

**The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “11/20/75 - Senior Citizen Dinner” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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FACT SHEET  
Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Dinner for Selected Older Americans  
 Group "No Greater Love" (the organization administering the project)  
 DATE/TIME Thursday, November 20, 1975 7:00 p.m.  
 Contact Carmella LaSpada Phone 785-4665  
 Number of guests: Total 14 Women X Men X Children - -  
 Place First Floor Family Dining Room  
 Principals involved The President and Mrs. Ford  
 Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) no  
 Remarks required yes

Background "No Greater Love" sponsors programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, hospitalized veterans, and older Americans. President and Mrs. Ford are exemplifying "No Greater Love's" Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans - a program

REQUIREMENTS encouraging citizens to invite\*\*

Social: \* Guest list yes - Carmella LaSpada to Linda Baker  
 Invitations yes - Carmella LaSpada Programs no Menus no  
 Refreshments Dinner Format  
 Entertainment no  
 Decorations/flowers yes  
 Music no  
 Social Aides no  
 Dress Business Suit Coat check yes  
 Other - -

Press: Reporters TO BE RESOLVED  
 Photographers \_\_\_\_\_  
 TV Crews \_\_\_\_\_  
 White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. - -  
 Other - -

Technical Support: Microphones no PA Other Rooms no  
 Recording yes  
 Lights no  
 Transportation cars (to deliver and pick up the guests) -- through the SW gate  
 Parking South Drive (only temporary parking when picking up the guests  
 Housing - - after dinner)  
 Other - - (Risers, stage, platforms) - -

Project Co-ordinator Linda Baker Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

\*\*elderly persons living alone to Thanksgiving Dinner.



cc: Carolyn/Nancy  
F. k

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: MARIA DOWNS

FROM: SUSAN PORTER



On Thursday evening, November 20th, the President and Mrs. Ford would like to host a dinner for 10-15 senior citizens. The idea behind this dinner would be to encourage citizens throughout the country to include senior citizens in their Thanksgiving plans. Because Thanksgiving this year so closely precedes the trip to China, the President and Mrs. Ford would like to have this dinner for senior citizens just a week preceding Thanksgiving.

Carmela LaSpada of No Greater Love (785-4665) is working on a guest list and I have told her that you will be in touch with her regarding the plans. The thought is that the guests could arrive at 7:00 p.m. for before dinner dubbonet or whatever with the dinner served at 7:30 p.m.

Thank you.

c: William Nicholson  
Rex Scouten

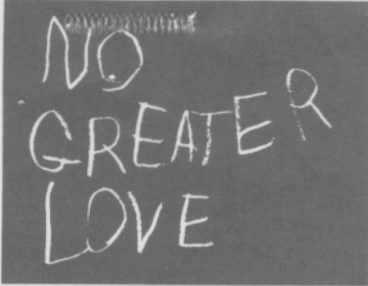
Mrs. Ford,

Ric wanted you to be aware of this invitation  
from No Greater Love. He has told Carmella  
to also alert Susan Porter .

Nancy







1750 New York Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 785-4665

11-20-75

Inspired by the saying, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," the people at NO GREATER LOVE sponsor programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, for hospitalized veterans and older Americans.

Hank Aaron  
President

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford  
Honorary Patron

CARMELLA LaSPADA  
Chairman of the Board

ROGER STAUBACH  
Vice President

REV. LOUIS SAVARY, S.J.  
Executive Vice President

STEPHEN PALEY, ESQ.  
Secretary

October 22, 1975

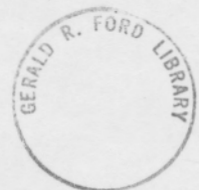
Dear Ric:

It was nice to talk to you again, your enthusiasm for No Greater Love is always encouraging.

I've enclosed the materials I mentioned, the Thanksgiving Salute brochure, the letters to governors and Members of Congress, and our letters to the White House. Right now, we're waiting for a reply to our request for a Presidential Statement, so we're not sure if we'll be getting one or exactly what it will say.

Concerning the possibility of a luncheon for some senior citizens with Mrs. Ford, these are my personal recommendations: I feel that a group of ten to twelve older people as guests would be the most appropriate number. A group of this size would be large enough so that the guests would not feel self-conscious, but small enough to allow the luncheon to be a personal experience for everyone involved. The date for the luncheon could be set a few days before Thanksgiving so it will not interfere with the holiday plans of the First Family. Not only would a luncheon of this kind create a great deal of good will for the Fords, but it would also set a very impressive example for the American people to follow by including elderly people in their own personal Thanksgiving celebrations. Everyone would benefit - The White House, No Greater Love, and, most importantly, our older Americans.

I am aware that the social secretary at the White House is relatively new at her job and extremely busy. I spoke to Susan Porter recently and she mentioned that the social schedule is very crowded. It really would be a terrible disappointment if plans for a Thanksgiving luncheon had to be abandoned only because there is not enough time for the White House social office to arrange it. If it would help, I would be happy to act as an anonymous consultant for the affair. I feel that my nine years at the White House and my ten years experience with coordinating the local Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens would help in organizing the event and in the White House selection of guests for the luncheon who would be representative of a cross section of social, economic and religious backgrounds.



**NGL National  
Advisory Council\***

George Allen  
Arthur Ashe  
Johnny Bench  
Rocky Bleier  
Congresswoman Lindy Boggs  
Congressman John Brademas  
Larry Brown  
Paul "Bear" Bryant  
Carol Burnett  
Edward J. Carrough  
Wilt Chamberlain  
Perry Como  
Congressman Dan Daniel  
Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, USN  
Congressman William Dickinson  
Joe DiMaggio  
John B. Kelly, Jr.  
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Joe Frazier  
Bill Gallo  
Althea Gibson  
Kay Iselin Gilman  
Senator Barry Goldwater  
Senator Robert Griffin  
Alphons Hackl  
Conrad Hilton  
Bob Hope  
Senator Daniel Inouye  
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson  
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Billy Kidd  
Michael Landon  
Mrs. Vince Lombardi  
Jack Lord  
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Jim McKay  
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Congressman G.V. Montgomery  
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Bart Starr  
Senator Strom Thurmond  
Wes Unseld  
Mayor Walter Washington  
Ted Williams  
Congressman Bob Wilson  
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (Retired)

\* Partial Listing

I'm sure I don't have to tell you how much we at No Greater Love would like to see this luncheon become a reality - we're sure it would be a meaningful experience for all involved.

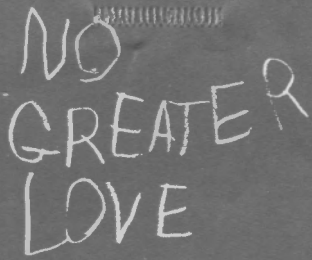
I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, many thanks for your help and support.

Fond regards,

*Carmella*

Carmella LaSpada





1750 New York Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 785-4665

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Hank Aaron  
President

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford  
Honorary Patron

CARMELLA LaSPADA  
Chairman of the Board

ROGER STAUBACH  
Vice President

REV. LOUIS SAVARY, S.J.  
Executive Vice President

STEPHEN PALEY, ESQ.  
Secretary

October 22, 1975



Dear Governor:

A national effort is underway to pay tribute to our nation's elderly by including them in a special way in Thanksgiving Day festivities throughout the country. This Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans is being sponsored by No Greater Love, a non-profit, volunteer organization which provides programs of friendship and care for groups of often-forgotten Americans. The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging is assisting with the promotion of this effort to foster the Salute all across the nation.

We hope, that as part of the Salute, you and your family will invite some of these older citizens, especially those who may live alone or without family, into your home to share in your celebrations, or that you will visit on Thanksgiving Day those confined to homes for the aged. Your spirit of welcome will help ease the feelings of loneliness and isolation many would otherwise experience on this traditional day of happiness and togetherness. The meaning of Thanksgiving would be enhanced for all those who share their time and love with these people.

We also ask that you include mention of this Salute in your Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, recommending that other families and groups in your state follow your example by inviting elderly citizens to share in their festivities. Enclosed is a suggested statement for partial or entire inclusion in your proclamation.

With your help, No Greater Love hopes to foster a tradition of caring for older people that will not be confined to one short holiday, but will last throughout the year. We sincerely hope that your schedule will allow you time to take part in this tribute of love and care.

Sincerely,

Hank Aaron  
President, NGL

Carmella LaSpada  
Chairman of the Board, NGL

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Wes Unseld  
Mayor Walter Washington  
Ted Williams  
Congressman Bob Wilson  
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (Retired)

\* Partial Listing



## SUGGESTED STATEMENT FOR THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION FOR GOVERNORS

FOR MANY YEARS, THANKSGIVING HAS BEEN A NATIONAL TRADITION, PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MORE FORTUNATE OF US TO SHARE A SPECIAL MEAL WITH OUR LOVED ONES AND TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS FOR THIS GREAT NATION AND TO THOSE WHO HELPED TO BUILD IT. AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED SHAPE OUR NATION ARE OUR SENIOR AMERICANS.

HOWEVER, FOR MILLIONS OF OLDER AMERICANS LIVING ALONE IN ISOLATION AND NEGLECT, THANKSGIVING MAY HOLD LITTLE MEANING. FOR THESE, A DAY OF NATIONAL FEASTING MAY SEEM EMPTY INDEED.

THE CRUELEST AFFLICTION OF ADVANCING AGE IS NOT SICKNESS OR WEAKNESS, IT IS BEING FORGOTTEN. RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEM OF LONELINESS FOR OLDER PEOPLE LIVING ALONE, I WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON THE CITIZENS OF (STATE) TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO INCLUDE THE FORGOTTEN ELDERLY IN THEIR OWN THANKSGIVING FESTIVITIES AS A TANGIBLE SIGN OF THE GRATITUDE ALL AMERICANS OWE THESE PEOPLE FOR THEIR AID IN SHAPING THIS NATION.

THEREFORE, I (GOVERNOR) DO DESIGNATE THANKSGIVING 1975 AS A DAY FOR REMEMBERING NOT ONLY OUR OWN HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES, BUT ALSO THOSE OLDER AMERICANS WHO ARE ISOLATED FROM THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WHEREAS A NATIONAL SALUTE TO OLDER AMERICANS IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE ORGANIZATION NO GREATER LOVE, I URGE CITIZENS OF (STATE), VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE GROUPS, TO PROVIDE FITTING WAYS FOR OLDER AMERICANS TO CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING AS A DAY OF JOY AND GRATITUDE.

I HOPE THAT THIS DAY WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A CONCERTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL AMERICANS TO HONOR AND CARE FOR OUR OLDER CITIZENS ALL YEAR LONG.



# NO GREATER LOVE

1750 New York Ave., N.W.  
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(202) 785-4665

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Hank Aaron  
President

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford  
Honorary Patron

October 22, 1975

Dear Senator:

A national effort is underway to pay tribute to our nation's elderly by including them in a special way in Thanksgiving Day festivities throughout the country. This Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans is being sponsored by No Greater Love, a non-profit, volunteer organization which provides programs of friendship and care for groups of often-forgotten Americans. The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging is assisting in the promotion of this effort to foster the Salute all across the nation.

We hope that, as part of the Salute, you and your family will invite some of these older citizens, especially those who may live alone or are without family, into your home to share in your celebrations, or that you will visit on Thanksgiving Day those confined to homes for the aged. Your spirit of welcome will help ease the feelings of loneliness and isolation many would otherwise experience on this traditional holiday of happiness and togetherness. The governors of the fifty states and their wives are also being asked to participate in this way.

This Salute is meant to be a tangible sign to our older citizens that Americans care and are willing to remember older people and all that they have contributed to the shaping of this nation. With your help, No Greater Love hopes to foster a tradition of caring for older people that will not be confined to one short holiday, but will last throughout the year.

The meaning of Thanksgiving will be enhanced for all those who share their time and love with these older people. We at No Greater Love sincerely hope that your schedule will allow you time to take part in this tribute of love and care.

Sincerely,

Hank Aaron  
President, NGL

Carmella LaSpada  
Chairman of the Board, NGL

**CARMELLA LaSPADA**  
Chairman of the Board

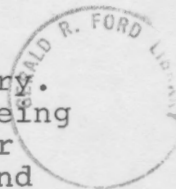
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Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (Retired)  
\* Partial Listing





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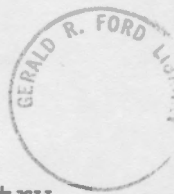
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Sincerely,

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President, NGL

Carmella LaSpada  
Chairman of the Board, NGL



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\* Partial Listing

HUGH SCOTT  
PENNSYLVANIA

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 1, 1975



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

There are thousands, perhaps millions, of older Americans throughout the United States who live alone or without families. To our older Americans who gave their energy, wisdom, experience and hard work through many difficult times to "secure the blessing of liberty for ourselves and our posterity" the nation owes a special debt of gratitude. As you have said, "we must not lose sight of the continuing contributions this generation can make, nor of our commitment as a society to meet their needs."

Thanksgiving is a particularly appropriate time to offer friendship and care to older Americans, many of whom will otherwise be spending this traditional day of togetherness and happiness alone and forgotten. We would like to add a new dimension to America's tradition of Thanksgiving — a step forward for our nation as we approach our bicentennial. We are requesting that you include this thought in your Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, and urge every American to join No Greater Love in giving our older Americans the appreciation they so greatly deserve.

We serve on the National Advisory Council of No Greater Love, a nonprofit organization which sponsors programs of friendship and care for often-forgotten groups of Americans. NGL plans to ask the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging to join them in urging Governors, Members of Congress, church and community groups nationwide to include the older Americans in their Thanksgiving celebrations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your sincere interest in our elderly citizens.

Sincerely,

Hugh Scott  
United States Senate

Thomas O'Neill  
U.S. House of Representatives

August 29, 1975



Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of everyone associated with No Greater Love, I want to tell you how much we appreciate the genuine concern you and your family have shown for our work.

Recently, you received a letter from Senator Hugh Scott and Congressman Thomas O'Neill, members of our National Advisory Council, requesting that you include a paragraph in your Thanksgiving Day Proclamation concerning our older Americans. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

We would like to make as many Americans as possible aware of the Salute to Older Americans. We have requested the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging to join us in this effort. In the interest of national awareness, would it be possible for you to release a Presidential statement prior to No Greater Love's National Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans. If so, then your statement could be distributed in plenty of time to all church groups participating in this tribute. Such a statement would really give substantial thrust to the program.

We share your concern for our nation's elderly. The Thanksgiving Day Salute is one of the ways we are remembering them. Giving thanks first of all means giving.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Hank Aaron  
President, NGL

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.



Suggested statement by the President:

The Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans is an effort to pay tribute to our older citizens by including them in a special way in our Thanksgiving celebration. A Thanksgiving Salute has been held in Washington, D.C. for the past several years.

This year the Salute to Older Americans will be a nationwide effort. Senators, Governors and members of Congress will be called upon to include older Americans in their Thanksgiving festivities or to visit a home for the aging in their state or district. Clergy are asked to mention from the pulpit the opportunity that Thanksgiving offers every family to share their time and love with an older citizen. In many cities Thanksgiving Day dinners and entertainment will be provided for those living alone or without families.



Thanksgiving is a national tradition, providing an opportunity for the nation as a whole to give thanks for this great country and its architects. It is also time for individuals to share in expressing their gratitude. However, for those who are isolated from the mainstream of American life, Thanksgiving may have little meaning. A day of national togetherness and feasting can seem empty to the older members of our society who are living alone.

This program was originated by No Greater Love, a non-profit, non-partisan, volunteer organization which sponsors programs of friendship and care for often-forgotten Americans. The president of NGL is Hank Aaron, and Mrs. Gerald Ford serves as its Honorary Patron.

Thanksgiving is a particularly appropriate time to reaffirm our nation's commitment to the elderly, and to offer them a tangible sign of the care we should have for them all year long.

Thanksgiving will be more meaningful for us, as individuals and as a nation, if we do not forget them. Therefore, I call upon all Americans to join in giving tribute and I sincerely hope that the Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans will become a national tradition.



*. . . to age is human . . .*



**National  
Thanksgiving Salute  
to  
Older Americans**

*Sponsored by No Greater Love*

## Why the salute?

It is sad to realize that on Thanksgiving Day this year many of our older Americans will be alone on this traditional day of togetherness. Having contributed greatly to the building of this nation, they now stand aside, forgotten and neglected. Dr. James Birren, Director of Gerontology at the University of Southern California has said, "In our society, those over 65 are resented because they are considered unproductive, naive and ultraconservative. They are regarded as 'yesterday people' for whom we have no time."

America's attitude toward old age stems from our early history. This country was built by its young and energetic people and America is still oriented toward youth as the ideal. But we must realize that we are no longer a young country. In 1900, people over 65 made up 4 percent of the population. Today they number 20 million, or 10 percent. And, each year the aged population grows another 350,000, a rate much higher than the national overall population growth.

America owes her older people a debt that simple words cannot repay. America owes them a personal tribute as a tangible sign of caring and appreciation.

Thanksgiving is a time to renew our national commitment to these citizens on a personal level—not for this one day alone, but for the entire year.

As we approach our nation's Bicentennial, we remember our ancestors who founded this great country. However, we need to take the time to remember our older citizens, for they are our living heritage. Let us join together in giving thanks to them.

## History

For the past several years, a Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans has been held in Washington, D.C. This tribute of love and care has always been supported by generous volunteers, both adults and children. Carmella LaSpada, founder of No Greater Love, a non-profit organization, originated the Salute.

This year the Salute is being expanded to include the whole nation. The hope is to foster, in every American, an appreciation and to give each of us a chance to reach out to older people with a hand of friendship and care. No single group of Americans is more deserving than they of our heartfelt gratitude.

No Greater Love is dedicated to the goals of informing, motivating and mobilizing the American people, directing them toward significant human problems and evoking from them positive action.

*"The cruelest affliction of old age is not heartache, sickness or weakness—it is loneliness. The cure is care and companionship."*

The Reverend Chenoweth J. Watson  
President of National Interfaith Coalition on Aging

*"Today, our older Americans face a crisis — living alone in a youth-oriented society that would rather forget its older citizens than care for them. After two hundred years, we hope to change this attitude toward older Americans and give them the recognition that they deserve."*

Hank Aaron  
President, No Greater Love

(The following is an excerpt from a letter to President Gerald Ford.)

*"We would like to add a new dimension to America's tradition of Thanksgiving — a step forward for our nation as we approach our Bicentennial."*

*"To our older Americans, who gave their energy, wisdom, experience and hard work through many difficult times to 'secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity', the nation owes a special debt of gratitude."*

*"We are requesting that you include this thought in your Thanksgiving Day Proclamation and urge every American to join No Greater Love in giving our older Americans the appreciation they so greatly deserve . . ."*

Senator Hugh Scott  
Senate Minority Leader  
Congressman Thomas O'Neill  
House Majority Leader

(Members of NGL's National Advisory Council)

## What can you do?

**Clergy:** Mention the *National Salute to Older Americans* from your pulpit and encourage your congregation to take part in the special opportunity which Thanksgiving offers every family to share some of their time and love with forgotten older people.

**Governors and Members of Congress:** Participate in the Salute by including older Americans in your own holiday celebration or by visiting a home for the aged in your own state or district.

**Church groups and community organizations:** Extend an invitation to older Americans to join in your Thanksgiving festivities.

*The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging* has endorsed No Greater Love's Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans and has assisted in the promotion of the Salute with the nation's clergy. N.I.C.A. is the organization that grew out of the White House Conference on Aging.



Photo through the Courtesy of Seymour Linden

*"In the spirit of expressing gratitude for the many blessings which we enjoy, the Thanksgiving Salute is particularly appropriate as recognition of the role of older Americans in our national achievement."*

Mrs. Gerald Ford  
Honorary Patron, No Greater Love

**No Greater Love**

1750 New York Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 785-4665



# NO GREATER LOVE

Inspired by the saying, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," the people at NO GREATER LOVE sponsor programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, for hospitalized veterans and older Americans.

# IN BRIEF



VOL. 2, NO. 1

1975



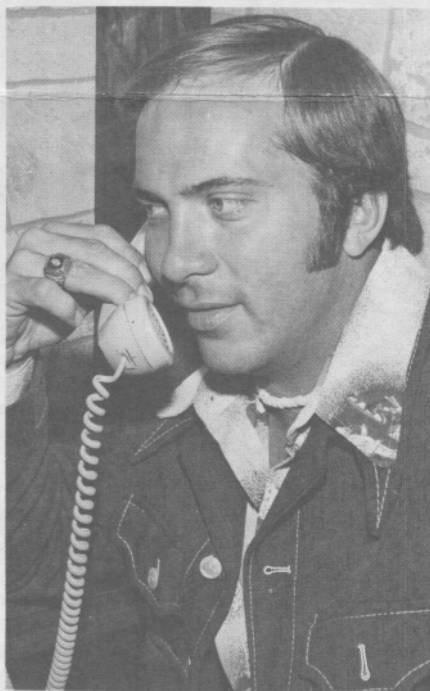
AP Photo

NGL President Hank Aaron, baseball's home run king, visited patients at Denver's VA Hospital during NGL's Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.



Steve Adams

FIRST LADY Betty Ford, Honorary Patron of NO GREATER LOVE, joined the Washington Redskins at NGL's 3rd annual Washington area Christmas party for children of men missing and killed in action. Thanks to the kindness of Greyhound and Trailways buslines and the Amalgamated Transit Union, this year's party was NGL's largest, with over 70 MIA / KIA children attending. Astronaut Bill Anders, cartoonists Brant Parker (Wizard of Id) and Bill Rechin (Pluribus) were among the guests. Redskin Ron McDole played Santa Claus.



OKLAHOMA CONNECTION brought together Cincinnati Reds' All-Star catcher Johnny Bench and Mike Gist, 15, son of Major Tommy Gist, who has been declared killed in action in Vietnam after being listed as MIA. NO GREATER LOVE arranged the call between the two Oklahoma natives. Bench is a member of NGL's National Advisory Council.

Photo Associates Photographer Dick Rothman



Dick Rothmar

HOLIDAY FUN in Philadelphia was the Christmas menu for a group of children of MIAs and KIAs who were guests of NO GREATER LOVE and members of the Phillies, 76ers and Philadelphia Eagles. Hiding behind Santa's whiskers is Phillie third baseman Mike Schmidt while his helpers are, from left, Merritt Kersey, Joe Lavender and Al Coleman of the Eagles. Dave Cash of the Phillies and Doug Collins of the 76ers also attended. The New York Jets were co-hosts with NGL at another holiday party.



Helen LaValley

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER joined the cast of "Grease" in rocking to raise funds for NO GREATER LOVE at Georgetown University. Susan Ford, Art Buchwald, Lynda Johnson Robb, Lee Elder, Douglas Kiker, and astronaut Mike Collins were among the celebrities who did their rocking in a replica of the famous Kennedy White House rocker. Seventeen Georgetown students also rocked for 12 hours in return for pledges. After the Marathon, the Kennedy Rocker was auctioned to the highest bidder — John Bosacco of Essington, Pa., who purchased the chair for \$1,100.



U.S. Army Photo

CHILDREN of NO GREATER LOVE conducted their second annual Remembrance Ceremony on Memorial Day in the Vietnam Memorial Section of Arlington National Cemetery. The children placed NGL banners and red roses at each memorial marker, a "Flame of Memory" floral candle at the head of the memorial section, and recited a NO GREATER LOVE Creed. The floral candle was designed by Mark Turner and Terry Smith. Also cooperating were Rusty Young, Society of American Florists, Rose Growers of U.S., and the Military District of Washington. The observance, to be staged in all national cemeteries in future years, was suggested by Heather Schott, 11, whose father's memorial marker is in the Vietnam section. In addition to paying tribute to war dead, the Remembrance Ceremony is aimed at restoring the true sentiment of Memorial Day.



Washington Star Photographer Francis Roult

JOCKEYS at Laurel Race Course perched Bryan Earnest, 4, aboard a saddle and showered him and his brother Brad, 12, with gifts as part of a special tribute to NO GREATER LOVE at the track's winter meeting last year. A race on the day's program was run as the NO GREATER LOVE Purse and riders and other track personnel donated \$1,200 to NGL. The Earnests, whose father was killed in Vietnam, were entertained in the jockeys' quarters before the race.

## 'They Know We Care'

"My God, I've been lying on my back month after month. This is like life being brought into the hospital."

That was the reaction of a patient at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, to NO GREATER LOVE's Salute to Hospitalized Veterans in February when more than 200 entertainers, athletes and public figures spent a day visiting wards, posing for pictures, signing autographs and entertaining the patients there.

Television star Jack Lord said, "It's one of the most marvelous days I've put in during my life. The patients know that we care."

This was the second annual NGL Salute presented in Hawaii and VA hospitals around the country. General Omar N. Bradley serves as Honorary Chairman of the Salute.

NO GREATER LOVE's National President, baseball home run king Hank Aaron, visited patients in Denver. The Buffalo Sabres hockey team turned out en masse in their city. Penn State football players and coaches visited the Altona Veterans Hospital. In the South, University of Alabama players brightened the day for patients.

In Albuquerque, second graders from three schools delivered Valentines they had made to patients at the Albuquerque Hospital. Decorations ranged from hearts and snowflakes to helicopters and tanks.

Governors, Senators, U.S. Representatives and Mayors joined the Salute along with sportswriters and sportscasters. The NBA champion Golden State Warriors and coach Al Attles were among the visitors at San Francisco VA Hospital as were the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers at the Pittsburgh VA Hospital.

In other VA hospitals across the country, folk singer Pete Seeger entertained. So did stars from the Grand Ole Opry, cartoonist Bill Gallo and his fellow artists drew sketches and quarterback Jim Hart of the St. Louis Cardinals signed autographs and talked football in the wards.

NGL National Advisory Council member Senator Strom Thurmond visited VA patients in Washington, D.C.

NO GREATER LOVE sees this annual Salute as one of its major programs and encourages continuing visits throughout the year to its VIPs — Very Important Patients.



Raymond Crowell

WIMBLEDON CHAMPION Arthur Ashe takes a tournament break to meet Sherry and Michael Deane, children of Army Major William Deane, MIA in Southeast Asia. Ashe is a member of NGL's National Advisory Council.



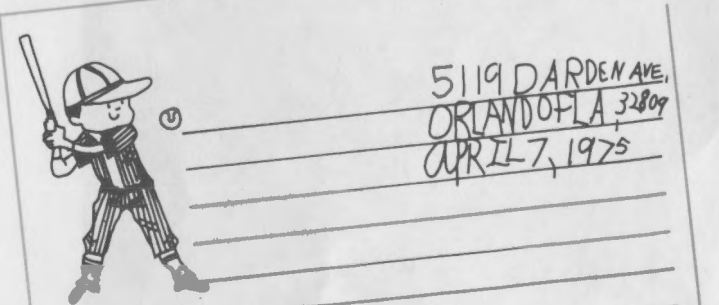
Steve Adams

OLDER AMERICANS living alone have been guests at a Thanksgiving Day dinner sponsored by NO GREATER LOVE in Washington, D.C. This local program, which has included visits by dignitaries, is to be expanded to a National Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans, enlisting the nation's clergy of all faiths to sponsor local observances. The thrust of the program is to focus attention on our living heritage as embodied in these senior citizens and to call attention to their special needs. District of Columbia Mayor Walter E. Washington and a guest danced at last year's party at Georgetown University.



U.S. Army Photo

VISITING A PATIENT at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, during NGL's Salute to Hospitalized Veterans were, from left, POW returnee Tom Horio, Sen. Daniel Inouye and "Hawaii Five-O" star Jack Lord, who with singer Don Ho, NGL's Hawaiian chairman, organized this year's salute. Sen. Inouye and Lord are members of NGL's National Advisory Council.



5119 DARDEN AVE.  
ORLANDO FLA 32809  
APRIL 7, 1975

Dear Miss LASPADA,  
I thank you very much for getting me to see Pete Rose. He is my favorite baseball player I ever really like him a lot. I think I was was the best thing that has ever has happen to me. Thanks a lot.

Sincerely  
Richard Hughes



"THE BEST thing that ever happened to me" was Richard Hughes' evaluation of his meeting with Cincinnati Reds' Pete Rose. NO GREATER LOVE made the arrangements for Richard, whose father, Major Kenneth Hughes, U.S.A.F., was killed in action in Vietnam.



## Where we've been . . . . . . Where we're going

**NO GREATER LOVE** was born as an organization in 1971. But its inspiration dates from 1966 when Carmella LaSpada, then a White House Special Projects Aide, organized an Armed Forces Day party at Bethesda Naval Hospital for wounded veterans. Out of this grew the nationwide VIP (Very Important Patients) hospital visitation program enthusiastically supported by America's sports stars.

In 1971, Ms. LaSpada, along with Joe Frazier, Althea Gibson, Arnold Palmer, Johnny Unitas, Ted Williams and other athletes launched **NO GREATER LOVE**, a program of friendship and care for special groups of Americans: first, the wounded veterans, next the POW's in Southeast Asia, then the children of these POWs/MIAs.

When POWs returned in 1973, families of servicemen still missing and, later, families of men killed in action, asked NGL to continue their efforts on behalf of these children.

The children's program and hospital visitations remain an integral part of **NO GREATER LOVE**. Other programs have been added to NGL's list of concerns. The Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony was suggested by a child whose father died in Vietnam. And "For a Change," a program for paralyzed veterans, was suggested by a wheelchair veteran.

Following is a capsule presentation of NGL's current programs,

**NGL CHILDREN** — Christmas and birthday gifts are sent annually to approximately 1,000 MIA/KIA children. Beginning in January 1976, an American flag will be flown over the U.S. Capitol on the birthday of each NGL child's father. The flag will be given to his child or children.

**NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS** — Celebrity visits to Veterans Administration hospitals all across the country are made annually on the second Monday in February. Athletes, entertainers, ex-POWs, and dignitaries have joined in this effort and a number of elementary school pupils have written letters and sent gifts as part of the observance. NGL plans to ask the VA Voluntary Services for their assistance in this Salute.

**FOR A CHANGE** — Professional athletes spend a day in wheelchairs and organize wheelchair sports to encourage activities by paralyzed veterans. Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh Steelers' running back and a Vietnam veteran who was seriously wounded in combat, is chairman.

**MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY** — This ceremony is conducted by NGL children to honor the memory of men missing and killed in Southeast Asia and to restore the tradition and sentiment of Memorial Day. This will become a national NGL program.

**SALUTE TO OLDER AMERICANS** A Thanksgiving Day tribute is paid to senior citizens, particularly those living alone or without families. The nation's clergy will be asked to help broaden this program to a national effort to salute our living heritage as represented by these older Americans and encourage visits to them. Members of Congress will be asked to visit homes for the aged.

**SHARING CARE** — This new effort, now in an experimental stage, involves an intergroup program of friendship and care between disabled Vietnam veterans and children with leukemia and other terminal illnesses, providing both groups with an opportunity to share their personal courage. The Veterans Administration and National Institutes of Health, and Candlelighters (an organization which helps parents of terminally ill children) will be asked to assist NGL.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE** — Also a new program, this NGL effort will enlist the aid of the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the National Association of Broadcasters to reach all newspapers, television and radio stations to honor Vietnam veterans who have made singular contributions to the life of their communities.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS** — NGL has also sponsored and coordinated Christmas parties for NGL children hosted by the various sports teams; ballpark visits for these youngsters; NGL races at Monmouth and Laurel Race Courses; a party given by NGL children for Special Olympics participants, and a fund-raising Rocking Chair Marathon.

Ms. LaSpada, who has been with NGL since its inception, now serves as National Coordinator and Board Chairman. Baseball's home run king, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Brewers, is NGL National President.

## Special Friends . . .

**LARRY BROWN** — Washington Redskin running back, newly elected NGL Board Member . . . chairman of NGL's fund-raising Rocking Chair Marathon . . . leader among NFL players in appearances at all NGL functions.

**MAGNAVOX** — Donated 1,000 Hank Aaron 715 (Home Run) kits to MIA/KIA children at Christmas . . . donated Odyssey electronic sports games to Denver VA Hospital during Hank Aaron's visit for the Salute to Hospitalized Veterans and to Rocking Chair Marathon winner.

**AFL-CIO UNIONS** — Iron Workers, Painters, Fire Fighters and Sheet Metal Workers donated NGL office space. The Presidents of these unions — John Lyons, S. Frank Raftery, Howard McClennan and Edward J. Carlough — are members of NGL's National Advisory Council, along with AFL-CIO President George Meany.

**"HOME-MAKERS"** — And those who made the office a home: Berry Laminators, Cal Surette, Clyde W. Dent, Elfrieda Woods, Karastan, Minte Co., Olin Corp., Pioneer Plastics, Standard Acoustics, United Chair Co. — and many others who donated goods and services.

<b>Editor</b> .....	Allen Scott
<b>Associate Editors</b> .....	Valerie P. Casey
	Louis M. Savary, S.J.
<b>Editorial Staff</b> .....	Steve Adams, Don Hoffman
	Bill Meadows, Bill Rechin
	John Scarfone, Pam Yerg

We would like to extend our thanks to Colortone Press, Litho Composition, and Frank Parsons Paper Co. for their assistance in the production of this newsletter.

**The Editors**

## You Can Help

THE PROGRESS that **NO GREATER LOVE** has made in its programs of friendship and care has been realized in large part through donations of gifts and services ranging from office space to envelope stuffing.

Professionals in all fields — writers and artists, attorneys and accountants, florists and photographers, printers and program specialists — have given their time, services and advice.

Hundreds of professional athletes and entertainers have given freely of their time to make personal appearances at **NO GREATER LOVE** functions for hospitalized veterans and for MIA/KIA children.

But money is also needed to continue and expand **NO GREATER LOVE**'s programs. If you know individuals or organizations who might contribute, please contact NGL National Headquarters. Tax deductible gifts may be sent to:

**NO GREATER LOVE**  
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Telephone: (202) 785-4665

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, November 20, 1975

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

---

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Thanksgiving dinner tonight at 7:30 PM in the White House family dining room for fourteen senior citizens.

The dinner is being held one week prior to thanksgiving with the hope that it will focus attention on the isolation of millions of senior citizens and encourage people throughout the country to set an American tradition of including older citizens in their thanksgiving plans.

Their guests will arrive at 7:00 PM and join the President and Mrs. Ford in the Red Room prior to dinner being served at 7:30 PM. The menu includes: Fresh Fruit Cup; Roast Stuffed Turkey with Cranberry Sauce; Candied Yams; Acorn Squash; Brussel Sprouts; Homemade Rolls; Tossed Green Salad; and Eggnog Pie.

Mrs. Ford is Honorary Patron of the organization "No Greater Love" who is sponsoring a National Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans.

Guest list attached.

# # # # #



Press Pick-up at 7:20 PM for Photo Opportunity

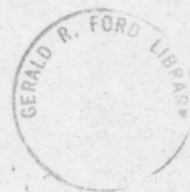
# FACTS ABOUT NOVEMBER 20th DINNER FOR OLDER AMERICANS

## Guests selected by:

Associated Catholic Charities  
National Capital Union Presbytery  
Washington Area Council of Churches  
United Methodist Church  
Episcopal Diocese of Washington Ministry to the Aging  
Jewish Council on the Aging  
National Association of Arab Americans  
National Council of Senior Citizens  
American Association of Retired Persons  
National Retired Teachers Association

## Ages of Guests: 64 to 68

64  
66  
68  
71  
72 (2)  
73 (2)  
75  
78  
79  
88



Places of birth: VA (3)  
MD (2)  
New York City (2)  
D.C. (2)  
PA  
Iowa  
Mass.  
Shershev, Poland

Number of Guests: 14 (9 women - 5 men) (There are 4 blacks and 10 whites)

National Statistics: 5.8 million senior citizens who live alone or without family)  
4.5 million are women; 1.3 million are men  
3.5 females for every male



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE DINNER FOR OLDER AMERICAN

Flora Ack (72), now a resident of Washington, D.C., was born in Spotsylvania County in Virginia. At present, she serves as a D.C. Village Volunteer. In addition, she is very active in various church affairs, including the choir in which she sings.

Lillian Barsky (71), originally from New York City, has been active in the Washington, D.C. Status of Women group while living in this city. Lillian has also traveled extensively to all parts of the world with the Conference of Christians and Jews. Recently, she has helped to research and plan a tour book of Washington for senior citizens.

Ardoine Casgrain (78), comes to Washington from Winchester, Massachusetts. One of Ardoine's main concerns is the promotion of the Foster Grandparents program in which he is very active. In addition, he devotes a good deal of his energies to his activities with the American Association of Retired Persons. In his spare time, Ardoine writes poetry that reflects his personal thoughts on aging.

Patricia Corbett (79), born in Dubuque, Iowa, is a former pediatric nurse. Patricia's family history can be traced back to America's earliest days. She is a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Charlotte Fillmore (75), has enjoyed various vocations in her years here in the Washington area. At one time, she was employed as the housekeeper for Mrs. McCaffrey, former secretary to Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower. She is currently involved in the Senior Aid Program. In addition, Charlotte runs a Day Care Center for some forty-four children ranging in age from two to four years and in nationality from African to Oriental. She is also, at the present time, a foster parent to a five year old child who has lived with Charlotte since the age of five weeks.

James Morris (73), was born in Tom's Creek, Virginia, but lived for a long time in Knoxville. There, he employed his abilities as a maintenance engineer for the Tennessee Board of Education.

Felix Morrison (64), is a native of Washington, D.C. Felix devotes much of his time writing these days. In addition to his literary pursuits, he is interested in photography. Felix is a rose fancier.

Corma Mowrey (68), comes to us from West Virginia where she was a teacher. From 1950-51 she served as the President of the National Education Association. Corma holds season's tickets to the Washington Redskins games. A devoted sports fan, she particularly enjoys baseball.

Raymond Parisi (72), originally from New York City, has enjoyed various careers. At one time, Raymond was a hair stylist at the famous Plaza Hotel in New York. He has also been a professional dancer. In his time he has worked out choreography with entertainer George Raft's dancing partner.

George Robinson (73), was born in Carolina County in Virginia. George is active in various affairs sponsored by the Baptist church.

Onalee Swain (76), worked for forty-one years at the Department of Defense where she served as assistant to General Medaris. Onalee assisted in the setting up of the Guided Missile Base in Huntsville, Alabama. No stranger to the White House, she has twice before attended teas there during the Truman administration - both before and after the White House was refurbished.

Betty Williams (88), who was born in Maryland, is the oldest of the guests for the dinner. She comes from a background of distinguished clerymen. Betty's father was the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the oldest church in the District. Her husband was also an Episcopal minister.

Frances Winthrop (77), came to the United States from Shershev, Poland. After living in New York, Frances came to Washington where she worked at the Department of Defense for twenty-six years. She is very active in the affairs of the Jewish Community Center. In addition, Frances is a Pioneer Woman, a Jewish group which sponsors many fund-raising activities to benefit the people of the community.

Wadia Ferris

(Information forthcoming)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 19, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford,

RE: Private Dinner for Representatives of the Senior  
Citizens Community - Thursday, November 20, 1975

Attached for your review and approval is the proposed  
scenario for tomorrow evening's dinner for selected older  
Americans, hosted by you and the President.

approve \_\_\_\_\_

disapprove \_\_\_\_\_



Included also is background information on No Greater Love  
and its "Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans" and a  
copy of the guest list (with background information on each  
guest).

Tomorrow morning we will send you suggested remarks or  
talking points.

Linda Baker

DINNER - Thursday, November 20, 1975 at 7:30 o'clock

James Morris

Frances Winthrop

Patricia Corbett

Onalee Swain

Lillian Barsky

Charlotte Fillmore

Ardoyn Casgrain

THE PRESIDENT

MRS. FORD

Corma Mowrey

Raymond Parisi

Felix Morrison

Wadia Ferris

Flora Ack

Betty Williams

George Robinson

FIREPLACE



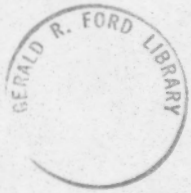
(ENTRANCE)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRIVATE DINNER FOR REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS COMMUNITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



"No Greater Love" is an organization which sponsors programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, hospitalized veterans, and older Americans. This year No Greater Love is administering a "Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans," a program designed to encourage citizens throughout the country to include senior citizens, especially those living alone, in their Thanksgiving plans.

The President and Mrs. Ford would like to host a private dinner for representatives of the Senior Citizens Community to exemplify this Thanksgiving Salute.

Mrs. Ford is the Honorary Patron of No Greater Love. With her support of the organization and with the enthusiasm of the President and Mrs. Ford in giving this special dinner, No Greater Love hopes that this Thanksgiving program for older Americans meets with great success.

# FACTS ABOUT NOVEMBER 20th DINNER FOR OLDER AMERICANS

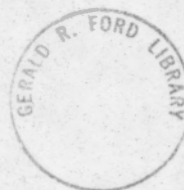
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National Retired Teachers Association

## Ages of Guests: 64 to 68

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## Places of birth: VA (3) MD (2) New York City (2) D.C. (2) PA Iowa Mass. Shershev, Poland



## Number of Guests: 14 (9 women - 5 men) (There are 4 blacks and 10 whites)

## National Statistics: 5.8 million senior citizens who live alone or without family 4.5 million are women; 1.3 million are men 3.5 females for every male

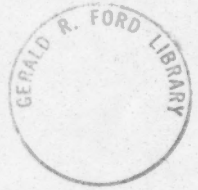
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRIVATE DINNER FOR REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS COMMUNITY

November 20, 1975

7:00 p.m.



Dress: Business Suit

Arrival:

- 7:00 p.m. ... Your guests will arrive through the Diplomatic Reception Room and will be escorted on a tour of the White House by Mike Farrell.
- 7:20 p.m. ... Your guests will be escorted to the Red Room for cocktails.
- 7:25 p.m. ... You and Mrs. Ford will be escorted via elevator to the Red Room where you will join your guests for cocktails.

Dinner:

- Rectangular table
- 7:30 p.m. ... You will escort your guests to the First Floor Family Dining Room for dinner.

NOTE: There will be a press photo opportunity once you and your guests have been seated.

NOTE: You will deliver grace before dinner is served.

Departure:

- You and Mrs. Ford will escort your guests to the Grand Hall and bid them farewell. You may then wish to return to the Family Quarters.

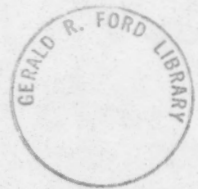


- 2 -     Representatives of the Senior Citizens  
                 Community Private Dinner

NOTES:

- Suggested remarks are attached (Tab A).
- Background information is attached (Tab B).
- Guest list is attached (Tab C).
- A White House photographer will be present.
- There will be copies of The Living White House available for  
         your guests.

Linda Baker



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford,

RE: Suggested Remarks for the Private Dinner for  
Representatives of the Senior Citizens Community -  
Thursday, November 20, 1975

Attached are the suggested remarks for tonight's dinner  
for senior citizens, hosted by you and the President.

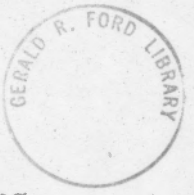
As you will note, the remarks conclude with a Thanksgiving  
prayer.

Linda Baker





REMARKS FOR THE PRIVATE DINNER FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMUNITY (THANKSGIVING DINNER)



Welcome to our home during this harvest season. Thanksgiving is such a special time for our family and everyone in this great Nation. It is the time we stop to recall the blessings of the year past.

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, because it reminds us of the faith and strength of those who founded this Nation and who left us a legacy of freedom.

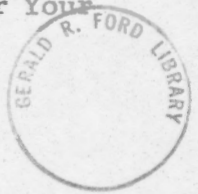
But thanksgiving is also a personal time of remembrance -- a time to recall the goodness of this gracious land. Above all, it is a time to renew our faith.

At this special time of the year, we call upon God to grant to us an added measure of wisdom, strength and courage to do what is right. We ask that we always are mindful of the needs of others and always are ready to give a helping hand.

I ask, therefore, that you please join me in a prayer of  
Thanksgiving.

"Dear Lord, as we remember the riches You have bestowed on  
this Nation and on us, help us to remember our responsibilities to share  
with those in need. Help us to reach out and give of ourselves.

"As we give thanks, let us also give love. As we remember Your  
goodness, help us to help others.



"Help us make each day a day of gratitude for Thy gifts. Give us  
the strength and courage to walk in the path of goodness and mercy and to  
share our joys with those who need us.

"Amen. "

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

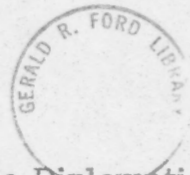
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NOTE: There will be a press photo opportunity once you and your guests have been seated.

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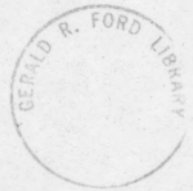
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Linda Baker



GUEST LIST AND  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE DINNER FOR OLDER AMERICANS

Flora Ack (72), now a resident of Washington, D.C., was born in Spotsylvania County in Virginia. At present, she serves as a D.C. Village Volunteer. In addition, she is very active in various church affairs, including the choir in which she sings.

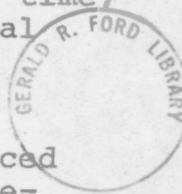
Lillian Barsky (71), originally from New York City, has been active in the Washington, D.C. Status of Women group while living in this city. Lillian has also traveled extensively to all parts of the world with the Conference of Christians and Jews. Recently, she has helped to research and plan a tour book of Washington for senior citizens.

Ardoine Casgrain (78), comes to Washington from Winchester, Massachusetts. One of Ardoine's main concerns is the promotion of the Foster Grandparents program in which he is very active. In addition, he devotes a good deal of his energies to his activities with the American Association of Retired Persons. In his spare time, Ardoine writes poetry that reflects his personal thoughts on aging.

Patricia Corbett (79), born in Dubuque, Iowa, is a former pediatric nurse. Patricia's family history can be traced back to America's earliest days. She is a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Charlotte Fillmore (75), has enjoyed various vocations in her years here in the Washington area. At one time, she was employed as the housekeeper for Mrs. McCaffrey, former secretary to Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower. She is currently involved in the Senior Aid Program. In addition, Charlotte runs a Day Care Center for some forty-four children ranging in age from two to four years and in nationality from African to Oriental. She is also, at the present time, a foster parent to a five year old child who has lived with Charlotte since the age of five weeks.

James Morris (73), was born in Tom's Creek, Virginia, but lived for a long time in Knoxville. There, he employed his abilities as a maintenance engineer for the Tennessee Board of Education.





Felix Morrison (64), is a native of Washington, D.C. Felix devotes much of his time writing these days. In addition to his literary pursuits, he is interested in photography. Felix is a rose fancier.

Corma Mowrey (68), comes to us from West Virginia where she was a teacher. From 1950-51 she served as the President of the National Education Association. Corma holds season's tickets to the Washington Redskins games. A devoted sports fan, she particularly enjoys baseball.

Raymond Parisi (72), originally from New York City, has enjoyed various careers. At one time, Raymond was a hair stylist at the famous Plaza Hotel in New York. He has also been a professional dancer. In his time he has worked out choreography with entertainer George Raft's dancing partner.

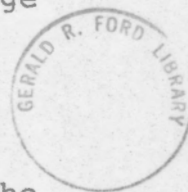
George Robinson(73), was born in Carolina County in Virginia. George is active in various affairs sponsored by the Baptist church.

Onalee Swain (76), worked for forty-one years at the Department of Defense where she served as assistant to General Medaris. Onalee assisted in the setting up of the Guided Missile Base in Huntsville, Alabama. No stranger to the White House, she has twice before attended teas there during the Truman administration - both before and after the White House was refurbished.

Betty Williams (88), who was born in Maryland, is the oldest of the guests for the dinner. She comes from a background of distinguished clerymen. Betty's father was the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the oldest church in the District. Her husband was also an Episcopal minister.

Frances Winthrop (77), came to the United States from Shershev, Poland. After living in New York, Frances came to Washington where she worked at the Department of Defense for twenty-six years. She is very active in the affairs of the Jewish Community Center. In addition, Frances is a Pioneer Woman, a Jewish group which sponsors many fund-raising activities to benefit the people of the community.

Wadia Ferris, representing the National Association of Arab Americans  
(background information to follow)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Ford -

You may want  
to consider oysters  
on the half shell  
Rather than oyster  
stew —

W



Thursday  
Nov. 20, 1975  
10-15 guests



DINNER

Senior Citizens

Fresh Fruit Cup

Roast Stuffed Turkey w/  
Cranberry Sauce  
Candied Yams  
Acorn Squash  
Brussel Sprouts

Homemade Rolls

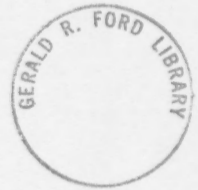
Tossed Green Salad

Pumpkin Pie

TO: MRS. FORD

FROM: MARIA DOWNS *K*

RE: SENIOR CITIZENS THANKSGIVING DINNER



First of all may I say I think this is one of the nicest proposals I have heard of in a long time. It made me immediately think of some of the older people in our apartment building that may not have anyone to share Thanksgiving with. . . . the Downs' plan to invite several to our home.

Attached is Henry's proposed menu for this dinner. There are several changes I would like to suggest. The fruit cup is something most of them would have on a fairly regular basis. . . perhaps a pumpkin soup would be a nice change and something they could handle. The Roast Turkey could be stuffed with sage dressing which is a form of bread dressing and will fit in with your response to Helen Thomas' question the other day as to what you were serving for Thanksgiving and what you liked to stuff your turkey with. . . . Rather than just plain cranberry sauce you may wish to try a cranberry and kumquat relish. The only other suggestion would be to serve eggnog pie rather than pumpkin pie. I understand it was quite a success at the recent Cabinet dinner.

I am also enclosing a suggested Thanksgiving menu for your personal Thanksgiving dinner. I have kept it quite close to this menu. If you agree to it . . . I will pass it on to Sheila for the press. . . . .

# NO GREATER LOVE

1750 New York Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 785-4665

F.Y.I.

Inspired by the saying, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," the people at NO GREATER LOVE sponsor programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, for hospitalized veterans and older Americans.

Hank Aaron  
President

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford  
Honorary Patron

**CARMELLA LaSPADA**  
Chairman of the Board  
**ROGER STAUBACH**  
Vice President  
**REV. LOUIS SAVARY, S.J.**  
Executive Vice President  
**STEPHEN PALEY, ESQ.**  
Secretary

November 26, 1975

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Arthur Ashe  
Johnny Bench  
Rocky Bleier  
Congresswoman Lindy Boggs  
Congressman John Brademas  
Larry Brown  
Paul "Bear" Bryant  
Carol Burnett  
Edward J. Carrough  
Wilt Chamberlain  
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Major General John Flynn, USAF  
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Kay Iselin Gilman  
Senator Barry Goldwater  
Senator Robert Griffin  
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Conrad Hilton  
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Bill Rechin  
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Senator Hugh Scott  
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O.J. Simpson  
Bart Starr  
Senator Strom Thurmond  
Wes Unseld  
Mayor Walter Washington  
Ted Williams  
Congressman Bob Wilson  
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (Retired)  
\* Partial Listing

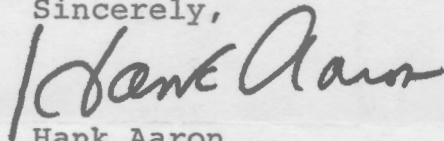
Dear President and Mrs. Ford:

On behalf of No Greater Love, the delighted guests, and all of the older Americans who will benefit from your gesture, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to you for the wonderful pre-Thanksgiving dinner at the White House.

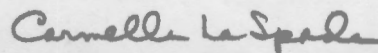
In calling attention to the loneliness of our senior citizens, especially during the holiday season, the impressive example that you have set by your generous hospitality has been invaluable in encouraging Americans everywhere to remember the elderly in their own celebrations.

Many, many thanks to you for your support of No Greater Love's Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans and your sincere concern for these most deserving people.

Sincerely,



Hank Aaron  
President, NGL



Carmella LaSpada  
National Coordinator, NGL

President and Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.





NO  
GREATER  
LOVE

1750 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

President and Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

