The original documents are located in Box 3, folder "National Academy of Design, New York City, October 9, 1975" of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1975

NEW YORK CITY

I AM VERY HONORED TO ACCEPT

YOUR SESQUINTENNIEL MEDAL

AND TO BECOME A FELLOW FOR LIFE

OF SUCH A SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

IS NOTED FOR SOME VERY IMPORTANT "FIRSTS" --

YOU WERE THE FIRST NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

OF PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

AND THE FIRST ARTS SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES

GOVERNED EXCLUSIVELY BY PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS.

THESE ARE BOTH VERY IMPORTANT

IN THE WORLD OF ART.

BUT I THINK IT'S ALSO SIGNIFICANT

THAT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY

WAS THE FIRST ART ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

OPEN TO WOMEN MEMBERS,

AND THE FIRST TO ACCEPT WOMEN STUDENTS.

FOR THESE "FIRSTS" I PERSONALLY THANK YOU.

TO THOSE OF YOU INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL ACADEMY

I WANT TO SAY THAT YOUR PROFESSIONALISM,

YOUR WELL-KNOWN STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE,

AND ALL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD OF ART

MAKES THIS HONOR ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO ME.

I WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY,

AND FOR THE SAKE OF QUALITY ART IN THE UNITED STATES,

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY.

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