

LATER BIRTHDAY RESPONSE FOR APRIL 21, 2004

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

THANKS TO ALL YOU WONDERFUL FRIENDS FOR AGAIN ORGANIZING THIS LATEST, AND I CERTAINLY HOPE, NOT THE LAST BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE. NOTE THAT I SAID OBSERVANCE RATHER THAN CELEBRATION – I WOULD CELEBRATE IF I WERE DEDUCTING A YEAR INSTEAD OF ADDING ANOTHER ONE.

BUT IN MANY WAYS, I AM GRATEFUL. EVERYONE WANTS TO LIVE A LONG TIME, BUT NO ONE WANTS TO GROW OLD. I'M DOING MY BEST TO BRIDGE THAT AWKWARD GAP – SO SPECIAL THANKS AGAIN FOR MAKING ME HAPPY AND FEELING YOUNG. INCIDENTALLY, MY ALLTIME FAVORITE STANDARD HIT IS SINATRA'S "YOUNG AT HEART." OLDTIMERS WILL PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THE LYRICS. IT IS MY INSPIRATION SONG AND I PLAY IT AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH.

1076

A NOTABLE UPCOMING EVENT I PLAN TO ATTEND AS A LONGSTANDING ALUMNA IS "PATRIARCH DAY" AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IN JUNE. IT IS THE ANNUAL CLASS REUNION FOR ALL GRADUATES. IT IS BILLED AS AN EXHILARATING HAPPY EVENT WHERE YOU CATCH UP WITH YOUR FORMER CLASSMATES AND EXCHANGE FRIENDLY LIFE STORIES. HOWEVER, WHEN IT IS THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 1935, THE OCCASION BECOMES A BIT SOBERING. WHEN THE AVERAGE AGE OF YOUR CLASSMATES IS 91, YOU FACE THE DISMAL ASPECT OF BEING THE ONLY CLASS PATRIARCH ATTENDING OR EVEN SURVIVING YOUR CLASS REUNION.

HOWEVER, MY DEAR LATE WIFE AND I HAD A RELATIVELY DECENT TIME AT OUR 50TH CLASS ANIVERSARY IN 1985. A POSITIVE, SELF-SERVING OBSERVATION WAS THAT MARY AND I SEEMED TO BE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN MOST OF THE OTHERS. MARY NOTICED ONE OF MY FORMER ATTRACTIVE CLASSMATES, NUDGED ME, AND SNIDELY REMARKED, "WELL, MARY JANE DOESN'T LOOK SO HOT." I HAD TO REPLY "YOU HAVE TO ADMIT SHE LOOKED PLENTY HOT WHEN I WAS DATING HER."

SO MUCH FOR ALL THE PAST TRIVIA NOW FOR AN UPDATE ON MY TRUE PRESENT FEELINGS. I OWE SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU. I AM THANKFUL FOR AN EXCITING, EVEN PRODUCTIVE TIME AT THE FCC FROM AGE 60-84! I LISTENED TO MY EXPERT STAFF AND WAS PRETTY GOOD AT DOING WHAT I WAS TOLD. AS A RESULT, I BECAME THE MOST AWARDED AS WELL AS THE OLDEST SOB TO EVER GRADUATE FROM THE FCC. I RECEIVED OVER 40 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS, HONORARY DEGREES AND EVEN PLAUDITS FROM CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES . . . I PERSONALLY DID NOT REALLY EARN THEM — *ALL OF YOU DID*. THEY WERE ACTUALLY YOUR AWARDS. I WAS MERELY THE FRONT GUY. I WAS BLESSED YEAR AFTER YEAR WITH THE BEST FCC STAFF IN HISTORY. I OWE MY SUPER-BRIGHT LOYAL STAFF MEMBERS FOR MY LONGTERM FCC CAREER AND, PARTICULARLY, FOR HELPING TO ESTABLISH THE PRESTIGIOUS JAMES H. AND MARY B. QUELLO TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. MARY AND I ARE GRATEFUL THAT OUR NAMES WILL LIVE IN PERPETUITY AT OUR BELOVED ALMA MATER.

AGAIN, HEARTFELT THANKS FOR THE BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE TODAY
AND FOR ADDING ANOTHER MOMENTOUS OCCASION TO MY LIFETIME
TREASURED MEMORIES.

LOVE YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS YOU.