

*Mr Carter, Tuesday*

Mr R L Thornton, toastmaster  
Appreciation Dinner for Hon. Sam Rayburn  
Hotel Adolphus, December 10, 1940.

Dear Mr Toastmaster:

*... making it necessary for me to be out of the state*

I regret very much that circumstances prevent my being present among the hundreds of Texans who are assembled with you ~~in~~ this evening for rendering to the Honorable Sam Rayburn a sort of token payment on the inextinguishable debt of appreciation which all Texas as well as the Nation owes to him.

On the battlefield they give medals to men who perform helpful service "beyond the call of duty"; that is what Sam Rayburn has been doing for Texas in Washington ~~these~~ these many years--years which I join with you in hoping will be many more before his tour of public duty ends.

*The Public may be responsible*  
~~We do not re-elect~~ *many may not be able to*  
Congressmen who do no more than their duty,

*them*  
and that is honor enough for such ~~service~~. But for service such as Sam Rayburn's, which envisions both Texas as a sovereign state and Texas as an integral part of the Nation, we must ever seek for means in addition to the ballot box by which to convey our sentiments of admiration and gratitude. This

gathering tonight affords such a means, and I say that it would not be too much were this demonstration repeated each year.

[ Sam Rayburn can not cash at the bank the blank check on our affections we give him tonight; but he can use it as a sight draft upon our continued loyalty and support.

[ Mr Rayburn has been doing a fine job at Washington for Texas and for the Nation, and in the years ahead he will have, in addition to heavier responsibilities, an even greater opportunity for the employment in our benefit of ~~in~~ his great abilities in the public service. I know that he will feel it helpful that he can count on the <sup>active</sup> good will and ~~active support~~ of every Texan.

<sup>1</sup>  
I am Mr Salute your  
Sincerely  
Amey Carter