

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – October 26 - 30, 2009

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Who is the first Deaf person to address the United States Congress using sign language?

- a. Nancy Bloch, Chief Executive Officer of the NAD
- b. Linda Bove, Deaf actress after winning the Oscar for Children of a Lesser GodFred
- c. Fred Schrieber, first Executive Director of the NAD
- d. Laurent Clerc, Co-founder of the American School for the Deaf

Go to the bottom of this message for the answer.

Answer: “d” Laurent Clerc. "Clerc came to Washington, D.C. in 1818, to request Congressional funding for the American Asylum in Hartford (“Old Hartford,” now American School for the Deaf, which had opened on April 15, 1817), he addressed Congress in his customary French Sign Language, and received a standing ovation. Afterwards, he met with Clay. The next day, he met President Monroe."

(Cited from: [http://deaftrivia.com/january\\_2007.html](http://deaftrivia.com/january_2007.html), Deaf Life Magazine). Read more about Clerc's encounters with the Congress and President Monroe at the website cited above. And, read more interesting Deaf trivia questions and answers.