

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “10/21/75 - Epilepsy Foundation; Embassy Social Secretaries” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Epilepsy Foundation Poster Child
Photo, 1:50 pm, Map Room

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1.

-Susan will introduce you to your
3 guests:

Child,	<u>Stacie Meacham</u>
Mother	<u>Mrs. Walters</u>
Pres. Elt	<u>Mr. Autry</u>

EPIL. FOUND.

-Welcome guests, photos, hand
Presidential letter to Mr. Autry.

-Guests will have White House
tour;

-Susan will go up with you to
Embassy Social Secretary tour.



Embassy Social Secretaries Tour
2:00 pm, State Floor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2.

-Simple drop-by:

"I heard you were here, and
I just wanted to stop by and
say Hello and Welcome. I
know you all work closely
with our Social Office, and
I would love to have you
meet my new Social Secretary,
Maria Downs." (Maria will
be present.)

-Return to residence.

(1.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford,

The Embassy Social Secretaries (45 of them) will have a special tour of the White House tomorrow (Wed.) beginning at 2:00 p.m. They would love to have you even say a quick Hello to them (no refreshments, no speech, maybe even no photographer). This was a group Nancy Ruwe had initially been interested in, as apparently this group is very helpful to the Social Office.

_____ Quick Hello around
2:00 pm.

_____ Regret

Thank you,

susan

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②.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford,

The Epilepsy Poster Child flew to Washington from Idaho for a brief photo session with the President. Efforts to reach them to tell them of the change in the President's schedule because of his cold were unsuccessful because they were already airborne. They are very eager to have a quick photo session with the child on Wednesday and were you to do this, I would suggest 1:50 p.m. (and then you could greet the Embassy Social Secretaries at 2:00) in the Map Room or the Library with no refreshments. ^{POSTER CHILD} They could have a White House Tour afterwards, however.

_____ Brief photo session with Epilepsy Poster Child;
Wednesday, October 22 at 1:50; no refreshments

_____ Regret

_____ Other:

Thank you,

susan



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Photo, 1:50 pm, Map Room

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1975

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM M. KETCHUM (R-CA)

AND 1975 EPILEPSY POSTER CHILD

Tuesday, October 21, 1975

11:45-11:55 a.m. (10 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Max L. Friedersdorf *M.L.F.*

I. PURPOSE

Opportunity for Congressman Ketchum to introduce the 1975 Epilepsy Poster Child, her mother, and the President-Elect of the National Epilepsy Foundation.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. Stacie Elizabeth Meacham, the 1975 Epilepsy Poster Child, is from Oildale, California, in Mr. Ketchum's Congressional District. Mr. Ketchum has requested the opportunity to bring Stacie, her mother, Mrs. Kathleen Walters, and the President-Elect of the National Epilepsy Foundation, Mr. James A. Autry, in to meet the President.
2. To help publicize this worthwhile foundation, Mr. Ketchum requested that the President proclaim November as National Epilepsy Month. In the absence of a Joint Resolution authorizing the President to do so, the Congressman was advised that the President would release a statement, which was to his satisfaction.
3. The President will present the statement to Mr. Autry, President-Elect of the Foundation, and the Press Office, in announcing the meeting, will release the text. (TAB A)



B. Participants: ~~The President~~ *Mrs. Ford.*
Stacie Elizabeth Meacham (Poster Child)
Mrs. Kathleen Walters (Mother)
Mr. James Autry (President-Elect of Foundation)
~~Rep. Bill Ketchum~~
~~Max Friedersdorf (staff)~~

III. TALKING POINTS

1. The National Epilepsy Foundation has done a magnificent job over the years in making the public aware of this dread disease, and in the collection of funds for research and care of its victims.
2. Mr. Autry, it is with pleasure that I issue this statement today in support of the National Epilepsy Foundation.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NATIONAL EPILEPSY MONTH

November, 1975

As we enter our Bicentennial year, we can be proud of the quality of life and health care available to most Americans. It is only right that we give special attention to the problems of those whose disabilities keep them from realizing self-fulfillment in education, employment and family involvement.

Some four million fellow citizens are afflicted with epilepsy. Research has made it possible for many of them to lead a normal life. But for many others the answer lies in the future.

It is therefore most appropriate that we set aside a National Epilepsy Month. In focusing on the needs of persons with epilepsy, the month of November also pays fitting tribute to the thousands of volunteers who work with the Epilepsy Foundation of America. These men and women help individuals with epilepsy to find effective treatment, necessary education and employment opportunities. They improve our nation's understanding of the disorder and our own sensitivity towards those who are afflicted with it.

On behalf of all Americans, I salute the dedication and humanitarian concern of all who engage in this noble effort. I hope that the coming year will witness the conquering of new medical frontiers in this area.

Gerald R. Ford