

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**PROCLAMATION NO. 02-142**

Commencing the First Annual "Everybody Reads Ernest J. Gaines 2003", a Community Reading Project of Multnomah County Library and the Library Foundation

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**


- a. Portland, Oregon is known as the "*City That Works*" - Multnomah County will now be known as the "*County That Reads*".
- b. Multnomah County Library and the Library Foundation are commencing the first ever "**Everybody Reads**" program featuring Ernest J. Gaines' award-winning novel, *A Lesson Before Dying* as the first selection.
- c. *A Lesson Before Dying* was chosen specifically for its appeal to all ages, sexes and cultures, and exploring this powerful novel about dignity, humanity and understanding will provide many opportunities to create a stronger community.
- d. Multnomah County Library anticipates in excess of 20,000 readers of all ages to read *A Lesson Before Dying* and participate in over 50 events in January 2003 including book discussions, performances, an exhibit of original manuscripts, film screenings, literary events and community forums.
- e. The Library welcomes acclaimed author Ernest J. Gaines to Multnomah County February 4 – 5, 2003 for several events, including a talk co-sponsored by Portland Arts & Lectures, a youth event at Self Enhancement, Inc., and a book discussion with juvenile offenders at the Donald E. Long School at the Multnomah County juvenile detention home.
- f. Innovative community partnerships are an integral component of "**Everybody Reads**", and the project is made possible by generous support from Presenting Sponsor Fred Meyer and eight other sponsors, private contributions, in-kind support and partnerships with a wide range of community organizations.
- g. "**Everybody Reads**" is designed for all the people of Multnomah County, a place where people love to read. A County where people continue to check out more books per capita than other counties of comparable size. A County that has the smallest and busiest Central Library serving a city of this size in North America; A County where people love their libraries.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

The Board recognizes, proclaims and commences the first annual "**Everybody Reads**" event in Multnomah County, Oregon. The Board of County Commissioners celebrates the first selection, *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines, and encourages all County residents to participate in this exciting project.

ADOPTED this 14th day of November, 2002.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
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Diane M. Linn, Chair