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It is truly an honor for me
to return to my own high school
after 40 years.

That seems a very long time ago. *to you but tonight its only like a few years for me*
Although you and I studied
in the same ~~building,~~ *CLASS ROOMS.*

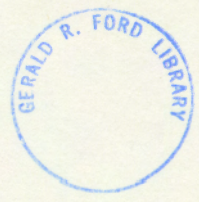
I'm sure

many things have changed
at Central High School.

The class of 1936 and the class of 1976
are more than years apart,
because of ~~the~~ *the* many events and changes
in ~~the~~ *this* world.

The subjects you studied,
the clothes you wear
and the jobs you will have
are different from those of my generation.

But I believe each class
of graduates and parents
have similar emotions and expectations
on graduation day.



1 1 1 2 3

19 79 12 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

It is truly an honor

I T I S T

on December 1941.
The activities of the organization
of December 1941 and January
and I believe that these
are different from those of the
and the fact that they
the organization was
the organization was



in the 1940s.
because of their actions and conduct
the more they were able
the cases of 1941 and the cases of 1941
as compared with 1941.

Handwritten note: The date

and the date of the
in the year 1941.
The date of the
The date of the
The date of the

I've shared this day
with my four children,
and I know what a combination sad-happy day
this is for all of you.

For graduates, this marks an end
to a very special time in your lives.
You will always remember
the friends and the fun,
but you are looking today to new adventures.
Today you begin to take
more control of your own lives
and to pursue your own special dreams.

Whether you continue your education
or start a job,
you will make your own decisions.
That's both exciting and a little scary.
Your life will never be
as structured and predictable
as it has been in the past.

To use a phrase you're all familiar with,
there will be fewer "required courses"
and more "electives."



As your parents and friends
launch you on this adventure,
I know they share your excitement.
As all parents do,
they want good things for you.

I'm sure every mother in this audience
remembers the first day
you went off to school.
The same mixture of high hopes
and just a little pain
are somewhat the same today.

We really can do little more
than encourage you to follow your own dreams
and to let you know we all back you up.
We all hope you will continue
to grow as individuals
and to keep educating yourselfes
about the world around you.

To trust and believe in yourself is
really the best advice we can give.



You are unique -- each with some talent and energy
only you can give to your community
and to your country.

What makes America special
is that each individual
makes his own dreams
and lives in an environment
where they can come true.

When we talk about the American dream,
we really are talking about
the collection of all our dreams.

You graduate with many expectations,
and no doubt will encounter
disappointments and surprises.

But what makes America exciting
is that all of us
can expect the unexpected.



You begin with your own hopes and talents
and what happens
is not always what you plan.
But if you follow your heart
and discipline yourself
to be the best you can be,
I believe you will find many rewards.

I think of the parable
of the talents in the Bible
and of the man who used
his ^{own} one talent well.

What is important in our lives
is not so much what we have
in the way of intelligence and talent,
but what we do with these gifts.



As I watched each of my children graduate,
I wanted each of them
to have the strength to accept the challenges
and the courage to overcome the disappointments.
My hopes for them
are the same for you today.
and ^{for} all young people --
may you have laughter, friends and hope --
and may you live up to the best in yourselves.

I don't believe ~~those~~ ^{the} cynics
who think this is a bad time for America.
We ~~we~~ ^{have} got our problems,
but we've also ~~got~~ ^{have} the courage
to find solutions.

We're preserving individual liberty and opportunity.
In this year of our Bicentennial,
may you use that liberty and opportunity
America gives us
to make our world a better place.



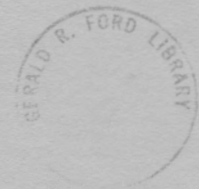
central high school

one hundred fourteenth annual

Graduation Exercises

george w. welsh civic auditorium

the evening of june seventh, 1976 at eight o'clock



CLASS MOTTO OF 1976

"We are leaping over the hill,
And we have a huge mountain to climb."

The Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say! can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

program

Mr. John L. Kirchgessner, Assistant Principal, Presiding

Processional Central High Band and Orchestra

The Pledge to the Flag By the Audience

Invocation Rev. Richard A. Wilkening, Hope Lutheran Church

Welcome Mr. Phillip E. Runkel, Superintendent

Excerpts from **New World Symphony** By Dvorak
Director of Band and Orchestra, Mr. Gregory Knowles

Introduction of Mrs. Gerald R. Ford Mr. Paul Kelly, Senior Class President

Commencement Remarks Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, First Lady of the United States

The Star Spangled Banner Francis Scott Key
Director of Band and Orchestra, Mrs. LaNelle Roman

Conferring of Degrees Mrs. Vernis L. Schad, President, Board of Education

Presentation of Diplomas Mr. Wesley R. Perrin, Principal

Assisted by: Mr. James Edwards, Assistant Principal

Mr. Earl K. Mandeville, Assistant Principal

Mr. Jan D. Treur, Senior Class Advisor

Mr. Edward Merizon, Student Council Advisor

Distinguished Alumni Award Mr. Wesley R. Perrin

Senior Class Presentation Mr. Paul Kelly

Benediction Rev. Norman Heintz, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Recessional Central High Band and Orchestra

Please remain seated until the graduates have left the auditorium.

central high school graduating list-1976

Bruce John Abby
 Gloria Joyce Addison
 Sandra Jean Alyea
 Estella Amos
 Harry Anastos
 Laura Jean Anda
 Elizabeth Ann Anderson
 Kathleen Suzanne Anderson
 Stephan Charles Anderson
 William Michael Armock
 Brenadine C. Arnold
 Janet Rose Ashley
 Jose Manuel Rosalez Avila
 David A. Badger
 Sonia Baez
 Jonathan Scott Bagby
 Patricia Ann Baker
 Kevin Michael Balczak
 Tim Ball
 Richard Harry Balsitis, Jr.
 Allen James Baranowski
 Marianne Therese Barnes
 Paul D. Barscewski
 Rebecca Jean Bartaway
 Ronald Beards
 Kirk William Beckman
 Jerry E. Beeks
 Dianna Lynne Belk
 Jay Berry
 Thomas Bigelow
 Veris Louise Blackmon
 Allison Renee Blomeling
 Marcia Jean Boelens
 Mary Kathryn Boggs
 Teresa Gale Boggs
 Karen Lynn Boguslawski
 Cynthia Louise Borowka

Jerry John Bostelaar
 Kathryn Ann Bott
 Thomas C. Box
 Patrick Sean Boyle
 Debra Dorine Brailey
 Stacey Jean Braybrook
 James Michael Brechting
 Jamee Marie Breen
 Patrice Annette Breen
 Darlene Brewer
 Cheryl Ann Brewster
 John H. Briel III
 Rhonda Ranae Britton
 Carolyn June Brooks
 Beverly Careen Bryant
 Kurt Stephen Budnick
 Lynn Michele Bueche
 Leah Waudean Buggs
 William Russell Burchard
 Ronald Wayne Burggraaf
 Denise Kay Butler
 Edward Newton Campbell
 Roger Lee Carr
 Daniel Jesse Carvill
 John E. Cash
 Jeffrey Scott Cebelak
 Hing-Fai Chan
 Timothy Craig Chasseur
 Tyrone Chatmon
 Yum Buck Chin
 Dawn Marie Chisholm
 Budnick
 Reneé Lynne Clay
 James Vernon Coates
 Gerald P. Cole
 Gary Coleman
 Christine Margaret Connell

Brenda Burnette Couch
 Cathleen Rose Crandall
 Timothy Alan Cross
 James Allen Crowley
 Mark Alan Currier
 Regina A. Dandridge
 Susan Lee Davidson
 Anthony Patrick Davis
 Theodore Eugene Dayson
 John Michael Deering
 David DeMaagd
 Wayne Alan DeWitt
 Ramón Diaz
 Deborah Ann Dickerson
 Adele Michele Dobrygoski
 Debra A. Dock
 David G. Dodger
 Janice L. Doran
 Elmer R. Drew
 Susan Kay Dryer
 Michael J. Dudek
 Martin Lee Duffield
 Deborah Ann Dunstan
 Harold James Ebenstein
 Sally Anne Eby
 Tamara Lynn Elders
 Chris Jayson Ellis
 Bruce Edward Emaus
 Timothy Eno
 Annette Marie Ernowall
 Derek Evans
 Carol A. Faasse
 Cheryl Fran Faasse
 Sherry Lea Fairfield
 Tammy Marie Ferrell
 Levi T. Figures, Jr.
 Sally Ann Figures

Leatha Carol Fischer
 Minnie Jean Fletcher
 David G. Flickinger
 Glenn Floyd
 Jeffrey Fluegel
 Kevin Thomas Foley
 Cynthia Marie Frierson
 Penelope Dean Fry
 Regina Gaines
 Laura Jeanette Garfield
 Deborah Marie Garmon
 Eugene Gary
 Steven L. Gibbs
 John Mark Gibson
 Kevin Eugene Gillespie
 Mary Rosalie Gills
 Kimberly Monica Glidden
 Susan June Glupker
 Pedro Gonzalez, Jr.
 Sarah Lea Gooden
 Rebecca Green
 Ida B. Griffin
 Richard Dale
 Grudzinskas, Jr.
 Vicki Lee Guthrie
 Becky Ruth Gutierrez
 Edwin Guyton
 Marjorie Ruth Hall
 Russell Hamlett
 Tina Marie Haner
 Carol Hankiewicz
 Sue Lynne Hansen
 William Mark Harrison
 Edward Remington Hart III
 Pamela Joyce Hassell
 Nancy Ann Hastings
 Dorcas Marie Heintz

Cheryl Ann Heyboer
 Halle Elizabeth Higgins
 Eleanor Hill
 Katherine Denise Hill
 Daniel Joseph Hojnacki
 Will Thomas Holton, Jr.
 Harriette Denise Howard
 David Brian Howe
 Mary E. Husar
 Katherine Elizabeth Irwin
 Paul Douglas Ivy
 Annette Jacobs
 Janice Lynn Jacobs
 Jennifer Louise Jacobs
 Robert Jonathan Jamo
 Tammie Lynn Jarvis
 Judith Ann Jenkins
 Bryant Johnson
 Jayne Lynn Johnson
 Constance Faye Jones
 Israel Undra Jones III
 Paul Michael Jones
 Ronald Emery Jones
 Emma Jordan
 Mark Conrad Justema
 Janie Ann Karrip
 Paul Joseph Kelly
 Debra Ann Kelting
 Diane Elizabeth Kelting
 Cindy Diane Kieviet
 Kathleen D. Kindig
 Darlene Emmetta King
 Sally Jean Kingsnorth
 Rocky Robert Kitchen
 Scott Charles Klukowski
 Karen Klunder
 Pamela Marie Kohlbeck

Ingrida Daina Kornets
 Jeremy John Paul Kubiak
 Edward Allen Kunst
 Diana Marie LaHuis
 Kathryn Jean LaMar
 Betty Jean Lauderdale
 Delia Leal
 Julie Ann Lemcool
 Sunny Arlene Lindsey
 John William Lipke
 Virginia Ann Long
 Cynthia Ann Loonsfoot
 Sam Lubben
 Timothy Allen MacDonald
 Irene MacMillan
 Timothy David Madura
 Kathy Beth Malfroid
 Brian K. Marion
 Eloise Marshall
 David A. Martin
 Juan Manuel Martinez
 Denise Mae Mason
 Gerald L. McCarthy
 John Theotis McClaurin
 Linda Marie McDonald
 Winters
 William John McDonald
 Kenneth McFerren
 Barbara Kay McIntyre
 Carolyn Elizabeth
 McKinney
 Wanderval Inetter
 McKinney
 Ethel McMillan
 Thomas Alan McSauby
 Delia McVicar
 Debra Sue Meeuwesen

Elizabeth Noreen
 Merdzinski
 Steven Michael Mervau
 Marcia de La Caridad Mesa
 Brian A. Meuser
 Monica Marie Mieras
 Joe Ann Miggins
 Beth Ann Miller
 Douglas Roy Miller
 Mark Albert Minnema
 Karla Jean Moelker
 Terri Ann Moore
 Yolanda Marie Moore
 Deborah Ann Mosley
 Joyce Ann Mutchler
 Doris Annette Nelson
 Terri Lynn Nelson
 Timothy Alex Nelson
 Joyce Ann Nerli
 Glenna Mae Neuman
 Joseph Gerard Niedzwiecki
 Donna Nisa Noah
 Molly Jean Nolan
 Cornelius Nordyke
 Lon Norman
 Debra Jo Nyenhuis
 Cynthia Lee Oom
 Robert Lee Osborn
 David Carroll Otte
 Edwin Goldie Owens
 Sandra Lynnay Palmer
 Jack Wayne Palmitier
 Noreen E. Palumbo
 Debra Kay Parish
 Charles Edward Patten
 Katherine Eileen Patterson
 Kimberly Denise Patterson
 Stephen R. Paul

Continued

Daniel Perez
Vicki Jo Peuler
Ruthann Annie Phillips
Merri Jo Piette
Terrrance Joel Piette
Doris Lynne Pingel
Suzan Fatma Piskin
Delores Elizabetha Pittman
Russell L. Polson
Suzanne Porchia
Vicky Lee Portwood
Kimberly Anna Potter
Anthony Edward Prawdzik
Gregory Scott Price
Minnie Jean Price
Chris Edward Pruett
Dean Lee Pulte
Teresa Kathleen Putnam
Michael G. Quick
Maria del Pilar Ramirez
David Franklin Rance
Daniel C. Ray
Martha Ann Reyna
Anthony Phillip Richardson
Bradford Xavier Richardson
Carol Jean Rittenhouse
David Samuel Robinson, Jr.
Robert Scott Rohloff
Laurel Lee Rollins
Susan Marie Rosloniec
Cindy Lou Ross
Sylvia Rosson
Mary Katherine Rozegnal
Eddie Marie Rucker
Arnolds Rupmejs Ruperts
Kenneth John Rusilowski
Sharon Renae Sanders

Cherylou Sargent
Yvonne Leigh Schaap
Laura Ann Scharphorn
Philip Joseph Scheidel
James Henry Schmitzer
Elisabeth Cornelia
Schoonheim
Kathy Schreckengust
Todd Elliott Schuhman
Deborah Louise Scott
Lenore Elizabeth Scott
Kimberly Ann Selbach
Donald F. Serba
Dennis M. Shamblin
Thomas Brian Sherry
James C. Short
Tony Curtis Sinclair
Debra Lynn Sleziaik
Christine Louise Smith
Debra Lynn Smith
Michael Eugene Smith
William Wyatt Smith
Sandra Kay Snyder
Valarie Joan Spangler
Susan Kay Spielmaker
James Dale Spivey
Kathy Marie Standley
Theresa Mary Stanton
David Durrant Stephens
Terri Lynn Stevenson
Melvin Stewart
Robert Tyrone Stimpson
Michael Paul Stott
John Robert Stubbs, Jr.
Susan Kay Swartz
Marilyn Theresa Sylvester
Sue Marie Sylvia
Thomas Michael Syrba

Gary Lee Sytsma
Kimberly Ellen Taylor
Todd Harris Teachout
Lisa Gayle Thomas
Robert Lee Thomas
Bennie Thorne
Craig Phillip Thurman
Kathleen Lucille Todd
Mark Steven Todd
Charles Ralph Tolhurst II
Mark Tomasik
Mary Trevino
Lori Jean Tubergen
Holly L. Uecker
Ronald William Uecker
James Alan Vander Kolk
Scott J. Vander Wall
Keith Thomas VanderWeide
Duane Jay VanderZee
Mark Joseph VanDriel
Cheryl Lynn VanHaun
David R. Van Holstyn
Susan Kay van Oosten
Cathleen Jane VanOrden
James Ryan VanVliet
Pedro Vazquez
Ellen Ruth VerWys
Jenny Ann Vinge
Carol Joy Waem
Gloria Gale Waem
Helen Elizabeth Wagemaker
Shell Kay Waidelich
Naomi Z. Walker
Barbara Kay Ward
Laurie Sue Ward
Joseph Michael Wardell
Philip Robert Warn

Ellen Marie Weber
Larry Darnell White
J. C. Whitfield
Carlton Andre Whitley
Sherrie Leora Wiersma
Anne Marie Wiggins
Jean Marie Wilkening
Kathy A. Williams
Luberta Williams
Sheryl Lynn Williams
Tony Ray Willis
Rodger D. Wilson
Thomas J. Wisneski
Marcia Elizabeth Anne
Wojciakowski
Cindy Lee Wood
Lisa Anne Wood
Wanda Jean Wood
Linda D. Woods
Kelly Jean Woody
Kathleen Rae Worster
Michelle Ann Wright
Beatrice Yarbrough
Michael David Young
Patrick P. Zamarron
Wayne Philip Zandbergen
Laura Lee Zandstra
Suzanne Rae Ziemski
Vivian Elaine Zuidema
Kevin Jay Zuidewind
Kathryn Ann Zwier

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
143 BOSTWICK
AVENUE NE
GRAND RAPIDS
MICHIGAN
49502

June 14, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Public Schools and especially, Central High School, I would like to thank you for graciously participating in the Central High School Graduation on Monday, June 7, 1976. The Ceremony was truly an occasion that the graduates and their families will remember for a lifetime.

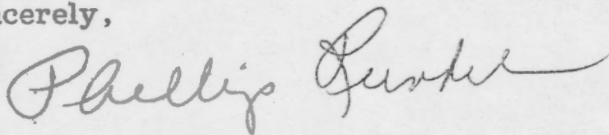
The students were especially taken by your sincerity and charm during your Commencement remarks and again when you so warmly greeted them personally as they received their diplomas.

I felt your comments were most appropriate for the Central graduates and the thousands of their counterparts from throughout this Nation. Quoting some of your remarks, "what is important in our lives is not so much what we have in the way of intelligence and talent, but what we do with these gifts." I would hope that all people agree and use their talents for making significant contributions to their fellowman.

The citizens of Grand Rapids can certainly attest to the significant contributions you and your husband have made to our community.

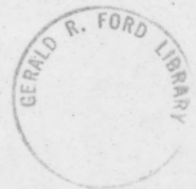
Again, thank you for your participation in the Central High School Graduation and we look forward to your next visit.

Sincerely,



Phillip E. Runkel
Superintendent of Schools

lmb



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

431 Fountain Street, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Wesley R. Perrin, Principal

June 14, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

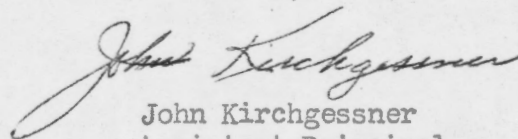
Dear Mrs. Ford:

Today as I sit and look at the beautiful Michigan blue sky, I think of its true color and the beautiful presentation you gave to the graduates of Central High School. Your sincere thoughts were heard by all in attendance that night. Since graduation a number of graduates and their parents have expressed their feelings as to the meaning of your "talk with them". Your true feeling of caring for people and their ability to be productive and responsible for their actions came through loud and clear. Thank you seems such a simple phrase but means so very much for your effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my complete acceptance of the manner of all your advance people. They were so very helpful in making arrangements. They made me feel at ease and involved in the total evening. I congratulate you on selecting such fine people as Pattie Matson, Peter Sorren, John Bay and James Caverly as your advance people. They are truly wonderful individuals, and a credit to your organization.

Wishing you the best this summer and in November, I remain

Sincerely,



John Kirchgessner
Assistant Principal

JK:hk



5/17/76

MRS. ARTHUR M. GODWIN
PORTER HILLS, APT. B 247
3600 E. FULTON STREET
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506



Betty dear :

As you know by now, Mary Lou suggested that I have my luncheon for you in her home where we would have more privacy and a better chance for a visit with some of your old friends.

I am glad this plan meets with your approval; my only regret in this instance, is that I no longer (have) ^{own} a house in which to entertain.

Am enclosing a list of the ladies I have invited - all of them accepted. If you wish to add to this list do let me know.

This past weekend must have been

MRS. ARTHUR M. GODWIN
PORTER HILLS, APT. B 247
3600 E. FULTON STREET
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506



terribly strenuous for you, but if the presence of you and your children will help towards Jerry's success in to-morrow's Primary, it was well worth it!

As I told you, I have tried to do my part in alerting the Porter Hills residents by making door-door visits.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and to seeing you on June 8th,

Devotely
Lili.



VIEW

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington
D.C.

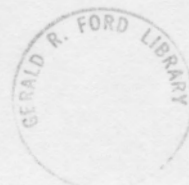
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MRS. ARTHUR M. GODWIN
PORTER HILLS, APT. B 247
3600 E. FULTON STREET
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GRAND RAPIDS, INC.

ATTENTION: ACTIVES and SUSTAINERS

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING



DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1976

TIME: 11:30 A.M. COCKTAILS
12:45 P.M. BOX LUNCH

SPECIAL GUEST: *****
MRS. GERALD R. FORD, JR. (BETTY BLOOMER) (S)

MRS. FORD WILL BE ARRIVING AT 12:00 NOON AND WILL VISIT INFORMALLY DURING THE COCKTAIL HOUR. SHE WILL THEN LEAVE TO ATTEND A PRIVATE LUNCHEON.

PRICE: \$3.25 COCKTAILS AND LUNCHEON
\$1.00 COCKTAILS ONLY

THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE WILL BE PREPARING A SPECIAL PUNCH AND SOME CANAPES, USING RECIPES FROM THE COOKBOOK.

AGENDA: CALL TO ORDER -- 1:30 P.M.
APPROVAL OF BUDGET
PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAND
COMMITTEE REPORTS
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

ACTIVES: YOU HAVE AN AUTOMATIC RESERVATION UNLESS YOU CANCEL WITH YOUR NEW PLACEMENT ADVISOR BY FRIDAY, JUNE 4, AT NOON.

SUSTAINERS: PLEASE COME, AT LEAST FOR A COCKTAIL.
MRS. FORD IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.
MAKE A RESERVATION FOR COCKTAILS AND LUNCHEON OR JUST COCKTAILS BY CALLING: BY FRIDAY, JUNE 4 AT NOON) -

MARY KAY BERLES - 949-2512

JUNIOR LEAGUE OFFICE - 451-0452