

The original documents are located in Box 45, folder “Shouse, Kay (Medal of Freedom)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

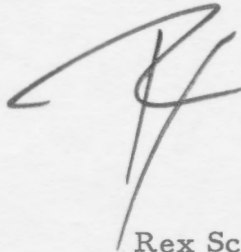
May 4, 1976

Nancy:

I did want to talk to Mrs. Ford about the attached.

I do not like to send something like this direct and would be pleased to refer it to another office if she feels that would be more appropriate.

Mrs. Shouse just happens to be a most outstanding person.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'R' followed by a stylized 'S' and a vertical line extending downwards.

Rex Scouten



FILENE CENTER / WOLF TRAP FARM PARK FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

THE WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION

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C. Langhorne Washburn

Miss Barbara M. Watson

Claude C. Wild, Jr.

Julius Rudel

Artistic Advisor

April 20, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Ford:

On June 9, 1976, Mrs. Jouett Shouse will be eighty years old. This birthday is a milestone in anyone's life, but her birthday is of significance and interest to many because of what she has given and continues to give to so many. The most visible and lasting of these gifts is our first National Park for the Performing Arts -- Wolf Trap. (Enclosures note additional contributions to the betterment of life.)

I wondered if you and the President might like to take this timely opportunity for public recognition of the value to our country -- yea! and the world -- of this individual who has made such incomparable contributions to people, and consequently to the quality of life, by bestowing upon her the Medal of Freedom.

With appreciation for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Carol V. Harford
Carol V. Harford
Vice President

encls.





1916 F Street
Washington, D.C. 20006

Plantation House
1635 Trap Road
Vienna, Virginia 22180

March 10, 1975

March 10, 1976

CATHERINE FILENE SHOUSE
(MRS. JOUETT SHOUSE)

- 1896 Born in Boston, Massachusetts
- 1913 Graduated Bradford Academy (now Bradford College)
- 1915-1918 Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts, B.A.
- 1917 & 1918 As an undergraduate, organized Conferences at Wheaton College to study and promote jobs for women with more than a high school education.
- 1918-1919 War service - Assistant to Chief of Women's Division, U. S. Employment Service, U. S. Department of Labor
- 1919-1920 First woman appointed to Massachusetts State Democratic Committee.
- 1919-1921 First woman appointed to National Democratic Committee representing Massachusetts.
- 1920 Book, "Careers for Women" published by Houghton Mifflin Company.
- 1923 First woman to receive degree (M.Ed.) from Harvard University.
- 1925 Founder (with Mrs. Borden Harriman) Women's National Democratic Club.
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- 1939-1960 Imported dogs from Germany and Switzerland and started her kennel at Wolf Trap Farm where she bred champions in three breeds. From 1930 to 1945 Mrs. Shouse bred and trained her own hunters and hunted with the Fairfax Hounds.
- 1949-1956 Organized General Clay Fund (1949) to help U.S.Army's Assistance Program for German Youth. (See "Citations")
- 1949-1968 Elected to Board of the National Symphony Orchestra Association and was Vice President 1951-1968.
- 1952-1963 Board, National Arbitration Association.
- 1955 Board, Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs, Tufts University.
- 1956 At request of former President Hoover, organized Washington Hungarian Relief Fund and raised a half-million dollars within a month.
- 1957-1963 Appointed by President Eisenhower as Chairman, President's Music Committee, People to People Program.
- 1958- Appointed by President Eisenhower to first Board of Trustees of the National Cultural Center. Reappointed in 1962 and in 1970 (by President Nixon) for 10-year terms. Name changed to John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Also on its Executive and Building Committees.
- 1961 Donated 40 acres of land at her Wolf Trap Farm, Vienna, Virginia, for the headquarters of the American Symphony Orchestra League.
- 1964 Organization Committee for the formulation of the Fairfax County Cultural Association.
- 1965-1972 Board, Opera Society of Washington.
- 1966 Offered balance of her Vienna farm to Secretary Udall for a National Park for the Performing Arts and donated the Auditorium, Filene Center. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts opened July 1, 1971, Mrs. Nixon attending.
- 1968- Elected Honorary Vice President, National Symphony Orchestra Association. Appointed by Governor Godwin to the first Virginia Commission of the Arts and Humanities. Reappointed (1971) by Governor Linwood Holton.
- 1968- Board, Wolf Trap Foundation. Elected Chairman, Executive Committee (1975).
- 1973 Appointed by President Nixon to Pennsylvania Avenue Development Commission.
- 1975 Appointed to Board of Overseers, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.
- 1975 Appointed by President Ford to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.
- 1976 Re-appointed to Board of Service League of Northern Virginia



Schools

Bradford Academy 1913; Vassar 1913-1914; Wheaton 1918
Harvard University Graduate School of Education, 1923

Degrees

1918 B.A. Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts
1923 M.Ed. Harvard University

Honorary Degrees

1963 Doctor of the Humanities, Tufts University
1964 Doctor of the Humanities, Wheaton College
1971 Doctor of Laws, The American University
1975 Doctor of Humanities, George Washington University
1975 Doctor of Humanities, Bucknell University
1975 Doctor of Music, The New England Conservatory of Music

Decorations

1949 City of Paris Award
1949 Vienna (Austria) Medal of Honor for Assistance to Austrian Youth
1954 U.S. Army Patriotic Civilian Award
1954 First woman to receive German Federal Republic's Commander's Cross of Merit

Citations & Honors

1957 Fellow, The American University, Washington, D.C.
1961 Bradford College
1962 D.C. Education Association
1963 National Federation of Music Clubs Recognition Award
1965 Washington Board of Trade
1968 Gold Baton Award, American Symphony Orchestra League
1970 National Music Council
1971 Medal of Honor for Music, National Arts Club, New York City
1971 Honorary Park Superintendent, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
1972 Honorary Life Membership - Stage Employees Union #22 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators of the U.S.A. and Canada - First woman Gold Card holder
1972 Honorary Lifetime Member, City Center Joffrey Ballet #146
1972 Honorary Membership, American Women in Radio and Television
1972 Humanitarian Award, National Recreation and Park Association
1973 Sigma Alpha Iota Citation
1973 National Federation of Music Clubs' Citation
1975 Recording Industry Association of America, Annual Cultural Award - First person outside Federal government to receive award
1975 Fairfax Citizen of the Year, Fairfax County Republican Committee
1975 Fairfax Board of Supervisors Citation
1975 Abraham Lincoln Award, American Hungarian Foundation - First woman laureate
1975 The Bay State Award, The Massachusetts State Society of Washington, D.C.
1975 The Distinguished Service Medal, The Cosmopolitan Club of Washington, D.C.
1976 The Annual Mortar Board Award

Fraternities

Sigma Alpha Iota (Honorary)

Clubs

American Newspaper Woman's Club; 1925 F Street Club; Kollegewidgewok Yacht Club



Homes 1916 F Street, Washington, D.C. 20006
Plantation House, Wolf Trap Farm, Vienna, Virginia 22180
"Dundree", Blue Hill, Maine 04614

Married Alvin E. Dodd, 1921 (divorced 1930)
Jouett Shouse, 1932

Children Joan Dodd (Robertson)

Grandchildren David, John, Jill, Jenifer



CATHERINE FILENE SHOUSE

Catherine Filene Shouse, who made Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts a reality, has perhaps best been described by former Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall. On April 24, 1968 the model of the Park's stunning amphitheatre, the Filene Center, was unveiled in the Secretary's office. On that happy occasion, Secretary Udall turned to Mrs. Shouse and said, "If I had the authority, I would declare you a national treasure."

Mrs. Shouse had not only donated 100 acres of her Wolf Trap Farm to the National Park Service but also assumed all the costs for the amphitheatre, Filene Center. On behalf of the American people, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed P.L. 89-671, accepting her generous gift and established the nation's first and only national park dedicated to the performing arts.

During her many years of public service, Mrs. Shouse has been associated with numerous "Firsts." She was the first woman appointed to the Democratic Committee of her home state of Massachusetts and the first woman to represent her home state on the National Democratic Committee. Her book, "Careers for Women," was the first in its field when it was published in 1920 and the only textbook on the subject for many years. At the request of her publishers, Mrs. Shouse revised it for reissue in 1930 and it was again reprinted in 1974.

She was the first woman to receive a Masters Degree from Harvard University. In 1925, she founded the Woman's National Democratic Club with Mrs. Borden Harriman. A short year later, she became the first woman appointed by President Coolidge as Chairman of the first Federal Prison for Women and instituted a job training and rehabilitation program.

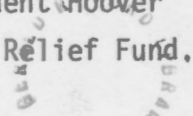


Mrs. Shouse's interest in occupational opportunities for women was firmly established as early as 1917 when, as an undergraduate at Wheaton College, she organized the first Intercollegiate Vocational Guidance Association. This led to the founding of the Institute of Women's Professional Relations in 1929, a group for which she served as Chairman until its research activities were absorbed by the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor. As Chairman of the Institute, Mrs. Shouse organized national conferences on job opportunities for women with more than a high school education. Numerous academic, political and industrial leaders were among the participants in these conferences which paved the way to opening employment for women in semi-professional occupations.

Mrs. Shouse credits her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Filene of Boston, for her interest in civic and cultural affairs in the United States and abroad. Her mother, who founded a music school for underprivileged children, was the inspiration for her daughter's lifetime devotion to the performing arts. Mr. Filene included his daughter in many of his civic and international meetings with educational, labor, and civic leaders.

Mrs. Shouse was the first person to encourage and sponsor concerts in Washington's art galleries and one of the first members of the National Committee for Music Appreciation. During the same period, she also founded the Washington Chamber Music Society.

General Clarence R. Huebner, U. S. European Commander, asked her to assist with the Army's Reorientation Program for German Youth. In this effort, she founded the General Clay Fund for German Youth Activities. Private individuals throughout the United States volunteered their help under Mrs. Shouse's leadership. She was subsequently honored with the U. S. Army's Civilian Award, a Medal of Appreciation from the City of Vienna, a citation from the City of Paris, and was the first woman to receive the coveted Grosse Verdienst Kreutz (Commander's Cross of Merit) from the President of the German Federal Republic. In 1956, former President Hoover sought her help in raising \$100,000 for the Washington Hungarian Relief Fund. Within a month, she had raised \$500,000.



The third President to seek her help was Dwight D. Eisenhower, who named her to the original Board of Trustees for the National Cultural Center (now the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts). She was also appointed a member of the Executive and Building Committees and continues to serve on the Executive Committee. President Eisenhower also appointed her Chairman of the President's Music Committee, People-to-People Program.

Mrs. Shouse inaugurated and subsidizes an annual series of concerts for young people. One of the series was responsible for introducing Fairfax County school students to symphonic music. Annually, she arranges especially for an audience of over 3,000 handicapped and normal children to attend a concert at the Filene Center.

Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts is the fulfillment of an ideal and a vital concept of opportunity and excellence realized by Catherine Filene Shouse. Many various groups have displayed their appreciation to her: Mrs. Shouse is an Honorary Life Member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators of the U.S.A., an Honorary Lifetime member of the City Center Joffrey Ballet, and an Honorary Member of American Women in Radio and Television. Another tribute is the Humanitarian Award presented to her by the National Recreation and Park Association.

The continuing goal of Wolf Trap is to produce the highest standards of excellence. Mrs. Shouse's dedication to the development of young talent is best expressed in her own words: "The basic concept, as old as the first thinking about the National Park Service's Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts, was that our stage at the then proposed Filene Center was to present young singers and dancers who had potential but no opportunity to be seen or heard. This we are already accomplishing, and we look forward to creating interested audiences which may give confidence to other producers that will enlarge the career opportunities for heretofore undiscovered talent."



As to the total framework of Wolf Trap, Mrs. Shouse has said, "I feel that in giving Wolf Trap and its buildings, I gave a challenge to my Government and to men and women everywhere, to create for themselves and for others so that Wolf Trap and what it represents may enrich the lives of generations to come."


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



Mrs Ford

Thought you
Might like to
see this 

WOLF TRAP FARM PARK FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS / FILENE CENTER

THE WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION

1916 F Street
Washington, D. C. 20006

July 1974

Plantation House
1635 Trap Road
Vienna, Virginia 22180

CATHERINE FILENE SHOUSE

(Mrs. Jouett Shouse)

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1624 TRAP ROAD • VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180 • (703) 938-3810

WOLF TRAP FARM PARK, CREATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS, 1966
ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



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- 1972 Humanitarian Award, National Recreation and Park Association.
- 1973 Sigma Alpha Iota Citation.
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- 1973 Conservation Service Award, U. S. Department of the Interior.
- 1973 Appointment to U. S. Department of State Advisory Panel on Professional Music.
- 1973 Teaching Fellow, Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University.

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Fraternity

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THE WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION

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