

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “State GOP Dinner, Salute to Mary Louise Smith, Des Moines, Iowa, June 18, 1976” 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

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、

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.

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,

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,

OUR REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES UNITE US TODAY --

JUST AS THEY HAVE

THROUGHOUT OUR PARTY'S HISTORY、

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、

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.

MARY LOUISE,

I AM SO GLAD

I COULD BE HERE

TO HONOR YOUR HARD WORK

AND LEADERSHIP.

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)