



January 9, 2004

Dear Mr. Meredith:

It gives me great pleasure to send you greetings on your 85th birthday.

Today we celebrate not only the day of your birth, but also a lifetime of artistic achievement. United States Poet Laureate Emeritus, twice awarded the Pulitzer Prize, winner of the National Book Award – you have shared with us your gift and drawn a world-wide audience to the mystery and power of poetry. You have said that poems are hard to read, but you have opened our hearts to the music that is there if we persist.

I hope that your day is filled with much laughter, great joy, and the company of good friends and family. You have my best wishes for good health and great happiness in the coming celebratory year.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator