books. These powerful human stories reflect the vast range of American experiences, engender empathy and connection, and remind us how much more we have in common than what divides us. StoryCorps is especially committed to capturing and amplifying voices least heard in the media. The StoryCorps MobileBooth, an Airstream trailer that has been

transformed into a traveling recording booth, crisscrosses the country year-round gathering the stories of people nationwide. Learn more at storycorps.org.