The original documents are located in Box D21, folder "Testimonial Dinner for John Kunkel, Harrisburg, PA, February 13, 1967" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Ladies and Gentlemen: Tonight we pay tribute to a man we all love and admire. There are many reasons why we hold John Kunkel close to our hearts. He is a great gentleman. He is a fine individual. He epitomizes all those traits of themax early Americans that have made America the great and glorious land it is.

When you go to purchase a piece of silverware, you look for the word "sterling" on it. That is the word that best describes John Kunnek Kunkel's character. He is as solid as the Bock of Gibralter, always to be counted on, always there when you need him.

John Kunkel is a tremendously capable man. Many others who have ability have a flaw in their character. They toot their own horn. Not John. He is quiet and unassuming. His ability speaks for itself.

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I am one of those people who have great respect for hard work. This is one of the reasons I admire John Kunkel. Believe me, he is a worker. When he served in Congress, he worked day and night, seven days a week. It was only because he thought he was slowing down; that he trackzituzet gradefully insisted on retiringsx from public service.

Public service has been the theme of John Kunkel's life. He had no reason to be interested in the salary and emoluments accruing to a member of Congress. He was simply devoted to the cause of good government. And he loved the people of his district and served them well. They x afzerness reciprocated, and he won election to Congress by txx huge majorities. I'm told he led the ticket in his district in every election—in all four of his counties—receiving broad Democratic as wells as Republican support.

I guess I don't have to tell you that John Kunkel comes from a family tree which provided many of the roots of our modern American democracy. Except for one generationk, his his family has always had some member serving in the Congress. His illustrious ancestry traces back to the Revolutionary War days. His great-great grandfather, Johnthan Dickinson Sergeant, was a member of the Continental Congress. His great-grandfather, John Sergeant, was a candidate for the Vice-Presidency. At one time, grandparents from both sides of the Kunkel family served in the Congress min simultaneously--one from Lancaster and one from Dauphin Sounty.

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He later served on the Public Works Committee, and—after I was elected minority leader—I named him to the House Falixy Republican Policy Committee. John was one of my earliest supporters when I decided to go after the job of minority leader in January, 1965.

These remarks in tribute to John Kunkel would be incomplete if I max neglected to mention his wife. Mrs. Kunkel, you know, has been very popular in Washington because she is such a fine lady. And I know John is proud of the fact that his wife was president of the Congressional Wives Club for the pest two years and did a great job in that office. She wiwe also was president of the Ladies Prayer Group and for two years preceding presided over the Ladies Section of the Presidential Prayer Breakfast.

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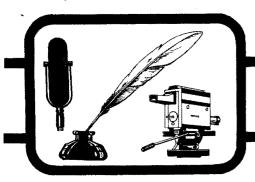
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## CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. MONDAY, FEB. 13, 1967

REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR JOHN KUNKEL AT HARRISBURG, PA.

Ladies and Gentlemen, tonight we pay tribute to a man we all love and admire. There are many reasons why we hold John Kunkel close to our hearts. He is a great gentleman. He is a fine individual. He epitomizes all those traits of the early Americans that have made America the great and glorious land it is.

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Public service has been the theme of John Kunkel's life. He had no reason to be interested in the salary and emoluments accruing to a member of Congress. He was simply devoted to the cause of good government. And he loved the people of his district and served them well. They reciprocated, and he won election to Congress by huge majorities. I'm told he led the ticket in his district in every election--- in all four of his counties--receiving broad Democratic as well as Republican support.

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