

**The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “5/13/76 - Scholastic Achievement Awards Presentation” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Carolyn*  
*file*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MARIA DOWNS

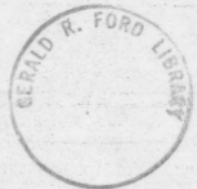
FROM: SUSAN PORTER

On Thursday, May 13, 1976 at 3:30 p.m., Mrs. Ford will present the 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards to a group of the highest ranking blind college students in the nation on behalf of the organization Recording for the Blind. This presentation since 1959 has had White House or Vice Presidential involvement. There will be approximately 25 people attending.

The contact is Mr. Gilbert Field, (212) 751-0860 or (212) 751-0862, who has been told that your office is handling this event. I am sure Kaye Pullen will want to take a look at the enclosed materials about the organization for remarks.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
William Nicholson  
Terry O'Donnell  
Sara Massengale  
Mike Farrell  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase



FACT SHEET  
Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Presentation Ceremony/Reception/ Tour  
Group Recording for the Blind, Inc. - Recipients of the 1976 Scholastic Achievement  
DATE/TIME Thursday, May 13, 1976 Awards 3:30 p. m.  
Contact Pat Howard Phone 2927  
Number of guests: Total 20 - 25 Women x Men x Children --  
Place State Floor  
Principals involved Mrs. Ford  
Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) (will receive informally)  
Remarks required yes  
Background Mrs. Ford will present the 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards to three  
of the Nation's ranking blind college graduates on behalf of the Recording  
for the Blind, Inc.

REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list yes (Pat Howard will distribute)  
Invitations no Programs no Menus no  
Refreshments yes (coffee, tea, tea sandwiches and pastries)  
Entertainment no /  
Decorations/flowers yes  
Music yes  
Social Aides yes (few)  
Dress Business suits - short dresses for the ladies Coat check ?  
Other --  
Press: Reporters yes  
Photographers yes  
TV Crews yes (?)  
White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. yes  
Other --  
Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms no  
Recording yes  
Lights no  
Transportation Group will walk over to the NW Gate from the Sheraton Carlton  
(should it be raining, they will come by taxi cabs thru SW Gate)  
Parking --  
Housing --  
Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) --

Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1976

FOR: MRS. FORD

FROM: MARIA DOWNS *MD*

SUBJECT: Presentation of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.  
1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards  
May 13, 1976 - 3:30 p.m.

Attached for your review and approval is the proposed scenario with attachments for your Presentation Reception for the Recording for the Blind, Inc.

After your Presentation Reception and the special tour, the group will return to the Sheraton Carlton where they will be attending a Testimonial Dinner tomorrow night. This dinner is hosted by the Recording for the Blind, Inc. and includes approximately 100 guests, some of them being government types such as representatives from HEW.

Thank you.





# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1976

MRS. FORD:

Event: Presentation of the Recording for the Blind, Inc. 1976  
Scholastic Achievement Awards

Date/Time: Thursday, May 13, 1976 3:30 p.m.

Place: Blue Room

Number of  
Attendees: Approximately 26 guests

Principals: Mr. John W. Castles, III  
President of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.  
Mr. Stuart Carothers  
Executive Director of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.



## Schedule of

Events: 3:30 p.m. Your guests will arrive through the North Portico  
and will be escorted to the Blue Room.

3:35 p.m. Maria Downs will escort you via elevator to the  
State Floor Hall where you will greet Mr. Castles,  
and Mr. Carothers.

Maria Downs will then escort you, Mr. Castles and  
Mr. Carothers to the Blue Room.

You and Mr. Castles will then walk to the south  
end of the Blue Room in front of the windows  
where the three recipients will be standing.

Mr. Castles will introduce you to each of the  
three recipients, Joanne T. Callahan, Steven R. Blow,  
and Pamela F. Rotman.

You will make brief remarks and then present the Awards and checks to Miss Callahan, Mr. Blow and Miss Rotman respectively.

NOTE: The 1976 Scholastic Achievement Awards will be framed scrolls and each check will be in the amount of \$500.00. The Awards and checks will be placed on a table nearby and a White House Social Aide will hand each of the Awards to you in the order stated above.

3:45 p. m. You will receive your guests informally and join them for refreshments.

You will then invite your guests to have a special tour arranged by Mike Farrell.

You will bid farewell and return to the Family Quarters.

NOTES: Military Social Aides will be present.

There will be open press coverage of the event.

A White House photographer will be present.

Your remarks will be recorded for Presidential Archives.

Guest list is attached.

Background information is attached.



Pat Howard

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	"Awards presentation by Mrs. Gerald R. Ford on behalf of Recording for the Blind" (2 pages)	5/13/1976	C

File Location:

Betty Ford Papers, Box 6, "5-13-76 Scholastic Achievement" JNN-6/28/2018

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- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

## RECORDING FOR THE BLIND'S

### 1976 SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

JOANNE T. CALLAHAN, 22, from Brooklyn, New York, blind since birth, graduated from Radcliffe College of Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American History and Literature.

A Dean's List honor student, Miss Callahan set challenging academic goals for herself, and realized them, at one of the nation's most demanding institutions. Mastering both the Spanish and Portuguese languages, she developed keen perceptivity in her study of Hispanic American literature, and produced an outstanding senior thesis which entailed a vast amount of reading, research, originality, and organization.

On campus, Miss Callahan is well known for her involvement in Radcliffe affairs and service projects in the surrounding community. She has tutored Spanish-speaking prison inmates in English and has worked in a bi-lingual day-care center. A group leader with Projecto Amistad the summer of 1974, she taught in a school for the blind and handicapped. Her leadership qualities won for her the University's prized Ames Award for 1975.

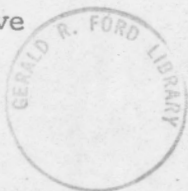
Joanne will work toward a master's degree in Latin American Studies and is determined to work some day with a governmental agency devoted to advancing Latin American economic and cultural life.

STEVEN R. BLOW, 22, from Waverly, New York, blind since birth, graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

Emerging 22nd in his class of 225, Steven's high standing mirrors an unusually probing mind capable of the diligence and insights that were essential to the understanding of a full range of difficult courses in an especially competitive academic environment.

Not only excelling in his major subject of economics, he demonstrated an outstanding ability in learning the Russian language and preparing his assignments on a Cyrillic typewriter.

An active contributing member of the Hamilton College community, Steven is a member of the Root-Jessup Public Affairs Council, and the Christian Fellowship. He plays a mean saxophone. His next goal, well within his grasp, is to become a lawyer.





PAMELA F. ROTMAN, 20, from Chicago, Illinois, blind since the age of three, graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Psychology.

Successful because of her own determination and the high scholastic standards she established for herself, Miss Rotman entered the University when she was sixteen and graduated 265th in a class of 2,200 students at one of the top ten state universities in the United States. Carrying a double major, she also chose to study for a semester at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, adjusting independently to the rigorous demands of a new environment.

Apart from her studies, Miss Rotman tutored a blind retarded child and has been active in the Disabled Students Organization; Students for Environmental Concerns; and the Pre-Law Club. She is a member of two honorary societies: Alpha Lamda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi. Her dream is to become a lawyer, and based on the positive results of her Law School Admissions Test and her proven tenacity, Pamela is confident of succeeding.





# Recording for the Blind, Inc.

## *News Release*

National Headquarters  
215 East 58th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022  
(212) 751-0860

Contact: Gilbert Field

**FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT**

### THE FIRST LADY WILL HONOR THREE OF NATION'S TOP BLIND STUDENTS

Three of the nation's highest ranking college seniors who happen to be blind will be honored in the White House on May 13th by Mrs. Gerald R. Ford "in recognition of extraordinary scholarship, determination, and intellectual vigor." The First Lady will present each with a \$500 Scholastic Achievement Award from Recording for the Blind, the voluntary organization that provides free, recorded textbooks for blind students throughout the nation. The three 1976 winners who rose above their handicap to top standing in their graduating classes are:

JOANNE T. CALLAHAN, 22, from Brooklyn, N. Y., blind since birth, who has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American History and Literature from Radcliffe College of Harvard University. Joanne mastered both the Spanish and Portuguese languages and has traveled to Peru to teach in a school for the blind and handicapped. Her goal is to join an international agency devoted to advancing Latin American economics and cultural life.

STEVEN R. BLOW, 22, from Waverly, N.Y., blind since birth, is receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y. Not only excelling in his major subject of economics, Steven learned to speak and write the Russian language, and has been active in every phase of a highly competitive college life. His next goal, well within his grasp, is to become a lawyer.

PAMELA F. ROTMAN, 20, from Chicago, Illinois, blind since the age of three, graduating from the University of Illinois, Urbana, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Psychology. Pamela entered the University when she was

(continued on next page)

only sixteen, carried an unusually heavy curriculum, and also studied for a semester in Israel, adjusting independently to the rigors of a new environment. She plans to go on to law school next.

Recording for the Blind, sponsor of these annual awards, supplies tape recorded educational books, free on loan, to visually, physically and perceptually handicapped students in all 50 states. Supported by contributions from the public, in the last school year, RFB delivered over 1,500,000 hours of recorded reading to 10,995 blind and otherwise handicapped users.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1976

MRS. FORD:

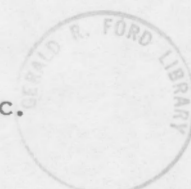
Event: Presentation of the Recording for the Blind, Inc. 1976  
Scholastic Achievement Awards

Date/Time: Thursday, May 13, 1976 3:30 p.m.

Place: Blue Room

Number of  
Attendees: Approximately 26 guests

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President of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.  
Mr. Stuart Carothers  
Executive Director of the Recording for the Blind, Inc.



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NOTES: Military Social Aides will be present.

There will be open press coverage of the event.

A White House photographer will be present.

Your remarks will be recorded for Presidential Archives.

Guest list is attached.

Background information is attached.



Pat Howard

For immediate release  
Wednesday, May 12, 1976

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

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Mrs. Ford will present three outstanding blind students with a \$500 Scholastic Achievement Award from Recording for the Blind on the State Floor at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13.

Recording for the Blind is a voluntary organization that provides free, recorded textbooks for blind students throughout the Nation. The 1976 winners are Joanne T. Callahan, Steven R. Blow and Pamela F. Rotman.

Ms. Callahan, 22, from Brooklyn, New York, earned a B.A. from Radcliffe College in Latin American history and literature. Blow, 22, from Waverly, New York, will receive a B.A. in economics from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Both Ms. Callahan and Blow have been blind since birth.

Ms. Rotman, 20, from Chicago, Illinois, will graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana with a B.A. in English and psychology. Ms. Rotman has been blind since age three.

# # #

Press pickup at 3:25 P.M.

