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Dear Tom,

*I am very sorry that I cannot attend the symposium and dinner honoring you on your 60th birthday. I write this note as a poor substitute for telling you personally, in the presence of your many friends and admirers, how indebted we are to you for the marvelous contributions you have made to your profession, to Stanford, and to each of us personally. Your career has been an extraordinary success many times over, and for a different set of reasons each decade. I have never seen anything like it in 40 years of service at Stanford.*

*The quality and breadth of your many rewards illustrate the esteem that has properly come to you over the years. They do not, however, give any hint of your engaging personal characteristics, your infectious laugh, or your special, personal concern for the careers of students and young faculty members. I have the opportunity to see the results of this concern particularly well in my present position, and I thank you for it most sincerely.*

*Naturally, we do not expect you to stop work just because it is your 60th birthday. There are, after all, several decades left. The question is simply where your imagination will carry you next.*

*You always have our warmest, best wishes and our thanks for the life you have led among us.*

Sincerely,

