

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “University of Michigan Commencement, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 19, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

ELIZABETH BLOOMER FORD, First Lady of the United States.

Shakespeare said ". . .some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." All of these circumstances are appropriate to the life of Betty Ford.

Your friends regard your courage and compassion as unflinching. They admire your outspoken commitment to the highest standards of personal and community life. These qualities testify to an inborn greatness of spirit.

That you achieved greatness is unquestioned. With Terpsichore your muse, you mastered the demanding art of dance to the satisfaction of no less a taskmaster than Martha Graham. Your flair for art led to other successes in modeling and fashion display. Characteristically, you have shared these abilities with the young, the handicapped, and all who are interested.

Few people have greatness thrust upon them with more dramatic suddenness than that which marked your ascendancy with Gerald R. Ford to Presidential responsibilities. Seldom have such awesome duties been in more earnest hands. Your style and substance have earned the admiration of a nation. The delightful fact that you could be simultaneously the First Mama of the radio channels and First Lady of the United States is testimony to your gift of grace and personal democracy.

The University of Michigan is delighted to receive a great lady and to confer upon you the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.

President Fleming: "I now confer upon you, Elizabeth Bloomer Ford, the degree Doctor of Laws, and admit you to all its rights, honors and privileges."

gg/hj
12/3/76

ORIGINAL RETIRED TO
SPECIAL DOCUMENTS FILE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN COMMENCEMENT

DECEMBER 19, 1976

THANK YOU, DR. FLEMING,

THIS IS THE SECOND NICEST TITLE I'VE EVER RECEIVED,

THE FIRST WAS MRS. GERALD FORD,

WITH THIS WONDERFUL NEW DEGREE, I CERTAINLY HOPE I
WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT I'VE
ALWAYS CHAMPIONED.

2

THE PRESIDENT AND I ALSO FEEL LIKE GRADUATES TODAY,

WE TOO BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR LIVES, AND WE LOOK
TO THE FUTURE WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION.

WE BELIEVE "THE BEST IS YET TO BE" FOR US AND FOR THIS
COUNTRY. AND WE WILL BE WORKING TO ACHIEVE THAT HOPE FOR
ALL AMERICA.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN COMMENCEMENT

DECEMBER 19, 1976

THANK YOU, ^{Fees,} ~~DR~~ FLEMING.

THIS IS THE SECOND NICEST TITLE I'VE EVER RECEIVED.

THE FIRST WAS MRS. GERALD FORD.

WITH THIS WONDERFUL NEW DEGREE, I CERTAINLY HOPE I
WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT I'VE
^{which}

ALWAYS CHAMPIONED.

THE PRESIDENT AND I ALSO FEEL LIKE GRADUATES TODAY.

WE TOO BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR LIVES, AND WE LOOK
TO THE FUTURE WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION.

WE BELIEVE "THE BEST IS YET TO BE" FOR US AND FOR THIS
COUNTRY, ~~AND WE~~ ^{will continue} ~~WILL BE~~ WORKING TO ACHIEVE THAT HOPE FOR
ALL AMERICA.