

JOINT CELEBRATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING

A November 7 reception at the Library of Congress highlighted the close relationship between adult education and reading. Attending were more than 100 leaders from a wide



variety of literacy-related organizations in the private and public sectors. John Cole, Director of the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, hosted the event, joined by Betsy Brand, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. Sonia Linton, an adult education student from Hyattsville, Maryland, and a new reader delegate to the recent National Adult Literacy Congress, described her experience as an adult learner. An original song, entitled "Reading," was performed by Meg Alfonso, a student at The Masters College in Newhall, California (photo left). Also present was her mother, Margie Alfonso, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who wrote and composed the song. Among the guests were U.S. Congressman James Inhofe of the First District of Oklahoma, and his wife.



Congressman Inhofe congratulates Ms. Alfonso for her work on behalf of the fight against illiteracy.

The Fight Against Illiteracy

According to the U.S. Department of Education, over 30 million adults can't read. In an effort to address this problem, Congress passed and the President signed into law the National Literacy Act of 1991. This legislation contains a comprehensive set of provisions to assist state and local programs in providing literacy skills to adults.

After passage of this important legislation, Congressman Inhofe attended a reception in Washington to highlight the close relationship between adult education and reading. Visiting were more than 100 leaders from a wide variety of literacy-related organizations in the private and public sectors. Also present were Meg Alfonso of Tulsa, who performed an original song entitled "Reading" and her mother, Margie Alfonso of Tulsa, who composed the music and lyrics for the song.



Oklahoma
songwriter
and
singer...
mom
Margie
Alfonso
and
daughter
Meg.

Singing About Reading

When Tulsan Margie Alfonso heard professional football player Dexter Manley testify before Congress about his reading problems, she was so inspired she wrote a song called *Reading*. Daughter Margaret Ann (Meg), a music major at The Masters College in California, recorded the song and mom started sending the tape around to bookstores and reading incentive programs.

The song has been steadily gaining state and national attention. It has been played at a children's holiday book drive in New York City, and at a Law Day Fair in Oklahoma City to promote reading programs for first-time offenders. Last November, Meg performed the song live in Washington, D.C. during a reception at the Library of Congress in celebration of "1991 the Year of the Lifetime Reader."

If you would like more information on this special song, write Margie Alfonso at 5922 S. Jamestown, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135; or call (918) 742-6510.