



The State Journal

MARCH 25-29, 2002

By **DANNY FORINASH**
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON —
The man. The myth.
The legend.

West Virginia
U.S. Sen. Robert C.
Byrd will be the focus
of an upcoming
documentary being
produced by Motion-
Masters, a Charleston
electronic media firm,



**Sen. Robert
C. Byrd**

and the West Virginia
Humanities Council
(WVHC).

"We are honored
that Sen. Byrd has
entrusted his story to
(us)," said Ken
Sullivan, WVHC
executive director.
"This project has
tremendous historical
merit. In many ways,
Sen. Byrd's story is the
story of West Virginia,
and we look forward to
bringing that to the
public."



Sen. Byrd, joined by Gov. Bob Wise (right), attended a ceremony in Charleston last year naming him the state's Man of the Century.

The biography, to
be entitled "The Soul
of the Senate," will be
part of an educational
project that also
features a comprehen-
sive website and a
study guide for teach-
ers. Diana Sole,
president of
MotionMasters, called
it the "total educational
package." The website
will include biographi-
cal information, video
clips, complete inter-
view transcripts and
other interactive
features.

"We're very
enthusiastic about the
project," Sole said. "He

is dedicated to educa-
tion and he is a lifelong
learner. Plus, he's an
interesting person. He
is the self-made man.
He faced obstacles
early on, yet he didn't
let those circumstances
keep him from achiev-
ing great things." The
documentary will be the
first authorized attempt
to chronicle Byrd's
career.

He served three
terms as congressman
before joining the and
producers are planning
a national broadcast,
possibly on PBS or
A&E.

"Sen. Byrd is a

national figure, so his
story therefore has
national appeal," Sole
said. West Virginia
Public Broadcasting
has already agreed to
broadcast it statewide.

Plans also include
providing free copies
of the documentary and
study guide to all
secondary schools and
libraries in the
state. The project will
be funded by a variety
of individual, corpo-
rate, government and
foundation underwrit-
ing. So far, the WVHC
has raised \$100,000 for
production. Sole said
about \$500,000 will be

needed to complete the
documentary, put
together the teacher
study guide and run the
website.

Initial sponsors
include Verizon,
American Electric
Power, Office of the
Governor, Dow
Chemical and indi-
vidual contributors.
Donations, with the
Byrd project noted,
should be made
payable to the
WVHC.

Sole said about
\$500,000 will be
needed to complete
the documentary, put
together the teacher
study guide and run
the website.

Initial sponsors
include Verizon,
American Electric
Power, Office of
the Governor, Dow
Chemical and
individual con-
tributors. Dona-
tions, with the
Byrd project noted,
should be made
payable to the
WVHC.