

THANK YOU, BILL (BROWN), FOR YOUR KIND INTRODUCTION. AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE IN WISCONSIN TO JOIN IN OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THOSE INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS SPECIAL CEREMONY POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY FRANK THOMAS, THE POSTAL SERVICE'S COORDINATOR FOR THE CEREMONY.

WE ARE GATHERED HERE THIS MORNING TO DEDICATE THE WISCONSIN SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ON THE EXACT DATE WE BECAME A STATE 150 YEARS AGO.

THIS STAMP CONNECTS PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE, BUT IT ALSO CONNECTS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO WISCONSIN AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 150TH BIRTHDAY.

IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE ACROSS AMERICA TO RECOGNIZE OUR GREAT STATE AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE MANY

CONTRIBUTIONS WE HAVE MADE TO THIS COUNTRY.

**IT IS PARTICULARLY SPECIAL FOR ME TO RECEIVE
THIS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FROM MY COUSIN-
IN-LAW, ROBERT GARVIN OF ELROY, WHO IS
WISCONSIN'S LONGEST-SERVING LETTER CARRIER.
BOB HAS LASTED SO LONG BECAUSE THE DOGS
DON'T BITE IN ELROY!**

**AT THE AGE OF 70, BOB HAS BEEN DELIVERING
MAIL FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, SINCE 1947.**

**IN FACT, BOB WALKS TODAY THE SAME ROUTE MY
GRANDFATHER, GEORGE THOMPSON, COVERED
WHEN HE WAS A POSTAL CARRIER IN THE 20S, 30S
AND 40S. EXCEPT MY GRANDFATHER DELIVERED
THE MAIL BY HORSE AND BUGGY, RELYING ON HIS
GOOD OLD, FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND NELLE TO GET
THROUGH THE RAIN, SLEET AND SNOW.**

**THE PROUD TRADITION OF RURAL POSTAL
CARRIERS, THE U.S. POST OFFICE, AND THE**

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FEATURING A THIRD-GENERATION FAMILY FARM ALL SPEAK TO THE WISCONSIN HERITAGE WE CELEBRATE TODAY.

THE STAMP FEATURES A PICTURE OF THE LATHEN FOTH FAMILY FARM JUST OUTSIDE STURGEON BAY IN DOOR COUNTY AND IT WAS TAKEN BY PHOTOGRAPHER ZANE WILLIAMS.

THE FARM IMAGE IS A BRIGHT REFLECTION OF OUR HERITAGE AND OUR FUTURE. IT TAKES US BACK TO THE FARM FAMILIES WHO SETTLED THIS STATE 150 YEARS AGO AND INSPIRES US FORWARD TO THE ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE BEYOND THE EVENING HORIZON.

IT CAPTURES OUR NATURAL BEAUTY AND THE MAGNIFICENCE OF OUR RESOURCES. IT EMBODIES THE WISCONSIN WORK ETHIC AND THE SPIRIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

WISCONSIN IS A STATE ROOTED IN A STRONG PAST WHILE BOLDLY REACHING TOWARD THE FUTURE. WE ARE 150 YEARS YOUNG AND WE KNOW OUR NEXT 150 YEARS WILL BE EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR THAN THE FIRST.

BOB GARVIN, MY GRANDPA GEORGE AND THE FARMERS OF WISCONSIN EXEMPLIFY THE SMALL-TOWN FAMILY VALUES THAT ARE THE FABRIC OF WISCONSIN.....THE VALUES AND WAY OF LIFE CAPTURED ON THIS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP.

THESE ARE THE SAME WISCONSIN VALUES THAT WILL CARRY US FORWARD TO AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISCONSIN!

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:
Gubernatorial Speeches