

**The original documents are located in Box 8, folder "8/19/74 - VFW Convention, Chicago, IL"
of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE
75TH ANNUAL VFW CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois
Monday - August 19, 1974

From: Terry O'Donnell

TOD



BACKGROUND:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., representing more than 1.8 million members, extended to you an invitation in February to address the opening session of its Diamond Jubilee Convention. You accepted the VFW invitation in March and last week you reaffirmed your intention to attend.

Mayor Daley has issued a press release welcoming you and Mrs. Ford and has invited the people of Chicago to greet you at the airport and along the motorcade route.

8:20 a.m. You join Mrs. Ford in the Map Room and together proceed out the Diplomatic Entrance to the helicopter.

8:25 a.m. Board helicopter and depart en route Andrews AFB.

(Flying Time: 15 minutes)

8:40 a.m. Arrive Andrews AFB and board S'76.

PRESIDENTIAL GUESTS (On board in advance of
your arrival)

Senator Vance Hartke (D-Ind)
Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC)
Senator Cliff Hansen (R-Wyo)
Cong. Leslie C. Arends (R-Ill)
Cong. Dan Daniel (D-Va)
Cong. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (D-SC)
Cong. Olin Teague (D-Tex)
Cong. John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-Ark)

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8:45 a.m. S '76 departs en route O'Hare Field, Chicago, Illinois.

(Flying Time: 1 hour, 40 minutes)
(Time Change: - 1 hour)

9:25 a.m. S '76 arrives O'Hare Field, Chicago, Illinois.
CDT

Your Military Aide, Commander Todd, will indicate when you should disembark the aircraft.

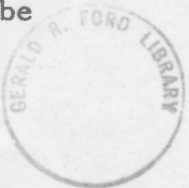
Ruffles and Flourishes, Announcement, and "Hail to the Chief" as you and Mrs Ford deplane. You will be met at the foot of the ramp by:

Governor and Mrs. Daniel Walker (D)
Congressman Sam Young
Colonel Jack Reilly, City of Chicago Special Events
Officer (Mayor Daley's personal representative)
Mr. John Stang, Vice Commander-in-Chief of VFW
Mr. Thomas P. Walker, Vice Commander-in-Chief, VFW
Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld
Miss Diane Dummer, Chicago Lakefront Festival Queen
(who will present a floral bouquet to the First Lady)

NOTE: Mayor Daley will not be present. He is recuperating and resting in Michigan.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE
CROWD SITUATION

NOTE: If you decide in advance that you would like to speak at the airport, a microphone will be prepositioned. You can, if you wish, make the decision to speak at the last minute since a minimum of time is required to set up the contingency microphone.



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If you should address the crowd, it is recommended that you shake hands for a few minutes afterwards to allow time for your key staff and Congressional guests who will be standing behind you to board the motorcade.

9:35 a.m. You and Mrs. Ford board motorcade and depart en route Conrad Hilton Hotel.

(Driving Time: 50 minutes)

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE
CROWD SITUATION IN THE LOOP

NOTE: The Presidential motorcade, prior to entering the heaviest crowd areas, will stop to remove the top so that you can stand and greet the crowd.

If you should desire to stop the motorcade in the crowd areas, you should so inform Agent Keiser.

10:25 a.m. Motorcade arrives Conrad Hilton Hotel.

You and Mrs. Ford will be met by:

Senator Charles Percy
Mr. William Smith, Conrad Hilton Hotel Manager

Mr. Smith and Governor Walker will escort you and Mrs. Ford and Senator Percy to the elevator. Senator Percy will proceed with you and Mrs. Ford to your suite for a brief 5-minute personal meeting.

10:30 a.m. Arrive Suite. 5-minute personal meeting with Senator Percy.



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10:35 a.m. Senator Percy departs.

PERSONAL/STAFF TIME: 45 minutes

11:20 a.m. You and Mrs. Ford depart suite and proceed to International Ballroom to address the 75th Annual VFW Convention.

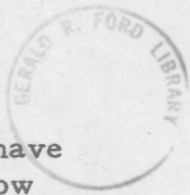
11:25 a.m. Arrive holding area where you will be met by Mr. Ray R. Soden, VFW Commander-in-Chief.

11:28 a.m. You depart holding area, escorted by Mr. Soden, and proceed to International Ballroom foyer. You and Mrs. Ford pause at entrance of Ballroom for Ruffles and Flourishes and announcement of you, Mrs. Ford and Commander Soden and, at "Hail to the Chief" proceed into the Ballroom, down the center aisle and up onto the stage using the stairs at stage right. Your seat is the first stage left of the podium next to Mrs. Soden. Mrs. Ford's seat is the second stage right of the podium next to Commander Soden's.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 3,000⁺

NOTE: The Convention's Opening Session will have been underway since 9:00 a.m. Overflow convention attendees will be seated in the adjacent Grand Ballroom to view your speech on video monitors.

11:32 a.m. Welcoming remarks by Mr. Soden who will present you with the VFW's Citizenship Award and Gold Medal and Certificate.



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You proceed to the podium to accept this Award.

Upon acceptance, and prior to your remarks, you may wish to place the medal and Certificate on a small table near the podium.

11:40 a.m. PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE INCLUDING
LIVE LOCAL TELEVISION

12:00 Noon Your remarks conclude.

Escorted by Mr. Soden, you and Mrs. Ford depart stage at "Hail to the Chief" and proceed up the center aisle. It is suggested that you stop by the Grand Ballroom at the rear of the International Ballroom to briefly address the overflow crowd of approximately 2,500.

Depart hotel and board motorcade.

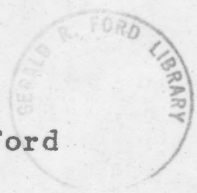
12:10 p.m. Motorcade departs en route O'Hare Field.

(Driving Time: 40 minutes)

12:50 p.m. Motorcade arrives O'Hare Field. You and Mrs. Ford will be met by several key GOP State leaders and candidates for office.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE
CLOSED DEPARTURE

You and Mrs. Ford board S '76.



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PRESIDENTIAL GUESTS:

Senator Strom Thurmond
Senator Cliff Hansen
Senator Charles Percy
Congressman Leslie Arends
Congressman Dan Daniel
Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt
Congressman Samuel Young
Congressman Robert McClory

12:55 p.m. S '76 departs O'Hare Field en route Andrews AFB.

(Flying Time: 1 hour, 25 minutes)
(Time Change: + 1 hour)

3:20 p.m. S '76 arrives Andrews AFB.

Proceed to helicopter and depart en route the White House.

3:40 p.m. Arrive South Grounds of the White House.

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