

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “12/04/74 - "No Greater Love" Christmas Party” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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BACKGROUNDER on Redskins-No Greater Love party for children
of MIA-KIAs -- Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1974 -- Dulles Airport Holiday Inn

This is the third annual party for these children that the Redskins and No Greater Love have sponsored.

About 60 children have been invited. They are all children of MIAs or KIAs (killed in action) -- most are now KIAs. Their brothers and sisters and mothers will also be attending. They are from the Washington, D.C. area and from the Virginia Beach area.

The Redskins Park is located near the Holiday Inn, and members of the team will be coming after practice. Many have worked with the kids before, as one of the No Greater Love (NGL) programs involves pairing the children and athletes in a Big Brother sort-of-fashion.

****** No Greater Love stresses strongly that this is a non-profit, totally non-political organization involved strictly in seeing that these children are remembered. It is not involved with the League of Families or VIVA. It is not involved in any type of action to pressure Administration officials in accounting for those still unaccounted for. It's total purpose is "to sponsor programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed-in-action."

It is a nationwide program, though parties like this one do not take place everywhere simply because they don't have the funds to staff or organize. It is funded through public donations, though NFL has given a grant for a lot of the cost, and four unions donate office space. They have only one paid employee, a secretary.

Names you might want to be aware of who will be at the party:

- Bill Anders, former astronaut
- AF Col. Fred Cherry, former POW
- Cartoonist Brant Parker, creator of Wizard of Id
- Cartoonist Bill Rechin, creator of Pluribus
- Redskins Larry Brown, Ron McDole, Billy Kilmer,
Roy Jefferson, Diron Talbert, Bill Brundige, among others
- Carmella LaSpada, chmn of board of NGL and founder

NGL provides the children (more than 3,000) with remembrances on their birthdays and special holidays from their favorite sports stars and movie stars, as well as with special events, like this Christmas party.

Jatti
pm

Tuesday, Dec. 3
5 p.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD



SCHEDULE: CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY SPONSORED BY
WASHINGTON REDSKINS AND NO GREATER LOVE

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1974 at Dulles Airport Holiday Inn

Dress: Everything from pants suits to casual long skirts to street dress
Advanceperson: patti matson

Advanceperson:

- 4:10 p.m. DEPART South Lawn of White House in motorcade
enroute Dulles Airport Holiday Inn.
- 5 p.m. ARRIVE Holiday Inn, where you will be met by:
- Carmella LaSpada, founder and chairman of the board
for No Greater Love (NGL)
 - Larry Brown, running back for the Redskins and member
of National Advisory Council for NGL
- 5-5:20 p.m. Mingle informally with MIA-KIA children and their
families (about 100 people).
- 5:20 p.m. The children will go to a corner of the room and sit on
the floor to sing a Christmas carol. Santa Claus (Redskin
Ron McDole) will arrive and ask you to come forward.
He will:
- thank you for coming
 - read a letter from Hank Aaron, who is president of
NGL, which also thanks you.
 - give you the game ball you received in the hospital,
which will be signed individually by team members.
 - introduce you to 4-year-old Bryan Earnest, the youngest of
the children, who will present you with a bouquet.
 - thank you again and walk you to the door.
- note: this is very informal - no mike, much ad lib. No
remarks are required, though you might want to thank briefly.
- 5:30 p.m. DEPART via motorcade enroute South Lawn of White House.
- 6:20 approx ARRIVE South Lawn of White House.

Nancy Howe

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: PATTI MATSON
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation:

EVENT: Drop-by Children's Christmas Party

GROUP: Redskins and No Greater Love

DATE: Wednesday, December 4, 1974

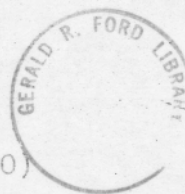
TIME: 5-5:30 (Party, however, is 4:30-6:00)

PLACE: Dulles Airport Holiday Inn

CONTACT: Carmella LaSpada, 785-4665

This is the annual Christmas party jointly sponsored by No Greater Love and the Washington Redskins for children of men missing or killed in action. Mrs. Ford has agreed to drop-by from 5 to 5:30 that evening. She has also agreed to lend her name as Honorary Patron to No Greater Love. Susan Ford was also invited, but will be unable to attend. Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Warren Rustand
Staircase
Rex Scouten
Ric Sardo



Tuesday, Dec. 3
5 p.m.

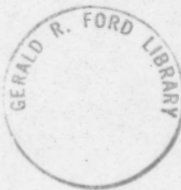
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

SCHEDULE: CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY SPONSORED BY
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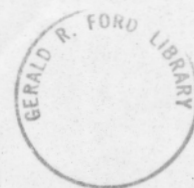
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Jatti
pm

For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1974

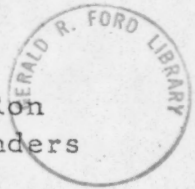
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will attend a children's Christmas Party sponsored by the Washington Redskins and No Greater Love Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. The party is for children of servicemen missing or killed in action and will be held at the Dulles Airport Holiday Inn.

About 60 children, ages 4 - 16, will attend. They are children of MIA-KIAs from the Washington, D.C. area and from the Tidewater Virginia area. This is the third annual Christmas party for the children that has been sponsored by No Greater Love and the Redskins.

No Greater Love is an organization which sponsors programs for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, hospitalized veterans, GIs overseas and senior citizens without families.

Among those attending the party will be Redskins Larry Brown, Diron Talbert, Billy Kilmer, Roy Jefferson, Bill Brundige and Ron McDole, who will act as Santa Claus. Former Astronaut Bill Anders and Col. Fred Cherry, a former POW, will also attend.



Cartoonists Brant Parker (Wizard of Id) and Bill Rechin (Pluribus) will make sketches for the children.

Four-year-old Bryan Earnest, the youngest of the children, will present Mrs. Ford with a bouquet. He is the son of Mrs. Charles M. Earnest of Virginia Beach.

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