

Slide 1 Leader, mentor, and advocate, Julie Webb has taught and continues to teach us how to be a Friend to Tennessee's public libraries.

Slide 2 WE know something about what Julie does for the Knox County Public Library and for Friends. At our Annual Meeting (with another Friend) two years ago.

Slide 3 At the Children's Festival of Reading this year, she worked side by side with our dear Jean. But her reach goes far beyond the boundaries of Knox County.

Slide 4 In 1992, acting on the advice of then-Knox County Library Director Patricia Watson, Julie worked with others to create the Friends of Tennessee Libraries. She was its second president (1993) and continues today on its advisory board, where the organization maintains access to her wisdom even today. An indication of that wisdom? As early as 1996, President Webb described Dolly Parton's Imagination Library as "exemplary of what it means to be a friend" and declared Dolly Parton as Friend of the Year.

Slide 5 Across the state and beyond, she learns about and speaks up for public libraries. Here, in Memphis with Miguel Figueroa, head of the American Library Association Center for the Future of Libraries.

Slide 6 In Cookeville

Slide 7 In Brentwood

Slide 8 In Kingsport

Here with State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill after receiving the most prestigious award that the Tennessee Library Association and Friends of Tennessee Libraries bestow: 2015 Friend of the Year. It is presented annually to “The individual or group that has made a significant contribution to a Friends group and to the advancement of libraries in Tennessee.”

Slide 9 The inscription reads, “In appreciation for outstanding accomplishments, dedication, and commitment to excellence in the advancement of library services and education in Tennessee.”

Slide 10 Friends of Tennessee Libraries considers Julie Webb to be its Founding Mother, but on the organization’s website in her characteristically modest way Julie says that FOTL is the brainchild of Patricia Watson, then director of the Knox County Public Library. Patricia and Jack Watson traveled to Kingsport in April to congratulate Julie on receiving the Friend of the Year Award.

Slide 11 In Clarksville in April, Friends from across the state joined in a standing ovation for Julie.

Slide 12 With Susie Webb Ries, her daughter, Julie met with First Lady Chrissy Haslam to talk about the

importance of Early Childhood Literacy at the beginning of Governor Haslam's administration.

Slide 13 In Washington

On National Library Legislative Day in 2014, Julie traveled with the Tennessee delegation to talk about the importance of public libraries to our state senators and representatives. Here with Jim Cooper, Nashville's representative.

Slide 14 Mother of Leaders

Julie is the mother of two civic-minded daughters in leadership roles. Susie Webb Ries has served Friends of Tennessee Libraries for many years, as president-elect, president, and past president. This year joined a small group that called on state legislators to advocate for our public libraries. Another passion is painting, and in the spring her exquisite work as a painter of botanicals opened in Nashville.

Slide 15 Mother of Leaders, !!

May 2015 First Lady Michelle Obama (right) presented the National Medal for Museum and Library Service to Louisiana Children's Museum in New Orleans at a White House ceremony. Accepting the award (l-r) were Julia Webb Bland, Chief Executive Officer of Louisiana Children's Museum, and community member Kanitra Charles. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the

community and celebrates institutions that make a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

Slide 18 Great-Grandmother
Generation to generation, the process continues.
George, Susie Ries's grandson and Julie's great-grandson, has already entered the world of books.

Thank you, Julie Webb, for being the most effective teacher we could have, the one whose life is her curriculum.

Slide 20
You are a Friend In Deeds.