

Adjournment in the Memory of Ray Bradbury

June 12, 2012

Colleagues, I ask that we adjourn today's Board meeting in the memory of Ray Bradbury who passed away on June 5, 2012.

Ray Bradbury was born in 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois. His early memories were of his aunt who read him short stories when he was a child. He continued to be an avid reader and writer throughout his youth. He spent much of his time in the Carnegie library in his native Waukegan. Bradbury was greatly influenced by the writings of Edgar Allan Poe, Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and Ernest Hemingway. We has also influenced by reading the Sunday comic and going to the circus.

In 1934, when Bradbury was 13 his family moved to Los Angeles. Bradbury would go on to graduate from Los Angeles High School, but he did not attend college. Instead, he sold newspapers and continued to write. He would go on to work as a playwright and actor. In 1942, Bradbury took up science fiction writing fulltime.

It was during this time in a study room with typewriters for rent in UCLA's Powell Library, Bradbury wrote his classic story of a book-burning future, *The Fireman*, which was about 25,000 words long. It was later published in 1953 at about 50,000 words under the name, *Fahrenheit 451*, for a total cost of \$9.80, due to the library's typewriter-rental fees of ten cents per half-hour.

His first big success came in 1947 with the short story "Homecoming". The story, plucked from the pile of unsolicited manuscripts at Mademoiselle by a young editor named Truman Capote, earned Bradbury an O. Henry Award as one of the best American short stories of the year.

Later Bradbury would go on to write some of his other famous works such as *The Martian Chronicles*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and *I Sing The Body Electric*.

Beginning in the late 1950's Bradbury works were turned into movies and produce for television.

Bradbury is credited with writing 27 novels and over 600 short stories. More than eight million copies of his works, published in over 36 languages, have been sold around the world.

In 2004, Bradbury was the recipient of the National Medal of Arts for his lifetime of work by President George W. Bush.

Throughout his life Bradbury was a strong supporter of public library systems, and helped to raise money to prevent the closure of several public libraries in California due to budgetary cuts. He was famous for saying,

“Libraries raised me. I don't believe in colleges and universities. I believe in libraries because most students don't have any money. When I graduated from high school, it was during the Depression and we had no money. I couldn't go to college, so I went to the library three days a week for 10 years.”

Colleagues, I adjourn this Board meeting in the memory of the life of Ray Bradbury and contribution to literature.