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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

May 10, 1985

L/A/M

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, MAY 12, 1985

CHARLESTON, IL--President Stanley Rives issued charges to the University, to the nation, and to the graduates at Eastern Illinois University's spring commencement Saturday.

Entertainer Burl Ives, an Eastern alumnus, was awarded in person an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The same degree was presented in absentia to historian James Flexner, who was unable to attend.

Ives, who was accompanied to Charleston by his wife, Dorothy, said he was honored to receive the degree, and that he had "fond memories of Eastern." He is a native of Jasper County.

Observing that Eastern is now in its 90th year, Rives said:

"The challenge, the charge to the University is clear--to continue this institution as a place where students can be assured of getting a good education at a reasonable cost. Quality must be maintained at all cost, but access demands continued attention to cost containment."

The charge to the nation is also clear, the President said. It is "to remember always the link between education and freedom. ...A good educational system is essential to national political and economic viability."

To the graduates, Rives said:

"We expect you to serve and to lead; we insist that you be the best teacher, the best artist, the best whatever your chosen profession you can be; certainly we demand that you be the best human being you can be.

You owe that to your University and to yourself because you understand that significance in life, happiness and true fulfillment come only when we reach beyond ourselves to help and serve others."