

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “1976/06/18 - Iowa GOP Dinner, Des Moines, Iowa” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SALUTE TO MARY LOUISE SMITH

Des Moines, Iowa

June 18, 1976

1

LAST NIGHT I WAS IN NEW YORK CITY

FOR A SALUTE TO WOMEN.

TONIGHT I AM VERY HAPPY

TO BE IN IOWA FOR THIS HOME STATE SALUTE

TO ONE VERY SPECIAL WOMAN -- MARY LOUISE SMITH--

A GREAT FAVORITE OF OUR FAMILY.

BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS IN LEBANON,
THE PRESIDENT HAD TO STAY IN WASHINGTON --
BUT I WANTED TO COME AND EXPRESS
OUR AFFECTION FOR MARY LOUISE,

3

I KNOW HOW MANY REPUBLICANS
SHARE THESE FEELINGS.
HER WARMTH AND GRACE
HAVE CHARMED ALL WHO MEET HER.
THE G.O.P. IS EXTREMELY LUCKY
TO HAVE MARY LOUISE.

4
DURING THESE PAST MONTHS,

I HAVE SEEN THE SPIRIT OF OUR PARTY REVIVING,

AND MARY LOUISE HAS BEEN A DRIVING FORCE

IN THIS RENEWAL OF SPIRIT,

5

DURING DIFFICULT DAYS,

HER COMMITMENT AND FAITH NEVER FALTERED,

THE TALENT, ENTHUSIASM AND OPTIMISM

OF MARY LOUISE

SYMBOLIZE THE REPUBLICANS OF 1976,

OUR DIFFERENCES --

WHICH ARE PART OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS --

WILL NOT DIVIDE US,

BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH

OF OUR COMMON POLITICAL FAITH,

7

OUR REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES UNITE US TODAY --

JUST AS THEY HAVE

THROUGHOUT OUR PARTY'S HISTORY,

8

I BELIEVE --

AS I KNOW YOU DO --

AMERICA NEEDS REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

AS IT BEGINS ITS THIRD CENTURY,

OUR MESSAGE OF SOUND FISCAL POLICY,
EFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT
AND A STRONG DEFENSE
WILL BE A WINNER.

9

I KNOW HOW MUCH
HER FRIENDS IN IOWA
HAVE HELPED MARY LOUISE --
ESPECIALLY THE INDISPENSABLE
GOVERNOR RAY.
AND FOR THAT GOVERNOR,
I WANT TO THANK YOU.

10

11
MARY LOUISE,

I AM SO GLAD

I COULD BE HERE

TO HONOR YOUR HARD WORK

AND LEADERSHIP.

12

YOU HAVE MADE IOWA

AND ALL OF US

VERY PROUD OF YOU.

I HAVE BROUGHT
A TOKEN OF AFFECTION
FROM OUR FAMILY --
AN ELEPHANT F
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

IF I MAY BORROW A LINE
FROM THE PRESIDENT --

"WE ALL KNOW

ELEPHANTS EAT PEANUTS,

AND THAT IS EXACTLY

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

IN NOVEMBER."

(PRESENT ELEPHANT)