

The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “11/20/75 - Dinner with Senior Citizens” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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November 3, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Because you have been so supportive of No Greater Love's "Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans", we are hoping that you might participate in a personal way in paying tribute to our elderly citizens.

If your schedule allows, we at No Greater Love would like to suggest that you serve as hostess of a luncheon for a small group of senior citizens a few days before Thanksgiving.

If a luncheon is possible, a group of ten or twelve older people would be ideal as it would be large enough to avoid feelings of self-consciousness among the guests and small enough so that it would be a personal experience for all involved.

A luncheon of this kind would set a most impressive example for the American people to follow by including older people in their own personal Thanksgiving Day celebrations.

I realize that the social schedule at the White House is a very busy one, and that the social secretary may be hard pressed for time to organize an event of this kind. If this luncheon would be possible but for the limited amount of time in which to arrange it, I would be happy to do anything I can to help with its organization. For example, perhaps I might be able to supply a tentative guest list of elderly people who would represent a cross section of social, economic and religious backgrounds.

No Greater Love would very much like to see the idea of this luncheon become a reality - the example you would set by participating in this way would be invaluable in establishing in this country a tradition of caring for our older Americans.

I have enclosed a copy of our Salute brochure. These have been distributed to all Members of Congress, Governors and clergy (with the help of N.I.C.A.) asking them, too, to participate in the Salute.

We ask that you consider this request in the interest of our older Americans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carmella LaSpada
National Coordinator

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



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:

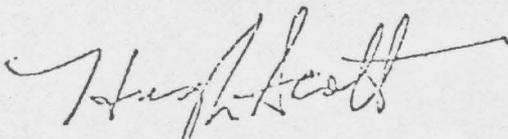
There are thousands, perhaps millions, of older Americans throughout the United States who live alone or without families. To our older Americans who gave their energy, wisdom, experience and hard work through many difficult times to "secure the blessing of liberty for ourselves and our posterity" the 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.

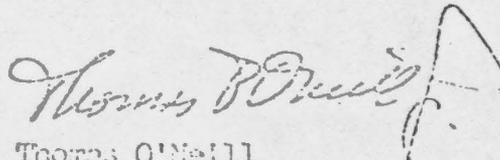
We serve on the National Advisory Council of No Greater Love, a nonprofit organization which sponsors programs of friendship and care for often-forgotten groups of Americans. NGL plans to ask the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging to join them in urging Governors, Members of Congress, church and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



August 29, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ford:

As you know, No Greater Love sponsors programs for senior citizens in addition to those it does for veterans and children of MIAs and KIAs.

For the past few years, No Greater Love has sponsored a Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans in Washington, D.C. to make sure that these people, who are living alone or are without families, are not left alone on our traditional day of togetherness and happiness.

Our Salute has been so successful that this year we want to make it a national effort and, hopefully soon part of the American Thanksgiving tradition.

We are asking the National Coalition on Aging to cooperate with us in our effort to foster the Salute nationwide. In promoting this Salute, clergy will be asked to encourage their congregations to participate by including these elderly people in their festivities.

Members of Congress will be asked to visit homes for the aged or to extend invitations to older citizens to join them in their homes for the day.

Since you are Honorary Patron of No Greater Love, we would like to include a short statement from you in our Salute brochure. Perhaps you would find something like the enclosed suggestion appropriate as a statement from you.

As our Salute brochure is "in the works", we are eagerly awaiting your reply to our request.

On behalf of everyone associated with NGL, I would like to tell you how much we appreciate the genuine concern that you and your family have shown for our work.

Sincerely,

Hank Aaron
President, NGL

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



cc: Sally Q.

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



18 guests
15 including Fnds

be: Sheila
*Navy Crew

Wash. Thanksgiving
Sawke for Thanksgiving

{ Red Room
Family Dining Room
where from

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 ~~1000~~ 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

11/17 Will have all info
together by tom.
She w/ to visit w/ you
tom. on this - will
call in AM re: time.
Sag



G. M. White Chevrolet
Jewish, Episc., Methodist,

18 guests
10 including family

How do we get in touch with someone
for membership

Photo session at dining room

MEMORANDUM TO: MARYA DOWNS

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

On Thursday evening, November 10th, the President and Mrs. Ford would like to host a dinner for 18 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 Lashada of No Greater Love (782-6622) 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 departed or whatever with the dinner served at 7:30 p.m.

Thank you.

cc: William Nicholson
Box 5000



Handwritten notes at the bottom right, including the number 202.

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.



Somebody else for a publication - 12

Grand Rapids

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

of servicemen missing or killed in action, hospitalized veterans, and older Americans
 President and Mrs. Ford's "No Greater Love" Thanking Salute to
 Older Americans - a program
 RECOMMENDATIONS encouraging citizens to invite

Am too for inv
 permit citizen
 through

3.5 fem. to males
 5.8 mil sc
 along w/o families
 4.5 m won
 1.3 m men
 approx 20 total

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, November 19, 1975

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

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a ^{Thanksgiving} dinner ^{Mrs.} November 20 at 7:30 PM in the White House ^{family dining room} for approximately ~~thirty~~ ^{thirty} senior citizens.

Mrs. Ford is ^{Patron} Honorary Patron of the organization "No Greater Love" who is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans. ^{attention} The President and Mrs. Ford hope that their dinner will focus on the isolation of millions of ~~alone~~ 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.

Guest list attached.

#

Press Pick-up at 7:²⁰45 PM for Photo Opportunity during dinner

Wadia
Harris



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, November 19, 1975

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

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a dinner November 20 at 7:00 PM in the White House for approximately thirteen senior citizens.

(non-profit) older citizens
The organization of No Greater Love is sponsoring its *10th Anniversary* "Thanksgiving Day Salute to Senior Americans." Mrs. Ford is Honorary Patron of No Greater Love. She and the President feel the idea for the dinner would be to encourage people throughout the country to include senior citizens in their thanksgiving plans. *set an ex. trad focus isolation of senctiy*

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.

Guest list attached.

*- Eliska -
Pres. Statement
Jom.*

#

Photo Opportunity during dinner
Press Pick-up at 7:45 PM



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.

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

President and Mrs. Ford and Representatives of the Senior Citizens Community

DINNER

Fresh Fruit Cup

Roast Stuffed Turkey
with Cranberry Sauce

Candied Yams

Acorn Squash

Brussel Sprouts

Homemade Rolls

Tossed Green Salad

Eggnog Pie

The White House

Thursday, November 20, 1975

FG
Sen. in Citizens with
Thanksgiving dinner

November 19, 1975

Mrs. Ford and I are heartened by the program to pay special tribute to our older citizens during Thanksgiving Day festivities.

Sponsored by the organization called No Greater Love, under the leadership of Hank Aaron, the Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans has become a tradition in our Nation's Capital. I am proud of Betty's honorary patronship of the event this year, and both of us are pleased that the 1975 Salute is being expanded to include the whole nation.

We welcome this opportunity to applaud the Senators, Congressmen, Governors and members of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging who have joined in the effort to make this day memorable for our nation's older citizens. It is a most appropriate way for all of us to express our appreciation to those who have given so much to ensure the blessings for which we give thanks this day.

I call upon all Americans to join in this effort of gratitude, admiration and affection for our older fellow citizens. I am sure that the meaning of this Holiday will be greatly enhanced for all who participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

GERALD R. FORD

Sent to: Mr. Hank Aaron
President
No Greater Love
1750 New York Avenue, NW.
Washington, D. C. 20006



GRF:Hasek:jmc
cc: D. E. Downton/R. Nessen/J. Connor/T. Marrs/S. Weidenfeld/E. Hasek/CF
DUE: ASAP
Requested by Mr. Aaron

Sally J.

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 Egnog 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

→ *Not in Ford*
Freezer

Anne Compton
Helen Collins
Isabella Shelton

→ *alone*



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.

Ardoin Casgrain (78), comes to Washington from Winchester, Massachusetts. One of Ardoin'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, Ardoin 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 descendent 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 (75)

~~(Information forthcoming)~~

Lebonon, widow
Bill Baroody rec.
Arab/American



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.

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

After senior club ~ ~

Thanks. is an American
tradition of
loved ones joining together. Gene

host 125 cit, 66,
ring 6 or
country 100 SC - 1
Car, X

12:00 1230
(6. 4) - 4, Fin,
Bed Rm

mem ~ (



{ the loniest
age
mobile

12-14

Associated Cath Char

Am^{Assoc} of Set Lessons

Natl Set Teach Ass

Natl Cap Union Presbytery

Wash Area Coun of Churches (Bablist)

Un Meth Church

Jews Coun on Aging

Natl Coun on Sen City

Natl Arab ?





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

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

**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. Carough
Wilt Chamberlain
Perry Como
Congressman Dan Daniel
Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, USN
Congressman William Dickinson
Joe DiMaggio
John B. Kelly, Jr.
Major General John Flynn, USAF
Joe Frazier
Bill Gallo
Althea Gibson
Kay Iselein Gilman
Senator Barry Goldwater
Senator Robert Griffin
Alphons Hackl
Conrad Hilton
Bob Hope
Senator Daniel Inouye
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
Congressman James R. Jones
Billy Kidd
Michael Landon
Mrs. Vince Lombardi
Jack Lord
John Lyons
Howard McClennan
Jim McKay
George Meany
Congressman G.V. Montgomery
Keith Morris
Joe Namath
Jack Nicklaus
Congressman Thomas O'Neill
Bobby Orr
Arnold Palmer
Jiri Palmer
Brant Parker
Joe Paterno
Richard Petty
S. Frank Raftery
Bill Rechin
Congressman John J. Rhodes
Art Rooney
Senator Hugh Scott
William Shoemaker
C.J. Simpson
Eart Starr
Senator Strom Thurmond
Wes Unseld
Mayor Walter Washington
Ted Williams
Congressman Bob Wilson
Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (Retired)
* Partial Listing

No Greater Love's Thanksgiving Salute to Older Americans is a national effort to foster, in America, a tradition of appreciation and care for our older people, particularly those living alone or without family - a personal tribute to our older citizens, our living heritage, that will renew our national commitment to these people not for one day alone, but for the entire year.

No Greater Love is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that sponsors programs of friendship and care for groups of often-forgotten Americans including the elderly, the children of our men missing and killed in action, and hospitalized veterans - No Greater Love is dedicated to the goals of informing, motivating and mobilizing the American people, and directing them toward significant human problems and evoking from them positive action.

Mrs. Gerald Ford is the Honorary Patron of No Greater Love. Hank Aaron is the President of No Greater Love.



WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	Guest List for Dinner for Older Americans at White House - November 20, 1975 (2 pages)	N.D.	C

File Location:

SHEILA WEIDENFELD FILES, Box 8, "11/20/1975 - Dinner with Senior Citizens"

SMD, 10/13/2016

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by applicable Executive order governing access to national security information.
- (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.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Notes	Two pages of notes regarding dinner for older Americans at the White House (2 pages)	N.D.	C

File Location:

SHEILA WEIDENFELD FILES, Box 8, "11/20/1975 - Dinner with Senior Citizens"

SMD, 10/13/2016

RESTRICTION CODES

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Dr Maria

PRES. FOED

(78)	(76)	(73)	(77)	(79)	(71)	(75)
Casgrain	Swain	Morris	Winthrop	Corbett	Barsky	Fillmore
M	F	M (B)	F	F	F	F (B)

(68)	(64)	(72)	(73)	(88)	(72)	
Mowrey	Morrison	Ack	Robinson	Ferris	Williams	Parisi
F	M	F (B)	M (B)	F	F	M

MRS. FORD

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

James Morris

Frances Winthrop

Patricia Corbett

Onalee Swain

Lillian Barsky

Charlotte Fillmore

Ardoin Casgrain

THE PRESIDENT

MRS. FORD

Corma Mowrey

Raymond Parisi

Felix Morrison

Wadia Ferris

Flora Ack

George Robinson

Betty Williams

FIREPLACE

(ENTRANCE)





In the last decade, approximately 5,000 senior citizens have been guests at our annual Thanksgiving Day Salute.



Happy Thanksgiving
Hank Aaron

A special holiday greeting from *NO GREATER LOVE* and its President, Hank Aaron.

This drawing by artist Bruce Stark commemorates the day Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's world home run record. Aaron's 715th home run was hit in Atlanta, April 8, 1974.

Tenth Anniversary
Thanksgiving Day
Salute to
Senior Americans
1964-1974

Georgetown University
November 28, 1974



Program

Master of Ceremonies
Mike Collins
WMAL Radio Announcer

WELCOME AND
INVOCATION Reverend Robert Henle, S.J.
President, Georgetown University

DINNER

GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO
OLDEST MAN AND WOMAN
ATTENDING SALUTE Mayor Walter E. Washington
Honorary Chairman of Salute

ENTERTAINMENT Senior Citizens Rhythm Band of
Silver Spring, Md.
Mrs. Emma Seifert, Director
Mrs. Mildred Flaherty, Chairman
Mrs. Lucille Welch, Accompanist
The Jam Inc. Band

Salute Hosts

American Association of Retired Persons
D. C. Recreation Department
Georgetown University
National Retired Teachers Association

Salute Committee

Jan Adamczak	Norman Gray	Louis M. Savary, S.J.
Steve Adams	Alphons Hackl	John Scarfone
Joe Burns	Ann Hayden	Allen Scott
William Catherwood	Valerie Lang	Terry Smith
Bill Collins	Mrs. Peter McGuirk	Evan Turner
Jim Evans	Egon Piverotti	Mark Turner
Clavin Fields	Bill Rechin	John Wolfe
William Gemmell	Olive Rose	

Decorations and special favors made by
children of Annunciation Elementary School of Washington, D.C.

Acknowledgements

No Greater Love would like to extend its special thanks to the following for their generous support of our programs:

D. C. Department of Human Resources
Division of Services to the Aged

AFL-CIO Unions—Iron Workers, Painters, Fire Fighters and
Sheet Metal Workers

LET US PAUSE AND GIVE THANKS . . .

By Charles T. Angelo

Today's *Salute* is the tenth consecutive dinner-program to remember senior Americans in Washington, D. C. on Thanksgiving Day. The first *Salute* was a miracle sparked by a Washington Post story asking for volunteers. Over 100 people responded to drive cars, host the dinner and entertain the 500 guests. Every *Salute* has been the result of volunteer generosity. Food, favors, cooking, printing, tables and chairs, entertainment, transportation and the rest are all donated—a tribute to the love and care people in Washington have toward older citizens.

The first *Salute* led to another and it soon became apparent that honoring our community's senior residents who live alone or without families would become a Thanksgiving tradition in the nation's Capital. With the generous support of Mayor Walter Washington, who has served as Honorary Chairman since 1967, hundreds of elderly Washingtonians have been invited to take part in this annual event.

The *Salute* was the brain-child of Carmella LaSpada, founder of No Greater Love which sponsors this annual event. No Greater Love is a non-profit, voluntary organization based in Washington, D. C. and sponsors programs of friendship and care for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, hospitalized veterans, and senior citizens without families.

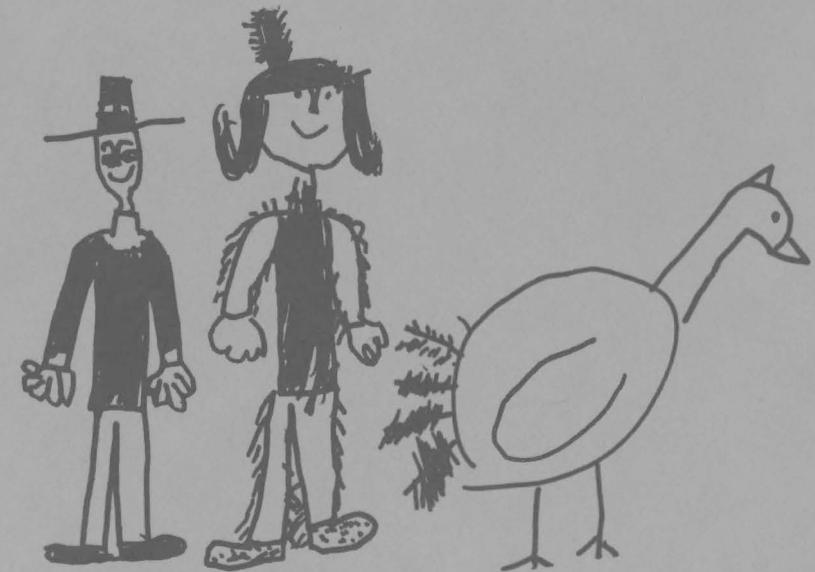
For the success we have enjoyed in perpetuating this event over the past ten years, and more importantly, for the many Senior Americans we honor today and will honor next year and every year, let us pause and give thanks . . .

NATIONAL OBSERVANCE PLANNED

Because of the success of the *Salute*, No Greater Love hopes to foster this same spirit of caring throughout the country and will seek a joint Congressional resolution designating Thanksgiving Day also as a time to recognize and remember all our Senior Americans across the land—particularly those who have no families.

Menu

<i>Celery and Olives</i>	<i>Tomato Juice</i>	
<i>Roast Turkey with Dressing and Cranberry Sauce</i>		
<i>Sweet Potatoes</i>	<i>Green Peas</i>	
<i>Hot Rolls</i>		
<i>Butter</i>		
<i>Pumpkin Pie</i>		
<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Tea</i>	<i>Milk</i>



Drawings by Amy Scarfone, age 6



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



. . . 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.

State of Louisiana



Edwin Edwards
Governor

Proclamation

WHEREAS, 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 in prayer our thanks for this great nation and for those who have helped so much to make it our nation; and

WHEREAS, for the less fortunate; however, especially those millions of older Americans who live in isolation, Thanksgiving may hold little meaning. Many older Americans live alone and perhaps are even physically incapable of preparing their own meal. For these, a day of national feasting can seem empty indeed; and

WHEREAS, the cruelest affliction of advancing age is not sickness or weakness, it is being forgotten. Recognizing this problem of loneliness, I would like to call on the citizens of Louisiana to do everything they can to include the forgotten elderly in this year's Thanksgiving festivities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDWIN EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby designate Thanksgiving 1975 as a day for remembering not only our own households and families, but also those older Americans who, through no fault of their own, are isolated from family and friends. I urge the citizens of Louisiana, voluntary organizations and private groups, to join with the organization NO GREATER LOVE, to provide fitting ways for older Americans to celebrate Thanksgiving Day as a day of joy and gratitude.



Attest By
The Governor

Wade Martin
Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 31st day of October
A.D., 1975.

Edwin Edwards
Governor of Louisiana



UP-026

(WASHINGTON BRIEFS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD WERE HOSTS TO 14 AMERICANS AGED FROM 64 TO 88 AT THE WHITE HOUSE THURSDAY FOR AN EARLY THANKSGIVING DINNER TO ENCOURAGE ALL AMERICANS TO INCLUDE OLDER CITIZENS IN THEIR HOLIDAY PLANS.

AFTER A BRIEF GET-ACQUAINTED SESSION, THE FORDS AND THEIR GUESTS SAT DOWN TO EAT AT A BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED TABLE IN THE FAMILY DINING ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE SHORTLY BEFORE 8 P.M. AND WERE TREATED TO A 20-POUND TURKEY.

AS PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK PICTURES, THE PRESIDENT GOT TO TALKING ABOUT PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL WITH A WOMAN SEATED BESIDE HIM.

"I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE A WASHINGTON REDSKIN FAN OF SOME DEDICATION," FORD SAID WITH A CHUCKLE, TURNING TO CORMA MOWREY, 68, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION WHO HOLDS SEASON TICKETS FOR THE REDSKINS' HOME GAMES.

"I AM," SHE REPLIED WITH A GRIN.

SHE THEN RECALLED LAST SUNDAY'S REDSKIN LOSS TO THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS IN "SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME" AFTER THE CARDINALS TIED THE SCORE ON A CONTROVERSIAL TOUCHDOWN. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WATCHED VIDEO-TAPED RERUNS OF THE PLAY SEVERAL TIMES.

BUT WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN RULED A TOUCHDOWN OR NOT, HE SMILED AND SAID "YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT CONSTITUENTS IN ST. LOUIS AS WELL AS WASHINGTON."

THEN, LEST WASHINGTON FANS GET THE WRONG IDEA, FORD QUICKLY ADDED THAT "I AM A REDSKIN FAN AND I THINK GEORGE ALLEN IS A SUPER COACH."

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—Associated Press

Turkey Dinner, White House Style

President Ford chats with senior citizen Charlotte Fillmore as Corma Mowrey (left), waits for an early Thanksgiving dinner to begin in the family dining room

at the White House last night. The President and First Lady were hosts for the 14 citizens.



UP-05 1

(THANKSGIVING DINNER)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD HAVE INVITED 14 AMERICANS AGED FROM 64 TO 88 TO THE WHITE HOUSE TONIGHT FOR AN EARLY THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER TO ENCOURAGE ALL AMERICANS TO INCLUDE OLDER CITIZENS IN THEIR HOLIDAY PLANS.

THE GUESTS INCLUDED:

JAMES MORRIS, 73, A FORMER KNOXVILLE, TENN., SCHOOL JANITOR; BETTY WILLIAMS, 88, WHOSE FATHER WAS RECTOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OLDEST CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL; RAYMOND PARISI, 72, FORMER DANCER AND EX-BARBER OF NEW YORK'S PLAZA HOTEL; ONALEE SWAIN, 76, WHO HELPED SET UP THE HUNTSVILLE, ALA., GUIDED MISSILE BASE;

CORMA MOWREY, 68, A RETIRED WEST VIRGINIA TEACHER AND ACTIVE WASHINGTON REDSKINS FOOTBALL TEAM BOOSTER; ARDOIN CASGRAIN, 78, A WINCHESTER, MASS., NATIVE WHO WRITES POETRY ON THE THEME OF AGING; PATRICIA CORBETT, 79, FORMER NURSE AND DESCENDENT OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SIGNER JOSIAH BARTLETT;

CHARLOTTE FILLMORE, 75, ONETIME HOUSEKEEPER TO MRS. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER'S SECRETARY AND FOSTER PARENT TO A FIVE-YEAR-OLD; LILLIAN BARSKY, 71, HELPING WRITE A SENIOR CITIZENS' GUIDE TO WASHINGTON; FLORA ACK, 72, A CHURCH WORKER AND CHOIR SINGER; GEORGE ROBINSON, 73, A BAPTIST CHURCH WORKER OF CAROLINA COUNTY, VIRGINIA; FRANCES WINTHROP, 77, A NATIVE OF POLAND NOW ACTIVE IN JEWISH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS; WADIA FERRIS, AGE UNLISTED; AND FELIX MORRISON, A 64-YEAR-OLD WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER AND ROSE FANCIER.

AN AIDE TO MRS. FORD SAID THE MENU WOULD INCLUDE FRESH FRUIT CUP, ROAST STUFFED TURKEY WITH CRANBERRY SAUCE, CANDIED YAMS, ACORN SQUASH, BRUSSEL SPROUTS, HOMEMADE ROLLS, TOSSED GREEN SALAD AND EGGNOG PIE.

UPI 11-20 12:06 PES

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FORDS-THANKSGIVING

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD INVITED 14 SENIOR CITIZENS TO AN EARLY THANKSGIVING DINNER TONIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

A WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT SAID THE DINNER IS BEING HELD A WEEK BEFORE THANKSGIVING "WITH THE HOPE 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."

MRS. FORD IS HONORARY PATRON OF AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS SPONSORING A NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY SALUTE TO OLDER AMERICANS.

THE GUESTS, ALL FROM THE WASHINGTON AREA, WERE SELECTED BY VARIOUS RETIREE, CHURCH AND SENIOR CITIZEN GROUPS. THEY RANGE IN AGE FROM 64 TO 88.

11-20-75 13:19EST



Wash. Post
11/22/75

Seated at opposite sides of the table in the White House family dining room, President and Mrs. Ford host a pre-Thanksgiving Day dinner for 14 Washington senior citizens in an effort to focus attention on the isolation of some senior citizens.

Associated Press



GERALD R. FORD
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11/22/75

Presidential Blessings For Senior Citizens

By Donnie Radcliffe

The presidential campaign never came up ("it was an inappropriate time," one guest said later), but there were plenty of other topics to go around.

One of particular concern to all 14 White House dinner guests was their place in modern society or, as one put it, "the involvement of older people."

Hosts President and Mrs. Ford had some ideas Thursday night as they shared a 20-pound Thanksgiving turkey and all the traditional trimmings with elderly metropolitan Washington guests.

"Both mentioned the importance of volunteer work," said Corma Mowrey, 68, a retired school teacher who sat on Mr. Ford's right in the family dining room.

The dinner, a week early for the nine women and five men ranging in age from 64 to 88, was arranged in cooperation with No Greater Love, sponsors of a national Thanksgiving Day salute to elderly Americans. As the White House explained it, the hope was to "focus attention on the isolation of millions of

senior citizens" and encourage Americans to include senior citizens in Thanksgiving plans next week.

According to the White House, there are 5.8 million senior citizens who either live alone or are without family. But beyond that, Americans age 65 and older total 21.8 million, roughly 10 per cent of the population.

Helping the Fords draw up Thursday night's guest list were 10 area religious and senior citizens' groups. The organizations alerted their choices Monday that invitations would be coming.

Guests assembled at a central point in downtown Washington to be chauffeured to the White House. A brief tour of the mansion's public rooms was followed by cocktails with the Fords in the Red Room. Mr. Ford warned his guests that there would be a brief pre-dinner interruption for news photographers.

"We were expecting the press," said Miss Mowrey.

See SENIOR, B3, Col. 7

Senior Citizens At the White House

SENIOR, From B1

Table talk was wide-ranging, including nursing homes ("the consensus was for local, state and federal cooperation," said one guest), morality ("we agreed that young people today seem to be reverting to values we were raised by"), teachers' strikes and football.

"I understand you're a Redskins fan of some dedication," Mr. Ford told Miss Mowrey, a Redskins' season ticket holder. "I've watched them a few times," she replied, grinning.

Seated on the President's left was Charlotte Fillmore, 75, active in Senior Aid Program and operator of a

day care center for 44 pre-school children. Across the table, next to Mrs. Ford, sat Ardoin Castrain, 75, active in both the Foster Grandparents program and the American Association of Retired Persons, and Raymond Parisi, 72, former hair stylist and professional dancer.

The guests were, as one of them said, "a well-dressed middle-income group either living on fixed annuities or Social Security."

"The President's blessing that Americans have much to be grateful for was something that gave us all pause," said Miss Mowrey.

What's more, she said, the dinner was "delicious."

