

I want to be clear. We cannot wait any longer—and we can certainly not let this year pass without improving our nation's inadequate pipeline safety laws.

The danger posed by aging, corroded pipelines is not going away. In fact, it's getting worse.

Since 1986, there have been more than 5,700 pipeline accidents, 325 deaths, 1,500 injuries. More than \$850 million in environmental damage. On average there is 1 pipeline accident every day, and 6 million hazardous gallons are spilled every year.

In the two months since I introduced my pipeline safety bill, at least 20 states—almost half of the country—have experienced pipeline accidents. Let me repeat that. In just two months, 20 more states have had pipeline accidents.

Just last week there was a major pipeline spill in Maryland. The clock is ticking, and the list of affected communities is growing.

Back home in Washington state, there is a great deal of impatience that Congress has not acted on pipeline safety measures. This editorial by the Bellingham Herald—from April 5th—gives you a good sense of how many of my constituents feel.

It's titled, Wake Up, Pipeline Bill Is On The Way. It's addressed to Congress, and it says, in part:

Don't know if you had a chance to look at our pipeline bill, but we're sending you a message. We want you to hear us loud and clear.

And later it says:

* * * even though what happened in Bellingham could happen in any one of your home states, we feel you aren't giving this issue much attention.

As this editorial says—these accidents can happen in any of our states. I don't want another community to go through what the people of Bellingham, Washington have gone through. We can make pipelines safer today.

My bill addresses five key areas of pipeline safety: My bill will expand state authority over pipeline safety. My bill will improve inspection and prevention practices. My bill will invest in new safety technology. My bill will expand the public's right to know about problems with pipelines. Finally, my bill will increase funding to improve pipeline safety by providing funds for new state and federal pipeline safety programs.

I'm proud to say that we are making progress. And I want to share with you some recent developments.

Yesterday, Senator MCCAIN announced that he has scheduled a hearing on pipeline safety for May 11, and he has committed to marking up a pipeline safety bill by the end of May. He also introduced his own pipeline safety bill.

As you may recall, in February, I sent a letter to Senator MCCAIN asking for a hearing. Last week, I spoke with him in person about it, and he pledged

to work with me on this issue. As he told me, "this is the right thing to do."

I would like to commend Senator MCCAIN for moving the process forward. I would also like to share with the Senate the important work done by the parents of the young people who were killed in the Bellingham explosion, especially Mr. Frank King. On Tuesday, Mr. King met with Senator MCCAIN's staff, and in bringing his own personal story to the Senate—he has helped move this legislation forward.

I'm pleased today to become the Democratic sponsor of Senator MCCAIN's bill. This bill contains many of the elements of the legislation I introduced back in January. The bill also includes some of the good elements of the Administration's proposal, which was introduced this week.

Senator MCCAIN, as chairman of the Commerce Committee, has done a service to our nation and the state of Washington by providing his leadership on this important topic.

During the committee process, I hope we can all work together in a bipartisan manner to make the McCain-Murray bill even more effective at improving pipeline safety. There is still a long way to go, and I look forward to working with Senator MCCAIN on this important issue.

Another step forward took place this week, when the Clinton/Gore Administration sent its pipeline safety proposal to Congress. Working with us, the Administration has crafted a proposal which includes many of my priorities: It places a clear value on the importance of safety. It strengthens community "right to know" provisions. It improves inspection standards. It invests in research and development for inspection devices. And it increases penalties for safety violations.

This proposal is a good first step, and now we will work to improve it. Clearly, there are some differences on the partnership with states provisions and other areas, and I will be working to strengthen them within the legislative process. I should add that the Administration's bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senators HOLLINGS and SARBANES, and in the House by Representatives SHUSTER, OBERSTAR, FRANKS, and WISE.

I want to commend the Vice President, who learned about this issue when he was in Washington state. He recognized the importance of pipeline safety, and he has been working to prompt the Administration to act quickly. I also appreciate the work Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater has done. Shortly after the explosion, he stationed a pipeline inspector in Washington state.

So clearly we are making some progress, but there is still much more to do. Unfortunately, the Senate leadership has not expressed a lot of interest in pipeline safety.

I recently received a note from the majority leader's office—listing almost 50 bills that he has deemed "Legisla-

tive Calendar Items" which he hopes to consider prior to the August recess. Pipeline safety was not on his list. Now, I know priority lists are flexible, and I hope we can get a pipeline safety bill through the committee and onto the Senate floor for consideration before August.

We need to pass a pipeline safety bill, and we need to do it now. I again ask my colleagues to stand with the thousands of people who have been adversely affected by pipeline disasters and pass a bill that will make sure no other community has to suffer from another pipeline disaster.

We have a strong pipeline safety bill. We have Administration support. And we have a commitment from the Commerce Committee leadership to pass legislation this year.

This is our chance for safer pipelines, for safer communities, and for peace of mind. We have a bill. It's up to this Congress, this year to make sure this opportunity doesn't pass us by.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,764,655,944,486.86 (Five trillion, seven hundred sixty-four billion, six hundred fifty-five million, nine hundred forty-four thousand, four hundred eighty-six dollars and eighty-six cents).

One year ago, April 12, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,663,867,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-three billion, eight hundred sixty-seven million).

Five years ago, April 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,874,101,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred seventy-four billion, one hundred one million).

Ten years ago, April 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,087,071,000,000 (Three trillion, eighty-seven billion, seventy-one million).

Fifteen years ago, April 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,729,937,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred twenty-nine billion, nine hundred thirty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,034,718,944,486.86 (Four trillion, thirty-four billion, seven hundred eighty million, nine hundred forty-four thousand, four hundred eighty-six dollars and eighty-six cents) during the past 15 years.

THE OCCASION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Library of Congress, and Dr. Billington, the Librarian on the occasion of the Library's Bicentennial. The Library is America's oldest Federal cultural institution, and was established on April 24, 1800. It houses the largest and most extensive collection in history, and is one of the nation's assets. Congress is very proud of

the Library, and the role it plays in ensuring free public access to information. As we move forward into the new millennium, efforts are underway to enhance public access to the collections of the Library through the National Digital Library.

The Library has planned a wonderful day of activities on Monday, April 24, in honor of Thomas Jefferson's birthday. It was Thomas Jefferson's collection of 6,487 books that first began the Library's collections. The events include the issuance of the first bimetallic commemorative coin, and a postage stamp featuring a color photograph of the interior dome and several of the arched windows in the Jefferson building. At noon there will be a birthday party and concert outside on the East Lawn of the Capitol.

I ask unanimous consent that the following message from the Librarian of Congress, and press announcements of the exhibits and events associated with the Bicentennial of the Library be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, MARCH 2000

The Library of Congress—America's national library and oldest federal cultural institution—will celebrate its Bicentennial in the year 2000. We want to make our 200th birthday a national celebration of the important role that libraries play in our democratic society. Our goal is to inspire creativity in the century ahead by stimulating greater use of the Library of Congress and libraries across the country.

The centerpiece of this effort is an unprecedented project called "Local Legacies," an attempt to celebrate and share with the nation the grassroots creativity of every part of America. The Library of Congress will ask each Member of Congress to lead an effort to find or create documentation for at least one significant cultural event or tradition that has been important to or representative of your district or state as we reach the end of this century. Selections from each documentation project will be forwarded to the Library and added to the rich collections of our American Folklife Center's Archive of Folk Culture to provide a rich cross section of the grassroots creativity of America that will be preserved and shared with future generations.

We also plan to digitize selections and share them electronically, free of charge over the Internet, through our National Digital Library Program. All participants and each Member of Congress will be credited with helping locate a distinctive contribution from his or her district or state. This is an especially exciting and historic initiative because we hope to receive and celebrate the widest possible range of contributions, including video, sound, print, manuscript and electronic formats.

Several other bicentennial activities embrace the broadest participation of all Americans and encourage an understanding of the creative roles that libraries play in modern society and in social scholarly discourse. Included among them are symposia such as "Frontiers of the Mind in the 21st Century," which brought together distinguished scholars who examined the exciting horizons for knowledge in the century ahead in a symposium

held in June and now available on the Library's Web site (www.loc.gov). Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's "Favorite Poem" program will create audio and video archives of Americans of all ages and backgrounds reading their favorite poems. Two commemorative coins and a stamp will be issued in honor of the Library's 200th birthday, April 24, 2000. Also on that day, the Library will launch a new education Web site for families that will complement our widely acclaimed American Memory site for students and teachers. Another special initiative, "Gifts to the Nation," will encourage benefactors to bring rare and important acquisitions to the national collection in the Library of Congress.

I invite you to learn more about our Bicentennial, and I encourage you to participate in the programs and activities marking our 200th birthday. As you reflect on our nation's accomplishments as we near the end of the century, you may recall the Jeffersonian principle upon which the Library of Congress was built—that free access to information and knowledge is one of the cornerstones of democracy.

JAMES H. BILLINGTON,
The Librarian of Congress.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ANNOUNCED
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO OFFER NEW WEB SITE,
STAMP, COINS, EXHIBITS AND CONCERT

General Colin Powell, Katharine Graham, Isaac Stern, William Styron, David Copperfield, John Kenneth Galbraith, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Maurice Sendak, Bobby Short, and Big Bird are among those who will be honored as "Living Legends" during a day-long National Bicentennial Birthday Party and Concert celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Library of Congress on Monday, April 24, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Library of Congress is America's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world.

Other events on April 24 include:

- First-day ceremonies for a new Library of Congress postage stamp and commemorative coins
- Launch of a new Web site for young people and their families
- Unveiling of a national public service advertising campaign in partnership with the Ad Council
- Free performances and concert celebrating American music, history and culture and recognizing the contribution of the "Living Legends"
- Opening of a major exhibition on Thomas Jefferson and another on "The Wizard of Oz"

Key press dates prior to April are:

Press Briefing, 10 a.m., Friday, April 14, National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW

Bicentennial press briefing with Librarian of Congress James H. Billington on the Library's efforts to address the digital divide. He will also announce the final details of the April 24 celebration, the new books just published on the Library of Congress, and the full list of the "Living Legends" whose creativity the Library is honoring in its Bicentennial year.

Exhibits Preview and Light Lunch, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20, LJ 119, Thomas Jefferson Building

Members of the press are invited to preview two new exhibitions created for the Library's Bicentennial: "Thomas Jefferson" and "The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale."

The Jefferson exhibition includes the display of Jefferson's library. It marks the first time since 1815 that the public will be able to view Jefferson's library, the seed from which

the collections of the Library of Congress grew, in his original order. The books have been reassembled after a worldwide search to locate matching volumes, identical to those that were destroyed in a fire in 1851. Numerous additional personal items will be displayed exploring the contradictions and complexities of Jefferson the man, the myth, and the model, including materials relating to the Hemings family, the founding of the United States and the earliest known draft of the Declaration of Independence in Jefferson's own hand.

"The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale" brings together approximately 100 items relating to this children's classic, including play scripts, rare books, photographs, costumes, drawings, film clips, dolls, games and toys. A pair of the ruby slippers (size 5B) worn by Judy Garland in the 1939 film will be displayed, along with the scarecrow costume worn by Ray Bolger, the mane and beard worn by Bert Lahr as the Cowardly Lion, a full Munchkin costume and an Emerald City townsman's coat.

Curators will provide press tours of the two exhibitions.

Celebration, All day, Monday, April 24, Thomas Jefferson Building

9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.—Great Hall: First day of issue stamp and coin ceremonies. Stamps and coins on sale.

11 a.m.–11:45 a.m.—Visitors' Center: Press Preview. Launch of americaslibrary.gov, a new entertaining Web site for children and their families. New public service advertising campaign unveiled for television, radio and Web.

Noon–2 p.m.—Jefferson Building grounds: Free performances and concert honoring American Voice and Song, featuring:

The Saturday Night live Band
Kevin Locke and Reuben Fasthorse
Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys
Dianne Reeves
Mickey Hart and Bob Weir
Kan Kouran Dancers
Pete Seeger and Tao Rodriguez
Kathy Mattea
Tito Puente
Giovanni Hidalgo
The Army Blues

12:30 p.m.—Photo op, Main stage outside of the Thomas Jefferson Building: Librarian of Congress James Billington will be joined by "Living Legends" and Big Bird and Maria of "Sesame Street" in blowing out the candles on a large birthday cake in the shape of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

6:30 p.m.—Great Hall: Remarks by David McCullough and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and opening reception for "Thomas Jefferson" exhibition. By invitation only; open to press to cover.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL WITH MAJOR EXHIBITION ON THOMAS JEFFERSON

JEFFERSON'S LIBRARY REASSEMBLED FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1815

The keystone for the Bicentennial celebrations of the Library of Congress is an exhibition about the Library's very own "founding father," Thomas Jefferson, whose personal library of 6,487 books was the seed from which the nation's library grew. Congress purchased Jefferson's library after its own collections, housed in the U.S. Capitol, were burned by the British in 1814.

That library—the original volumes that came to Washington in carts from Monticello—will be a major feature of the "Thomas Jefferson" exhibition. Because of an 1851 fire in the Library, many of those original books had been lost. Spurred by a very generous donation of Jerry and Gene Jones, as a

Bicentennial "Gift to the Nation," the Library has been reassembling copies of the same editions of the works that Jefferson held. The reconstituted Jefferson's library should be more than 90 percent complete by April 24.

The display of Jefferson's library as part of this exhibition will be the first time ever that the public will be able to view Jefferson's library. It is also the first time that the volumes have been assembled in one place in the original order that Jefferson himself devised since the collection came to Washington in 1815. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to tell which volumes were owned by Jefferson and sold to Congress in 1815, which were recently identified and pulled from the Library's general collections, which have been recently purchased, and which are still missing.

"Thomas Jefferson" will be on view in the Northwest Gallery and Pavilion of the Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street S.E., from April 24 through October 31. Hours for the exhibition are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Items from the exhibition are available on the Library's Web site at www.loc.gov, and by April 24 the Library's entire collection of Jefferson Papers (more than 25,000 items) will be accessible on-line.

Thomas Jefferson—founding father, farmer, architect, inventor, slaveholder, book collector, scholar, diplomat and third president of the United States—was a complex figure who contributed immeasurably to the creation of the new republicanism in America. Wherever Anglo-American culture has shaped political and intellectual developments, Jefferson is almost inevitably part of the mix. Drawing on the extraordinary written legacy of Thomas Jefferson that is held in the Library's collections, the exhibition traces Jefferson's development from his earliest days in Virginia to an ever-expanding realm of influence in republican Virginia, the American Revolutionary government, the creation of the American nation, the revolution in individual rights in America and the world, the revolution in France, and the burgeoning republican revolutionary movement throughout the world. Items borrowed from other institutions contribute to the exhibition's attempt to offer viewers a fully rounded portrait of the nation's third president.

The exhibition focuses on the complexities and contradictions of Thomas Jefferson, the man, the myth, the model. He was simultaneously an unquenchable idealist and a third-headed realist. He deplored inequality among men, but owned slaves, supported servitude, and relegated women to a secondary role. He supported freedom of the press until his own foibles and politics became the focus. He was a firm believer in the separation of church and state, but he was often accused of being anti-Christian. He expounded the virtues of public education, ensured that his own daughters were well educated, and founded a public university at Charlottesville, but he assumed that access to higher education would be strictly limited. His life embodies the public and private struggles of life in a democratic republic.

Some 150 items in the eight sections will illustrate and provide a context for the life and character of Thomas Jefferson. The final and ninth section will be the reassembled "Jefferson Library." Visitors to the exhibition will see such items as the only surviving fragment of the earliest known draft of the Declaration of Independence as well as the desk on which he composed the Declaration; Martha Jefferson's thread case; Jefferson's instructions to Lewis and Clark; political cartoons of the day lampooning Jefferson; and the last letter that Thomas Jefferson

wrote to the mayor of the city of Washington just 10 days before he died, espousing his vision of the Declaration of Independence and the American nation as signals of the blessings of self-government to an ever-evolving world.

"Life and Labor at Monticello" examines how Jefferson's family, his era, education, role as plantation master and slaveholder, and his love and use of books influenced his character and the formation of his ideas on individual and institutional rights and limits. Items include:

Thomas Jefferson's Memorandum Book, 1773, where he kept detailed records on his expenditures including the purchase of slaves;

Plantation account books kept by Jefferson's wife and then his granddaughter, recording purchases made from Monticello slaves, especially the Hemings family, for vegetables and fowl from the slave families' own flocks and gardens;

The 1873 memoir by Madison Hemings published in the Pike County (Ohio) Republican, who testified that his mother, Sally Hemings, gave birth to five children "and Jefferson was the father of them all." Historical evidence, both circumstantial and direct, documentary and oral, along with DNA testing in 1998, substantiates Hemings' assertion;

Letters Jefferson exchanged in 1791 with Benjamin Banneker, a free black living in Maryland, in which Jefferson praised Banneker's mathematical accomplishment ("no body wishes more than I do to see such proofs as you exhibit, that nature has given to our black brethren, talents equal to those of the other colors of men * * *") as well as with Abbé Henri Gregoire in 1809 trying to explain why he asserted the inferiority of African Americans in his Notes on the State of Virginia published in 1785; and

Letter written by Thomas Jefferson to John Adams in 1815 in which he says, "I cannot live without books, but fewer will suffice where amusement, and not use, is the only future object."

The exhibition continues by demonstrating the expanding influence of Jefferson on American life and his interest in creating a culture based on republican principles—first in his own state of Virginia, then on the federal scene with his drafting of the Declaration of Independence and his election to the presidency in 1800. On view are:

One of the nation's greatest treasures—Jefferson's "original Rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence. The "Rough draught" is the final draft presented by Jefferson to his fellow committee members and indicates changes made by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin;

Fragment of the earliest known draft of the Declaration of Independence in Jefferson's hand;

An 1806 document in President Jefferson's hand calling upon Congress to end the practice of importing slaves as soon as permitted by the U.S. Constitution in 1808; and

Notes on the State of Virginia, 1785, the only book ever published by Thomas Jefferson.

"The West" explores Thomas Jefferson's persistent fascination with the vast part of the continent that lay beyond Virginia—an area he never saw—and his conviction that the new nation had to expand westward in order to survive. A highlight is Jefferson's instructions to the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark before they set out to map and explore the Western territories with their Corps of Discovery in 1803. Visitors can also see a Nicholas King manuscript map documenting the Lewis and Clark expedition that is annotated by Lewis with information from fur traders and Native Americans.

The influence of Jefferson's republican ideas were felt far beyond America, especially in France, his first experience on the world stage beyond America. He became an ardent supporter of the French revolution and often consulted with Lafayette during the drafting of the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. In a July 9, 1789, letter to Jefferson, Lafayette asked him for his "observations" on "my bill of rights" before presenting it to the National Assembly. On view in the exhibition is a manuscript copy of the French Declaration written in a clerical hand, with emendations in the hand of Thomas Jefferson. Also in the exhibition is the 1789 passport that Thomas Jefferson used upon his return from France, signed by King Louis XVI.

The exhibition concludes with "Epitaph: Take Care of Me," which reviews Jefferson's own evaluation of the meaning of his life and his thoughts about how he would be viewed by history. Key items here are: A sketch and wording for Jefferson's tombstone, in his own hand; A letter explaining his position on slavery, written just six weeks before his death; A letter to Jefferson from his granddaughter, Ellen Randolph Coolidge, despairing of the "canker of slavery" that oppresses the Southern states; and A newspaper account of the sale of Jefferson's slaves by his heirs in order to pay off estate debts.

A volume accompanying the exhibition, *Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty*, includes an introduction by Garry Wills and essays by Jefferson scholars Pauline Maier, Charles A. Miller, Annette Gordon-Reed, Peter S. Onuf and Joseph J. Ellis. Published by Viking Studio, the hardcover volume is highly illustrated with mostly color images and sells for \$35. It is available in major bookstores and from the Library's Sales Shops; order with major credit card by calling (202) 707-0204.

COMMEMORATIVE COINS AND STAMP ISSUES FOR THE NATION

The Bicentennial of the Library of Congress presents a unique opportunity for commemorative items. Commemorative coins and a commemorative stamp for the Library's Bicentennial will be issued on April 24, the Library's 200th birthday.

The Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee recommended enactment of legislation to mint a commemorative coin to honor the Library of Congress's Bicentennial. As one of only two commemorative coins to be issued in 2000, this is an extraordinary honor for the Library. The Library's coin will be the nation's first bimetallic coin (gold and platinum) and the first commemorative with the new millennium date.

The minting of commemorative coins requires passage of legislation by both chambers of the U.S. Congress. The coin bill (H.R. 3790) was passed by the House of Representatives on August 4, 1998, and by the Senate on October 6. President Clinton signed the bill into law as P.L. 105-268 on October 19, 1998. The design of the commemorative coins by sculptors and engravers at the Philadelphia Mint is under way.

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, a group of independent citizens appointed by the Postmaster General to review the more than 40,000 suggestions for stamp subjects received by the U.S. Postal Service annually, recommended a commemorative stamp for issuance in honor of the Library's birthday. Ethel Kessler, the designer of the breast cancer stamp, designed the Library's Bicentennial commemorative stamp, which features a photograph by Michael Freeman of the interior dome and several of the arched windows in the main Reading Room in the 1897 Thomas Jefferson Building.

The stamp will be issued on April 24, 2000, during a ceremony to be held in the Jefferson Building in Washington. From April 25 through May 31, state and local libraries across the country will hold issuance ceremonies to celebrate the Library's birthday and to applaud the important role of libraries throughout the United States.

How You Can Participate: If your library or other institution would like to sponsor a second-day-issue event, contact Kathy Woodrell in the Bicentennial Program Office at (800) 707-7145 or kwoo@loc.gov.

THE LOCAL LEGACIES

The Local Legacies project is an opportunity for citizens to participate in the Library of Congress's Bicentennial Program. Working through their U.S. senator or representative and with hometown libraries, folklife organizations and other local cultural institutions, Americans everywhere have been participating in an unprecedented effort to document the cultural heritage of communities throughout the nation.

What is a local legacy?

It is a traditional activity or event that merits being documented for future generations. A Local Legacy might include the music, crafts or food customs that represent traditional life. Examples of defining or signature events include a rodeo, powwow, auction, market-day celebration, parade, procession or festival. Local Legacies might also include the artistry of individuals performing traditional music or dance, or working at crafts or trades. From zydeco music to decoy carving, rodeos to dogsled races, parades to food festivals, the Local Legacies project is reaching into every corner of the nation to document America's folk heritage.

More than 1,000 Local Legacies projects, which were selected by members of Congress in every state and the District of Columbia, celebrate the nation's diversity as a source of its strength and vitality. As a whole, the projects will serve as a snapshot of everyday life in America at the turn of the 21st century and will be preserved in the Library's Folklife Center and made available for study by others.

On May 23, the Library of Congress will celebrate these cultural and historical contributions to the Bicentennial with participants and their Congressional representatives. Selections from the Local Legacies projects will be digitized and shared electronically over the Internet at www.loc.gov, where Americans for generations to come will be able to learn about their cultural heritage.

A NEW COLLECTION OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE POEMS

Poet Laureate of the United States Robert Pinsky launched the Favorite Poem Project with poetry readings in New York, Washington, Boston, St. Louis and Los Angeles in April 1998, during National Poetry Month. A part of the Library of Congress Bicentennial celebration, the Project has created audio and video archives of Americans of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life reciting their favorite poems. At the heart of this initiative is Mr. Pinsky's belief that poetry is meant to be read aloud.

"The archives will be a record at the end of the millennium of what we choose and what we do with our voices and faces, when asked to say aloud a poem that we love," said Mr. Pinsky, appointed Poet Laureate in 1997 by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Mr. Pinsky is serving an unprecedented third term as Poet Laureate.

The two long-term goals of the Favorite Poem Project are to promote the reading and appreciation of poetry and encourage the

teaching of poetry in schools nationwide. Collaborating with Mr. Pinsky are the New England Foundation for the Arts, which administers the program, the Library of Congress, which is the home of the Poet Laureate, and Boston University.

The Project aims to record up to 1,000 Americans saying poems that they love. Mr. Pinsky will deliver the first 50 audio and video segments to the Library of Congress as part of a Library-sponsored poetry symposium scheduled for April 3-4, 2000. The audio and video tapes will become a permanent part of the Library's Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature. "This will be a gift to the nation's future: an archive that may come to represent, in a form both individual and public, the collective cultural consciousness of the American people at the turn of the century," said Mr. Pinsky, a professor of English and creative writing at Boston University.

For information on the Favorite Poem Project, visit the Project's Web site at www.bu.edu/favoritepoem/.

NEW RADIO SERIES TO AIR FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL

"Favorite Poets," a series of four one-hour programs of American poets interviewed by Grace Cavalieri, will air on public radio during National Poetry Month, April 2000. In Washington, D.C., the series will be heard on WPFW-FM on Sundays at 9 p.m. on April 16 and 23. (Check listings for local dates and times.)

Guests on the series are U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, former Poet Laureate Rita Dove, and Pulitzer Prize winners Louise Glück and W.S. Merwin. The poets, recorded at the Library of Congress, honor the Library's Bicentennial celebration on April 24, as well as National Poetry Month.

Each program presents the poets reading their work, a discussion of the writing process, and a portrait of the poet through conversation and interview, with an entertaining look at the personal and poetic lives of each of these literary figures. The poetry archives at the Library are among the largest and most comprehensive in the world.

Grace Cavalieri, host of the series, is a familiar voice on public radio, having presented more than 2,000 poets through her program "The Poet and the Poem" on WPFW-FM from 1977 to 1997. She has had 11 books of poetry published, and a number of her plays have been produced throughout the country and Off-Broadway. She has received the Allen Ginsberg Award for Poetry, the Pen Syndicated Prize for Fiction, and the Silver Medal from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "entertainment and innovation in radio."

"Favorite Poets" will be distributed nationally via NPR satellite. Interested listeners should contact their local public radio stations for times and dates of airing. The program is a Bicentennial project of the Library of Congress with funding provided by the Madison Council, the Library's private sector advisory group.

For more information on the 200th birthday celebrations of the Library of Congress, call (202) 707-2000 or visit the Library's Web site at www.loc.gov.

NEW BOOK CELEBRATES 200-YEAR HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000 by James Conaway will be published in April by the Library of Congress in cooperation with Yale University Press. The publication is one of several planned to celebrate the Library's Bicentennial on April 24, 2000.

The Library was founded in 1800 with the primary mission of serving the research

needs of the United States Congress. During the past two centuries the collections have evolved into the largest repository of knowledge in the world and are accessible to all Americans. The Library maintains a collection of nearly 119 million books, maps, manuscripts, photographs, motion pictures, sound recordings and digital materials in some 460 languages.

"In America's Library, James Conaway invites you to learn the story of this great and complex institution, during its two centuries of development, as the men and women within its walls collect, preserve, and make useful the heritage it holds," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "Its collections represent and celebrate the many and varied ways that one generation has informed another."

This lively account of the Library of Congress is filled with an immense cast of characters ranging from presidents, poets, journalists, and members of Congress to collectors, artists, curators, and eccentrics. The author focuses the Library's 200 year history on the 13 men who have been appointed by presidents to lead the Library of Congress. He investigates how the Librarians' experiences and contributions, as well as the Library's collections, have reflected political and intellectual developments in the United States. Each Librarian confronted great challenges: the entire Library collection was lost when the British burned the Capitol in 1814, and rebuilt a year later with Thomas Jefferson's personal library; in the 1940s, a backlog of 1.5 million objects waited to be cataloged; the gigantic task of replacing the card catalog with a computerized system was undertaken in the 1980s. In the 1990s, the current Librarian, Dr. Billington, has expanded the reach of the institution nationwide through the National Digital Library Program (www.loc.gov). The Library's widely acclaimed Web site is one of the most heavily used in the federal government.

Yet each Librarian also enjoyed the excitement of acquiring unique treasures—from Walt Whitman's walking stick to the papers of the Wright brothers, from the Civil War photographs of Mathew Brady to the archives of Leonard Bernstein. The thrill of using these collections in the Library's Thomas Jefferson building is conveyed in the book's introduction, "One Writer's Library," by biographer Edmund Morris:

"Those lights, those glowing rectangles and portholes, are windows into the central repository of our nation's cultural intelligence: a cerebellum, a sanctum of free thought forever energized by the spirit of Thomas Jefferson."

Conaway is the author of eight books, including *The Smithsonian: 150 Years of Adventure, Discovery and Wonder*, copublished by Smithsonian Books and Alfred A. Knopf in connection with the Smithsonian's 150th anniversary celebration in 1996. He is the former Washington editor of Harper's and has written for many publications: *Civilization*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, and *Preservation*.

America's Library—a 256-page, hardbound book—is available for \$39.95 in major bookstores and from the Library of Congress Sales Shops (Credit card orders: 202-707-0204).

THE WIZARD OF OZ IS SALUTED IN LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

The "yellow brick road" leads to the Library of Congress on April 21 with the opening of an exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of one of America's most beloved stories, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The Library's Copyright Office registered this work by L. Frank Baum in 1900, and it has gone on

to become one of the most profitable and well-known copyright ever issued.

Since its publication, the book has outsold all other children's books in numerous editions. It has also inspired a long series of sequels, stage plays and musicals, movies and television shows, biographies of Baum, scholarly studies of the significance of the book and film, advertisements, toys, games and all sorts of Oz-related products.

Drawing on the Library's unparalleled collection of books, posters, films, sheet music, manuscripts and sound recordings, "The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale" examines the creation of this timeless American classic and traces its rapid and enduring success and its impact on American popular culture. It can be seen in the South Gallery of the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building from April 21 through September 23. Hours for the exhibition are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Approximately 100 items in a variety of formats will be on view from the Library's collections, including play scripts, rare books, photographs, posters, drawings, manuscripts, maps, sheet music and film, as well as three-dimensional objects such as figurines, dolls, games and toys. The Library will supplement its own large holdings with items borrowed from other museums, libraries and private collectors.

Of particular interest to visitors of the exhibition will be items related to the classic 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," including a pair of the ruby slippers (size 5B) worn by Judy Garland as Dorothy; the scarecrow costume worn by Ray Bolger; the mane and beard worn by Bert Lahr as the Cowardly Lion; a Munchkin costume; and an Emerald City townsman's coat. These are supplemented with publicity shots and photographs taken on the set of the film, related sheet music, recordings, magazine advertisements, posters and lobby cards, from the Library's own collections. Clips from other Oz films—from early silents to "The Wiz"—will be shown on a video kiosk.

L. Frank Baum's ability to make fantastic circumstances seem plausible, combined with illustrator W.W. Denslow's striking color plates and line drawings, produced a volume that was innovative both in style and presentation. The first edition of the book, along with the original copyright application handwritten by Baum, will be on display along with six of the black-and-white Denslow illustrations for the book. Some of Baum's pre-Oz books will be shown, along with a selection of other books set in the "Land of Oz" authored by Baum.

Children especially will be fascinated with the selection of Oz-related souvenirs and novelties including plates, figurines, games, greeting cards, Christmas ornaments, music boxes, paper dolls and coloring books.

For nearly 130 years, the Copyright Office in the Library of Congress has served as America's "national registry for creative works." The 1870 law that centralized the copyright function in the Library of Congress—and set up the copyright deposit system that systematically brings two copies of every item registered for copyright to the Library—helped to create the unequalled national collections that form the core of today's Library of Congress.

Through the copyright records, one can trace the career of Frank Baum, America's great fantasist, who lived from 1856 to 1919, beginning with the 1882 copyright registration for Baum's first theatrical venture, *Maid of Arran*, to the publication of the last book in his Oz series, *Glinda of Oz*, published in 1920.

NEW BOOK FEATURES THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE LIBRARY'S THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

The Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet will be published in April by the Library of Congress in cooperation with Pomegranate Press. The publication is one of several planned to celebrate the Library's Bicentennial on April 24, 2000.

Across the street from the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., stands the first of the three Library of Congress buildings. The Thomas Jefferson Building, completed in 1897 and named for the president in 1980, is a landmark in the nation's capital as well as one of the country's great architectural treasures.

"At the heart of all our efforts stands the Jefferson Building, a heroic structure that is at once celebratory, inspirational, and educational," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "Few places represent human aspiration in such dramatic fashion."

The Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet opens doors into many of the extraordinary spaces and features that rest within the 600,000 square feet enclosed by the building's historic walls. The book offers an illustrated tour of the Library's art, architecture, and sculpture, created by some 50 artists and artisans. From A (for arch) to Z (for zigzag), it explores the Jefferson Building's unusual architectural details—egg-and-dart molding, helixes, jamps, pilasters, quoins, spandrels, tripods, vaults, and even an X-motif printer's mark. Illustrations and descriptions are joined by a colorful alphabet drawn from the Library's collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Visitors must allot many hours to see all of this landmark's 409,000 cubic feet of granite, 22 million red bricks, 500,000 enameled bricks, 2,165 windows, 15 varieties of marble, untold numbers of classical columns, and millions of items. Compact in a 9-by-9-inch format, the Architectural Alphabet is a wonderful place to start.

The Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet—a 64-page, hardbound book, with 29 color photographs—will be available for \$17.95 in major bookstores and from the Library of Congress Sales Shops (Credit card orders: 202-707-0204).

GIFTS TO THE NATION

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS, ENDOWED CHAIRS, ENDOWED CURATORSHIPS AND NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS OF SCHOLARSHIP

The Library of Congress occupies a unique place in American civilization. For nearly 200 years, the Library has collected and preserved our national cultural heritage. The collection of nearly 119 million items housed in the Library represents America's "creative legacy," and ranges from books, maps and manuscripts to photographs, motion pictures and music. Copyright deposits have been a major source for the Library's collections, yet the Library has also received a significant portion of its unparalleled collections as special gifts from donors, collectors and Americans who aspire to preserve our national heritage for generations to come.

Without the generosity of such benefactors, the Library would not have the diaries of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the music of George and Ira Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein, the outstanding Stern Collection of Abraham Lincoln materials, the Rosenwald Collection of rare illustrated books from as far back as the 15th century, or its largest manuscript collection—from the NAACP.

The Library has identified additional materials that, because of their significance to American life and learning, belong in the national library, where they will be preserved and made available for future generations of

Americans. Gifts to the Nation is an opportunity to support the acquisition of these important cultural legacies.

A very special undertaking is the effort to rebuild the original core of the Library—Thomas Jefferson's vast and diverse personal collection—which he sold to Congress after the British burned the U.S. Capitol, including the Library of Congress, in 1814. Tragically, in 1851, nearly two-thirds of Jefferson's library was destroyed in another Capitol fire. Jefferson believed that there was "no subject to which a member of Congress may not have the occasion to refer," and reconstructing his wide-ranging collection, the scope of which is reflected in the current Library of Congress holdings, will provide new insights into the mind of one of our nation's greatest thinkers and reinforce the Jeffersonian principle upon which the Library of Congress was built—that free access of information and knowledge is one of the cornerstones of democracy.

To enhance the research opportunities at the Library, the Bicentennial celebration also includes giving opportunities for Endowed Chairs, Endowed Curatorships and National Focal Points of Scholarship. Support of these programs will ensure that experts from diverse fields of study use and write about the Library's collections as well as provide advice on collection policies for future acquisitions.

How You Can Participate: If you would like to support Gifts to the Nation, contact Winston Tabb, Associate Librarian for Library Services, at (202) 707-6240 (wtabb@loc.gov), or Norma Baker, Director of the Development Office, at (202) 707-2777.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING GEORGIA'S VIETNAM VETERANS

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as we approach the 25th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, I rise today to pay tribute to those in my home state who answered the call of duty and were part of this great conflict.

The Vietnam War took place over the course of seventeen years, from the first formal American involvement in 1958 to the fall of the South Vietnamese government in 1975. Perhaps no other conflict in American history presented greater challenges to those who fought. A forbidding climate, combined with a tenacious opponent and attempts by some back home to undermine our effort, conspired to present our troops with near-impossible challenges.

My home state has a fine military tradition forged over the last 225 years. This legacy was upheld with honor throughout the Vietnam conflict. All told, Georgia sent 228,000 of its finest men and women to serve during the war. 1,584 were killed in action, and 8,534 were wounded. Twenty-one were held as prisoners of war, and to this day, thirty-nine remain missing in action. Youth from places like Snellville and Americus were thrown into an environment that was both unknown and very deadly. To say they did their duty well and with honor would be an understatement.