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Letter from Charles and Marjorie and Ken Burns autograph

Charles and Marjorie

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January 23, 2009

Dewey and Marjorie,

Last night Ken Burns was in Bozeman to speak and to promote a new documentary he is making on our National Parks. Marjorie and I went to the presentation.

I had made up the enclosed photo sheet and took it to the presentation. I managed to slip into a special room where some folks had paid $100 to sip wine and meet Ken Burns.

After chatting briefly with Burns I asked him to sign the Photo sheet for you. I explained that you were a veteran. He gladly gave us the enclosed autograph.

Then I asked him if he had a smoke detector in his house. He launched off into an explanation about how his 3-year old daughter seemed fascinated by their home smoke detector and would talk about it to her Dad. Burns said that when they went to a motel or hotel his daughter would always identify the smoke detector and talk about it.

I pointed to your picture and told him that the autograph he just gave me would be sent to one of the inventors of the residential smoke detector.

"Perhaps," I continued "Dewey would send HIS autograph to your daughter." Ken Burns thought that was a good idea and addressed an envelope with his daughter’s name, Olivia, and their home address.

Olivia (Ken) Burns
P.O. Box 613
Walpole, N.H. 03608

This was all a lot of fun for me and "made" my evening. Hope you can use some entertainment during this cold winter.

Marjorie and I leave in February to return to Sarasota where we left our camper van and the F-24. We will probably trail to the Florida Keys for a few weeks sailing before putting the boat in storage and heading home to Montana.

Take care,

Charless and Marjorie
Thanks for your service

[Signature]