

**The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “6/9/76 - Happy Rockefeller's Birthday Party” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Aboard*  
*the*  
*Presidential*  
*Yacht*



*Sequoia*



NAVAL  
HONORS  
TO  
GEORGE WASHINGTON

Naval ships on the Potomac, including the Presidential Yacht, pay tribute to the Nation's first President when they pass George Washington's tomb at Mt. Vernon.

This booklet explains the origins of this custom and notes the appropriate regulations concerning it.



*Navy Department, Naval History Division, Washington, D. C.*



ORIGIN  
OF A  
CUSTOM

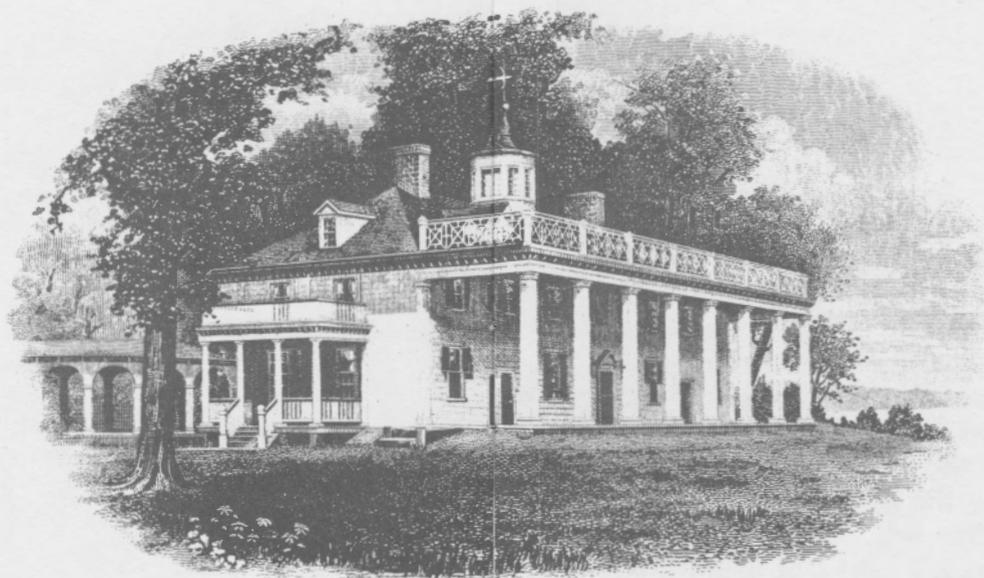
Comodore Charles Morris, United States Navy, relates the earliest known account of the ceremony. In May, 1801 three men-of-war of the United States Navy passed up the Potomac River to the Navy Yard in the District of Columbia. Comodore Morris, as a young midshipman, was on board the two-year old frigate *USS Congress*. In his autobiography he states:

"About ten o'clock in the morning of a beautifully serene day, we passed Mount Vernon. Everyone was on deck to look upon the dwelling where Washington had made his home. Mrs. Washington and others of the family could

be distinguished in the portico which fronts the river. When opposite the house, the sails were lowered, the colors displayed half-masted, and a mourning salute of thirteen guns was fired as a mark of respect to the memory of Washington, whose life had so recently closed, and whose tomb was in our view.

The general silence on board the ship and around us, except when broken by the cannon's sound, the echo and re-echo of that sound from the near and distant hills, as it died away in the distance, the whole ship's company uncovered and motionless, and the associations connected with the ceremony, seemed to make a deep impression upon all, as they did certainly upon me.

When the salute was finished, the sails were again set, the colors hoisted, and we proceeded up the river."





*The President, members of the first family and crew observing honors on board Sequoia*

## SHIPS PASSING

When a ship of the Navy is passing Washington's tomb, Mount Vernon, Virginia, between sunrise and sunset, the following ceremonies shall be observed insofar as may be practicable: The full guard and band shall be paraded, the bell tolled, and the national ensign half-masted at the beginning of the tolling of the bell. When opposite Washington's tomb, the guard shall

## WASHINGTON'S TOMB

present arms, persons on deck shall salute, facing in the direction of the tomb, and "Taps" shall be sounded. The national ensign shall be two-blocked and the tolling shall cease at the last note of "Taps," after which the national anthem shall be played. Upon completion of the national anthem, "Carry on" shall be sounded.

*Art. 2185, U.S. Navy Regs, 1948*

PRESIDENT  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
MAKES HONORS OFFICIAL

In 1906, when the Presidential Yacht *Mayflower* rendered passing honors with President Theodore Roosevelt embarked, he was much impressed. Finding upon inquiry that the honors were not official, he immediately prompted the issuance of the following order prescribing the ceremony to be observed by all vessels of the United States Navy passing Mount Vernon between sunrise and sunset:

*Marine guard and band paraded; bell tolled and colors halfmasted at the beginning of the tolling of the bell. When opposite Washington's Tomb, buglers sound taps, marine guard present arms, and officers and men on deck stand at attention and salute. The colors will be mastheaded at the last note of taps which will also be the signal for "carry on".*

GENERAL ORDER NO. 22, JUNE 2, 1906

Today's honors are the same except that the playing of the national anthem was prescribed in 1913. The tolling of the ship's bell is perhaps the most distinctive aspect of this ceremony, which is observed during daylight hours while the tomb and adjacent areas are abeam.



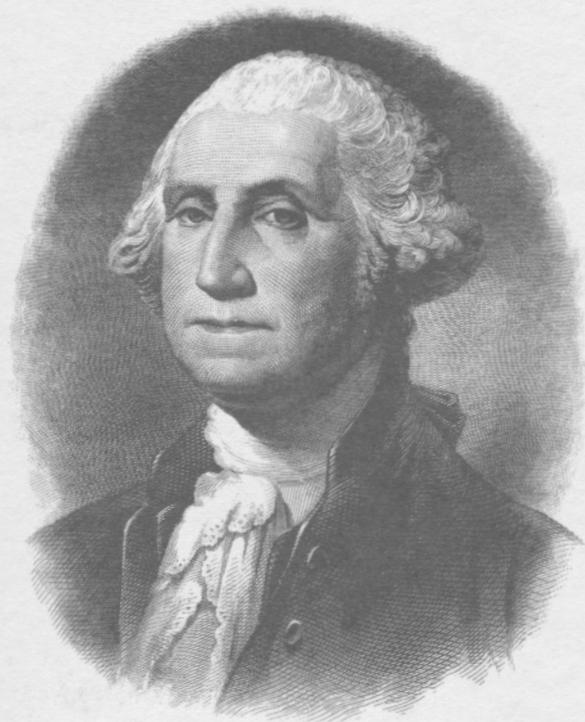
The manner of rendering these honors varies, depending on the size and complement of the ship. Insofar as practicable, it calls for parading the full guard and band, playing the national anthem, half-masting the national ensign and tolling the bell.

As a naval ship passes Mount Vernon, the crew forms up on deck and attention is sounded. When opposite the tomb, "hand salute" is signaled. Meanwhile the ship's bell is struck eight times at five-second intervals. As the bell begins to toll, the national ensign is lowered to half-mast. At the end of the tolling, taps is played and the ensign is raised to the peak. The national anthem is then played, and the crew is signaled to "carry on".

*Civilian personnel on board naval vessels customarily uncover and place their hat over their heart.*

*“To an active external commerce, the protection of a naval force is indispensable . . . To secure respect to a neutral flag, requires a naval force, organized, and ready to vindicate it from insult or aggression. This may even prevent the necessity of going to war, by discouraging belligerent powers . . .”*

President George Washington  
December 7, 1796





10:30 pm SEQUOIA ARRIVES Pier One.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE  
CLOSED ARRIVAL

10:35 pm The President and Mrs. Ford bid farewell to guests  
and board motorcade.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS Pier One en route South Grounds.

10:45 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.



6/3/76  
4:00 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD'S  
BIRTHDAY DINNER CRUISE FOR MRS. ROCKEFELLER  
ABOARD THE SEQUOIA

Wednesday, June 9, 1976

6:45 pm The President and Mrs. Ford board motorcade and  
depart South Grounds en route Washington Navy Yard.

6:55 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES Pier One.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE  
CLOSED ARRIVAL



The President and Mrs. Ford will be met by:

LtCdr Skip Beliech, Commanding Officer  
SEQUOIA

NOTE: All guests except Vice President and  
Mrs. Rockefeller will already be aboard.

7:00 pm Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller  
arrive SEQUOIA.

7:01 pm SEQUOIA DEPARTS Pier One en route Mount Vernon.

8:15 pm SEQUOIA ARRIVES Mount Vernon, vicinity for Naval  
Honors to George Washington.

- Bell Tolloed
- Taps
- National Anthem

8:20 pm Ceremony concludes and Dinner is served.

DINNER aboard the Sequoia, Wednesday, June 9, 1976 at 7:30 p. m.

Mrs. Thomas Ford  
(Janet)

Mr. Rogers C. B. Morton

Mrs. John J. Rhodes  
(Betty)

Mr. Charles Bartlett  
(Martha)

MRS. FORD

The Vice President

Mrs. Levi  
(Kate)

Secretary of Transportation  
(William Coleman)

Rep. John J. Rhodes

Mrs. Hugh Scott  
(Marian)

The Attorney General  
(Edward Levi)

Mrs. Rockefeller

THE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Moss Hart  
(Kitty Carlisle)

Senator Hugh Scott

Mrs. Charles Bartlett  
(Martha)



Birthday dinner for Mrs. Rockefeller aboard the Sequoia on Wednesday,  
June 9, 1976 at 7:30 p. m.

The President and Mrs. Ford

The Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller  
The Attorney General and Mrs. Levi  
The Secretary of Transportation and Mrs. Coleman

Senator and Mrs. Hugh Scott

Representative and Mrs. John J. Rhodes

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bartlett. *Martha's pet horse*

Mrs. Moss Hart (Kitty Carlisle)

Mr. Rogers C. B. Morton

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Regrets:

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Kissinger  
Ambassador and Mrs. William Scranton  
Mrs. Rogers C. B. Morton  
Senator and Mrs. Barry Goldwater

Carolyn,

Lee Pomina

would like Mrs. F's  
approval on this  
schedule before she  
leaves tomorrow.

Nancy

Please call Lee



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

*ok. Mrs Ford* 6/3/76  
4:00 pm

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- National Anthem

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CLOSED ARRIVAL

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MOTORCADE DEPARTS Pier One en route South Grounds.

10:45 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.



Sequoia Dinner - June 9th - Select one from each column

(check with Rockefeller office for menu and guest list)  
D.H.

First Course selections:

- Light Cream of Asparagus Soup
- Consomme with Sherry
- Sauted Fillets of Fresh Mountain Trout
- Vichyssoise

Entree selections:

- Boneless Breast of Capon with Wild Rice
  - Roast Rack of Lamb with Parisienne Potatoes
  - Baked Fillet of Fresh Columbia River Salmon in wine sauce
  - Roast Prime Rib of Beef (lean slices only)
- (3 piece combo arranged)

Vegetable selections:

- Fresh June Peas with Mushrooms
- Fresh Asparagus
- Fresh Green Beans
- Half Tomato filled with June Peas



Salad selections: (cheese to be served with salad course?  yes  no)

- Mixed Green Salad
- Bibb Lettuce with thinly sliced cucumbers
- Heart of Palm with cherry tomatoes
- Hearts of Artichoke Salad

Dessert selections: (champagne to be served with dessert?  yes  no)

- Birthday Cake "Happy Birthday HAPPY"
- Fresh Strawberry Mousse
- Grand Marnier Souffle
- Baked Alaska with Cherries Jubilee
- Ice cream balls (mixture) in a large bowl

Note: Wine selection will follow when menu has been selected.