

Thank you Debbie (*Montford*). And thank you to the Capitol Brass Quintet for that lovely music.

It is an honor to host the Medal of Arts luncheon at the Governor's Mansion just as this structure is a piece of Texas' heritage, a landmark for all Texans to enjoy... the work that you create, your contributions to our state are pieces of our heritage, our past and our future.

You are legends, you are larger than life.

Texas is a unique state, as vast and diverse as the mediums and artistic forms that each honoree here represents and you have contributed in different ways to the complete landscape of Texas....

It is an honor... not only to be recognized today, but because your lives inspire other Texans to pursue similar careers or develop like passions.

You open doors for young Texans; those who aspire to be a noted news anchor, renowned choreographer or dancer, a legendary musician or actor, a famed vocalist or artist, a noted author, a celebrated educator or a distinguished patron who appreciates the work of others.

Whatever the medium, there is a Texan waiting in the wings, following your footsteps and honing their skills so that one day, they too can blossom into one of the brightest stars in Texas.

Through this event and the Texas Cultural Trust we ensure that children have opportunities to develop their creativity.

We enhance the future of the arts, arts education and provide young Texans with invaluable experiences.

As Picasso said “every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”

Keeping the passion, creativity, imagination and increasing knowledge is why we are here.

(pause)

Rick and I are always honored to join in this event and celebrate the lives enhanced by your support.

Today as we acknowledge your achievements, we also honor the support. Thank you for all that you and everyone involved with the Texas Cultural Trust Council does to support the arts in this state.

Now, lets not postpone the Quebe (*pron: qway-bee*) sisters any longer...

I know I won't do this remark justice, but in the presence of legends, I hate to miss the opportunity – from our distinguished gentleman Walter Cronkite,

I will end with ... “And that's the way it is: Tuesday, April 3, 2007.”

Thank you and God bless.

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