

pure voice, that humanity. You can't afford to lose people like Eudora Welty.

"In matters of the heart, she was never wrong."

One of the people who knew her heart best is Suzanne Marrs, a noted Welty scholar and an English professor at Millsaps College in Jackson. In a Monday news conference, she was reminded of the famous Lou Gehrig farewell speech that echoed in Yankee Stadium decades ago. "Today," Marrs said, "I think I'm the luckiest English teacher on the face of the earth: I had Eudora Welty as a great friend."

Marrs recalled a crowded elevator ride she took long ago with her friend, who was surrounded by a bevy of starry-eyed writers attending a seminar in Chattanooga. When Welty noted that everyone else in the car wore an ID, she said, "Oh, I've forgotten my nametag."

"She was that modest to believe she needed a nametag among all those people who knew her greatness," Marrs said.

Her humility and talent connected with people on both sides of the political and philosophical aisle. Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, a Democrat, and U.S. Rep. Roger Wicker, a Republican, honored Welty on Monday.

"Not only will Mississippians miss her," Musgrove said, "but people literally around the world will miss her wisdom."

In remarks made on the floor of the House, Wicker said, "Eudora Welty understood not only the South, but the complex family relationships and individual struggles that have combined to give America its rich texture. Her works of fantasy and tall tale narration included two of my favorites, *The Robber Bridegroom* and *The Ponder Heart* . . . which are still read aloud frequently at the Wicker household."

A statement from Mississippi native William Ferris, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, read in part: "She chronicled the power of place in small towns and in rural areas with an intimacy and eloquence that was unique."

That eloquence charmed and inspired writers of various generations, including Elizabeth Spencer of Chapel Hill, N.C., who wrote the introduction to Welty's *Country Churchyards*. "... Her work will live on as the presence that we will miss so much," Spencer said.

In spite of that void, Sansing said, Welty leaves behind a wealth of literary heirs in Mississippi, including Larry Brown, Barry Hannah, Richard Ford and Greg Iles.

"There's no other geographic region in the world, on a per capita basis, that has produced so many really fine writers," Sansing said. "And there's no end in sight."

"(The late author) Willie Morris and I used to talk all the time about why this is so. And he always came back to one thing: It's the caliber of the whiskey we drink.'" Sansing paused.

"But I don't think Miss Welty drank much whiskey."

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS PURSUANT TO S. RES. 120

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on behalf of the Republican Members of the Senate, I submit the following committee assignments for the Republican Party:

Special Committee on Aging: Mr. Craig, Mr. Burns, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Santorum, Ms. Collins, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Ensign, and Mr. Hagel.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, on Thursday, July 19, I was unable to reg-

ister my vote on rollcall vote No. 240, final passage of the fiscal year 2002 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. If I had been present to vote, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to note for the RECORD that I missed the vote on Monday, July 23, vote No. 247, because my flight arrived from Chicago 3 hours late at 8:30 p.m. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea."

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 17, 1990 in Salt Lake City, UT. Three men were charged with aggravated assault in the July 17 attack of a 17-year-old gay male. The three suspects, Roy Larsen, 20, Glen Chad Hosey, 20, and Brian Snow, 18, allegedly beat the victim with nunchaku in a city park.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 23, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,721,846,564,456.14, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-one billion, eight hundred forty-six million, five hundred sixty-four thousand, four hundred fifty-six dollars and fourteen cents.

Five years ago, July 23, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,171,664,000,000, five trillion, one hundred seventy-one billion, six hundred sixty-four million.

Ten years ago, July 23, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,549,898,000,000, three trillion, five hundred forty-nine billion, eight hundred ninety-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, July 23, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,069,977,000,000, two trillion, sixty-nine billion, nine hundred seventy-seven million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 23, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$619,301,000,000, six hundred nineteen billion, three hundred one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,102,545,564,456.14, five trillion, one hundred two billion, five hundred forty-five million, five hundred sixty-four thousand, four hundred fifty-six dollars and fourteen cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA KANE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that Rebecca Kane, from Lee, New Hampshire, was recently awarded the Young Naturalists Award for her essay entitled "Bog Trotting." This prestigious honor is only awarded to 12 student across the country and I would like to congratulate her on this outstanding achievement.

After reading Rebecca's essay, I have learned a great deal about my New Hampshire bogs. Her description of the pitcher plants was fascinating, but even more interesting was the introduction of different theories related to bog formation.

The pictures provided along with the detailed descriptions of the landscape around her were breathtaking and showed a great deal of literary skill beyond 12 years of age. Rebecca's appreciation of the bogs and ability to translate that insight into a stylistic prose is remarkable and exhibits a veritable talent.

As the senior Republican of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I am always concerned about our nation's natural resources and none more so than New Hampshire's beautiful landscape. After reading this essay, the bogs I live near have come to life. I look forward to hearing what new information she may discover about these natural wonders in the years to come.

Following Rebecca's trip to New York and multiple meetings with research scientists from the American Museum of Natural History, I hope she will return home and take advantage of these native surroundings by continuing to learn and build her skills as a writer and researcher.

Rebecca, congratulations again on this distinguished award. It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK JEFFREY

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor John E. Jeffrey as he retires from an outstanding career of service to the people of Nevada.

I have known Jack since we were teenagers attending Basic High School in Henderson, NV. He is a talented electrician, a compassionate public servant, and a dedicated family man. Jack is also a friend.

Jack's public service began three decades ago, when he was elected to the Henderson City Council in 1971. Working to expand educational opportunity has been a central tenet of Jack's career. Fittingly, his first major accomplishment was to successfully negotiate with the Nevada State senate to acquire the first two buildings for the Henderson campus of Clark County Community College.

In 1975, Jack's influence expanded from City Hall to Carson City, when he

was elected to the Nevada State Assembly by a margin of only six votes.

"We overspent," he said when told of the tiny bit of daylight between himself and his opponent. "We wasted money campaigning for the five votes I didn't need."

Jack's first of many reelections was won by a more comfortable 28-vote margin.

His 16 distinguished years in the Assembly include recognition as the Clark County Teachers Association's "Friend of Education," and the International Police Association's "Legislator of the Year."

Jack's Democratic colleagues respected him enough to elect him majority whip—a position close to my heart—in 1977, and then chose him as their majority floor leader in 1981.

Jack is proud to have been a tireless advocate for increasing special education funds while he was in the Assembly. He believes special needs students deserve a quality education too, and he worked to make sure there will be opportunities for them.

Since leaving the Assembly in 1991, Jack has continued to fight to improve the quality of life for working people in Nevada. He's been an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 357 all his adult life, and understands the trials and tribulations of working men and women and their families. Jack has been an invaluable asset to Southern Nevada Central Labor Council and to the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council, and earlier this month he was named "Consumer Advocate of the Year."

The working men and women in Nevada work in better and safer jobs because of Jack. In fact, all people in Nevada are better off because of Jack Jeffrey. I wish Jack and his wife, Betty, the very best in retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JILL CHARLES

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a woman of great dedication, compassion, and courage. Jill Charles, Artistic Director of the Dorset Theatre Festival and a Dorset, Vermont, resident, will long be remembered by those whose lives she touched as an accomplished artist, a loving mother, a giving mentor, and a dear friend.

It is our good fortune that Jill chose to bring her talent and love of theatre to Vermont. In 1968, she arrived in Dorset to work as an apprentice for Fred and Pat Carmichael's Caravan Theatre at the Dorset Playhouse. Subsequently, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre from the University of Kentucky and was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree in directing from Boston University. After the Carmichaels retired in 1976, Jill, with co-founder John Nassivera, established the Dorset Theatre Festival.

Jill was well known and highly respected for her work with young artists

and for the guidance she provided for hundreds of pre-professional actors, designers and technicians who apprenticed under her direction during her twenty-six years as Dorset Theatre Festival Artistic Director. Her interest in the professional growth and emotional well-being of each member of the company was repeatedly reflected in her attention to matters large and small, and in countless acts of personal support and kindness.

A woman whose compassion and respect for others extended beyond her professional endeavors in the theatre, Jill was dedicated to her community and to the many humanitarian interests that she held dear. She was a dedicated foster parent for many years, and remained in contact with those children to whom she provided a home. She also was actively involved with the Second Chance Animal Shelter in Bennington, Project Pave (a support group for abused women), Race for the Cure, and the Dorset Congregational Church choir. She was also a founding member of the Cantare a capella singing group in Dorset.

The arts and humanities are a powerful force in bringing us together, in stretching our horizons, and in improving the quality of our lives. Jill Charles embodied the gifts of the arts and humanities. She will be greatly missed, but her presence will continue to be felt as her touch ripples outward like the action of a pebble tossed in a pond.●

TRIBUTE TO VALDON JOHNSON

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Valdon Johnson is a retired Assistant Professor of English, now Emeritus Professor of English, from the University of Northern Iowa and currently is a regular volunteer in my Waterloo Regional office.

Although Valdon's father died when Valdon was about 7, his mother had remarried about 5 years later. Valdon began his college career at Iowa State Teachers College, now the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in 1950. His studies were suspended while he served in the Navy. He received his B.A. in English in 1958 and an M.A. in English in 1959. His first teaching position was with Webster City Junior College, now Iowa Central Community College. In 1962, Valdon received a Fulbright Award to teach English as a foreign language in Japan before returning to UNI in 1968, where for 26 years, he taught Linguistics and Humanities.

Valdon's first day in my office was September 23, 1994, his next was November 6, 1995. During the in-between time of about 13.5 months he recovered from a stroke that left him unable to talk. Notwithstanding the stroke, he volunteered one to two days per week since. Valdon continues his other interests, which include the Masons and in traveling to the United Kingdom about every year, music (piano & organ), calligraphy, stenotype theory, handwriting analysis and religious history.

Although Valdon is unable to answer the phone, he does help with case work letter preparation, news paper clipping, filing and calligraphy. For over 7 years he has been a faithful, always on time volunteer and has been of invaluable assistance.

Valdon will celebrate his 69th birthday on August 15. I want to use this occasion to say "happy birthday" Valdon. And to say thanks for all you have done for me and for the people of Iowa.●

THE PASSING OF PATRICK MCKERNAN

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks concerning the recent passing of New Mexico's Patrick McKernan. Patrick McKernan recently passed away at the age of 60 due to complications of cancer. He is survived by his seven children and wife. McKernan, who has been deemed by many as "Mr. Baseball" was best known in New Mexico for his management of the Albuquerque Dukes AAA baseball team. However, McKernan was more than just the manager of one of the most successful baseball teams in minor league history, he was also the man who helped pave the way for the success of professional sports in New Mexico. One of Pat McKernan's key philosophies was the belief that the Albuquerque Dukes were more than a Dodgers AAA affiliate; they were in fact Albuquerque's very own team. McKernan worked hard to make sure the people of New Mexico knew this.

McKernan's professional success is highlighted by recognition from his peers: three time PCL executive of the year, three time Eastern League executive of the year, 2000 inductee to the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame, and recipient of the "King of Baseball" lifetime achievement award. However, one of his most impressive achievements is not illustrated by any award, but by the fact that for more than 20 years, attendance at Dukes baseball games was well above the levels for the rest of minor league baseball.

McKernan's management made it easy for Albuquerque and the rest of New Mexico to love the Dukes. McKernan went above and beyond the duties of a general manager. McKernan believed that baseball was more than just a game, it could also in fact be used as a gateway to reach out to the entire community. He made it an obligation for Dukes management and players to personally reach out to the community that had so lovingly embraced it. Each Christmas, McKernan dressed as Santa Claus and personally handed out presents to needy children. McKernan showed his humanitarianism and genuine love of his fellow New Mexicans by donating excess food to local homeless shelters following every Dukes home game.

An editorial in The Albuquerque Tribune made a reference to Patrick McKernan and the city of Albuquerque