

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Dedication of Little Adobe Schoolhouse, Mesa, Arizona, March 9, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DEDICATION OF
THE ADOBE SCHOOLHOUSE

Mesa, Arizona

March 9, 1976

I'M SO EXCITED
ABOUT HOW YOU ARE HONORING
OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR
THIS SCHOOLHOUSE REFLECTS
THE TALENTS, INTERESTS, AND INGENUITY
OF HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS--
BUT MOST ESPECIALLY, THE STUDENTS.

YOUR ENTHUSIASM TRULY IS CONTAGIOUS,
AND THE ATMOSPHERE FEELS LIKE
A REAL OLD-FASHIONED AMERICAN CELEBRATION,
IN THIS SPECIAL YEAR,
WE ARE CELEBRATING NOT ONLY WHAT HAPPENED
IN PHILADELPHIA ON JULY 4, 1776,
BUT OUR TWO-HUNDRED YEARS OF PROGRESS
IN TRANSLATING OUR IDEALS INTO REALITY.

WE ARE CELEBRATING

THE JOY AND LOVE AND TENACITY

OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT--- *and that is*

JUST WHAT I FEEL HERE TODAY ✓

THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS

IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE---

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS---

HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

BY AMERICANS THROUGH THESE YEARS. ✓

TO SOME,
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
MEANT BUILDING, INVENTING OR TRADING,
AND BECAUSE OF THEM,
OUR CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE
ARE LINKED BY HIGHWAYS AND TELEPHONES AND AIRPLANES---
ALL THE VISABLE SIGNS
OF AMERICAN INGENUITY.

TO OTHERS,

THE PURSUIT MEANT

WRITING, SINGING, OR DANCING,

AND BECAUSE OF THEM,

WE HAVE BOOKS AND SONGS AND PLAYS---

THE VISIBLE EXPRESSIONS

OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

TO MANY, MANY OTHERS,
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
MEANT FREEDOM TO BUILD THE GOOD LIFE
FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.✓
AND BECAUSE OF THEM,
WE HAVE CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS AND STORES---
THE TANGIBLE SYMBOLS
OF OUR SOCIETY.●

BUT IN WHATEVER WAY

OUR ANCESTORS PURSUED THEIR HAPPINESS---

THEY SHARED A LOVE OF FREEDOM

AND ITS PRESERVATION ✍

I THINK YOU SELECTED

AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL

OF OUR AMERICAN EXPERIENCE---

THE FIRST SCHOOL IN YOUR TOWN ✍

WHETHER THE PILGRIMS IN MASSACHUSETTS
OR THE PIONEERS OF ARIZONA,
THE BUILDING OF A SCHOOL SAID:
"WE BELIEVE IN OURSELVES
AND WE ARE HERE TO STAY."

BY BUILDING A REPLICA
OF THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN MESA,^A
YOU SHARED SOME OF THE PHYSICAL
AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES
OF YOUR ANCESTORS.
YOU LEARNED ABOUT
ADOBE BRICKS, CLOTHING, AND BOOKS, - - -
AND GAINED A SENSE OF THE PAST.

TODAY YOU MUST FEEL

AS THOSE FIRST MESA^A SETTLERS DID IN 1880---

PRIDE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.✓

BUT YOU CAN SEE SOMETHING MORE

IN LOOKING AT THIS ADOBE SCHOOLHOUSE

AND COMPARING IT TO YOUR OWN SCHOOL.✓

YOU CAN SEE THE PROGRESS

WE'VE MADE IN AMERICA.

IN PHILADELPHIA,

THE FIRST CITIZENS

HAD GREAT EXPECTATIONS

ABOUT WHAT FREEDOM WOULD MEAN ✓

TODAY WE KNOW

OUR SUCCESS AND OUR FAILURES ✓

WE CAN TAKE COURAGE FROM BOTH

AND CELEBRATE OUR OWN EXPECTATIONS

ABOUT AMERICA. ●

YET AS WE LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE

AND FORWARD WITH HOPE,

WE MUST SEIZE THE PRESENT

AND USE OUR TIME IN AMERICA'S HISTORY

WISELY AND WELL ✓

And this I know you will do ✓

#