

The original documents are located in Box 67, folder “White House - Senior Citizens Greetings (2)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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29
May 28, 1976

STRAIGHT WIRE

Mrs. Fred Choate
305 Sprague Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

Mrs. Ford and I were delighted to learn that you will be celebrating the grand occasion of your ninety-fifth birthday, and we want to be sure to be included among those expressing congratulations to you at this happy time.

With our warm wishes always,

GERALD R. FORD

Becky Bovelsky, ext. 2852
cc: Phil Buchen ✓

GRF:PAT:MP:AVH:RLE:emp

P-A(2nd Rev.)



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1976

5/27/76
Becky will
send a
telegram &
put as
much into it
as possible

MEMORANDUM FOR: BECKY BOVELSKY

FROM: EVA DAUGHTREY
PHIL BUCHEN'S OFFICE

It would be greatly appreciated if a telegram could be sent to Mrs. Fred Choate, who was 95 years old yesterday (May 27). About 85 members of the family will convene on Saturday, May 29, to help her celebrate -- most of Mrs. Choate's five children, 13 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is probably the oldest living graduate of the Eastern Michigan University (having graduated in 1900) -- at that time it was the Michigan State Normal (Teachers) in Ypsilanti. Her grandfather was the first doctor in Grand Rapids in the 1850's -- city public health officer and doctor -- first one in the whole city. Born and raised there.

She is the fourth generation in Grand Rapids. One of the first groups to move to Grand Rapids. Her grandfather graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1852.

Mrs. Choate is a ninth generation descendant directly from John Alden -- Helen Hall, her granddaughter is an 11th generation descendant.

Mrs. Choate still plays the piano at 95.

Mrs. Fred Choate (Kate Augusta)
305 Sprague Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

(616) 754-5380



Friday 4/3/76

2:25 Helen Hall, Office of Consumer Affairs, HEW 20201

Would like a Presidential birthday card sent to her grandmother. Graduated from college in 1900 -- one of the early women -- Eastern Michigan University. At that time it was the Michigan State Normal (Teachers) in Ypsilanti.

I think she's the oldest living graduate of that university.

She was in the fourth generation in Grand Rapids.

One of the first groups to move to Grand Rapids. Her grandfather was indeed the first doctor in Michigan. Graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1852. 9th generation descendant directly from John Alden -- making Helen Hall his 11th generation descendant.

Still plays the piano ----- J Kate Augusta Choate



Helen Hall
Officer of Consumer Affairs, HEW 20201

245-9892

Mrs. Fred Choate (Kate Augusta)
305 Sprague Street
Greenville, Michigan 48838

Will be 95 on May 27.

Her grandfather was the first doctor in Grand Rapids
in the 1850's City public health officer and doctor --
first one in the whole city. Born and raised there.

most of Mrs. Choate family
They will convene 85 members of the family on Saturday,
May 29.

Her grandmother graduated from College in 1900 -- one of
the early women -- Eastern Michigan University. At that time it
was the Michigan State Normal (Teachers) in Ypsilanti.

Think she's the oldest living graduate of that university.
She was in the fourth generation in Grand Rapids. One of the first
groups to move to Grand Rapids. Her grandfather
was indeed the first doctor in Michigan. Graduated from the
University of Michigan Medical School in 1852. 9th generation
descendant directly from John Alden - making Helen Hall his
11th generation descendant.

Still plays the piano.



Monday 6/14/76

Senior Citizens'
Birthday card
5/29/76

3:50 Called the White House Greetings Office and asked if they would send a birthday card from the President to a gentleman who was 99 years old on May 29th.

They will send a card to:

Mr. Edward Belo, Sr.
Route 3, Box 271
High Point, North Carolina 27263

He is Coyt Belo's ^{great} grandfather.



James C. Higgins
Birthday
5/29

Thursday 5/17/73

3:50 Called Barbara Flynn's office and
asked that a greeting from the President
be sent to the following on his 96th birthday
on May 29:

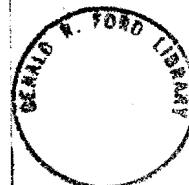
Mr. Edward Belo, Sr.
Route 3, Box 271
High Point, North Carolina 27263

Coyt's great grandfather

OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
WASHINGTON

MR. EDWARD BELO, SR.
ROUTE 3, BOX 271
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA
27263

BIRTHDAY: MAY 29
AGE 96.



Friday 6/25/76

Senior Citizen
Birthday
7/10/76

3:45 I called Becky Bovelsky to see if they
send Presidential letters to 84-year-olds;
they send only cards so will mail one to:

2852

Mrs. Mary Etta Page
417 West Mission Street
Kellogg, Idaho 83837

(She will also send an autographed picture
of the President)

I have advised Eleanor Stoddard that a card and
picture will be sent to Mrs. Page.



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
ROUTE SLIP

to Mrs. Eva Daugherty

Take necessary action ☐

Approval or signature ☐

Comment ☐

Prepare reply ☐

Discuss with me ☐

For your information ☐

See remarks below ☐

FROM Eleanor Stoddard

DATE 4/29/76

REMARKS

Eva:

This is something on the order of what I hoped could be done for Mrs. Page, who I understand is not too well. While she has not yet reached the age of 90 in order to receive a letter from the President on her birthday (July 10) timing and the pleasure it would give her now would be so appreciated.

If you want the picture I have of the President to enclose let me know and I'll bring it over. You mentioned you might have a later one.

Thanks for anything you decide to do without going out of your way.

Eleanor



ONE FOR
REV AUG 76

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Page:

In praising those in our country who have been outstanding in the arts, education, science, politics or the like, we sometimes forget those other citizens who receive little publicity but who in their own way have given of themselves to help make this Nation a better place in which to live. I refer to people like yourself with the stamina and spirit to keep active during all your almost 84 years doing things for others, making friends, and setting an example for others on how to be happy and live a long productive life.

I understand age has never been a deterrent to your extensive travels in the United States, mountain climbing, gardening, and work with your church, Grandmothers' Club, Senior Citizens community affairs, and others. Above all, you've been an outstanding mother and grandmother.

My congratulations for the good life you are leading. We should have many more like you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary Etta Page
417 W. Mission Street
Kellogg, Idaho 83837



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Page:

In praising those in our country who have been outstanding in the arts, education, science, politics or the like, we sometimes forget those other citizens who receive little publicity but who in their own way have given of themselves to help make this Nation a better place in which to live. I refer to people like yourself with the stamina and spirit to keep active during all your almost 84 years doing things for others, making friends, and setting an example for others on how to be happy and live a long productive life.

I understand age has never been a deterrent to your extensive travels in the United States, mountain climbing, gardening, and work with your church, Grandmothers' Club, Senior Citizens community affairs, and others. Above all, you've been an outstanding mother and grandmother.

My congratulations for the good life you are leading. We should have many more like you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary Etta Page
417 W. Mission Street
Kellogg, Idaho 83837



7/14/76

Tuesday 6/29/76

9:50 Called and asked that a birthday greeting be sent to

Mrs. Irene Wood
Methodist Medical Center Pavilion
St. Joseph, Missouri

(She will be 94 years old on July 14, 1976.)

(Request of Twila Despins)



Thursday 7/1/76

3:10 We have asked the Greetings Office to send
a get-well card to

Mary Stuart
Americana Nursing Home
Stuart Lane
Clinton, Maryland

Margie Barnes (Marine Mammal Commission--
1625 Eye Street) said Mary isn't doing too well.

653-6237



Wednesday 7/7/76

Irvine
Irvine
Leah

9:20 I have checked with the "Greetings Office" and they advise a letter went out to Miss Irvine on her 100th birthday on July 4th. They will get a copy and send it to us.

7/4/76

(attached)



The White House
Washington

DATE: 7/7

TO: Eva -

Copy per your
request

Becky Bovelsky

June 29, 1976

Dear Miss Irvine:

Mrs. Ford and I take great pleasure in sending you our warmest greetings as you celebrate your birthday on July 4, 1976.

This indeed is a milestone for both you and for America which is marking its 200th year as a Nation. I am sure that all of our fellow citizens share my hope that this Bicentennial year will serve to strengthen the spirit of our republic and reinforce the values which have come to make our country the great and good land it is today.

You have my congratulations and best wishes for a most enjoyable birthday.

Sincerely,

Miss Leah Irvine
Holy Spirit Retirement Home
Sioux City, Iowa

GRF:BB:saf

✓ bcc / Phil Bucken



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: EVA DAUGHTREY
FROM: MARK WEINBERG *mw*
SUBJECT: Presidential Greetings

With regard to your memorandum of the 14th advising that Miss Leah Irvine will celebrate her 100th birthday on July 4th, we will be happy to take care of it.

Just by way of information, I will be on vacation at that time, but will make certain before I leave that an appropriate Presidential greeting is sent to Miss Irvine. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.



7/4/76
100 yrs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 14, 1976

To: Mark Weinberg
White House Greetings Office

From: Eva Daughtrey *Eva Daughtrey*

Thanks so much for those lovely letters
to Senior Citizens.

I have another, Miss Leah Irvine, Holy
Spirit Retirement Home, Sioux City, Iowa.

She will be 100 years old on our Nation's
two-hundredth birthday. Thought you
might want to do something special for
this one.

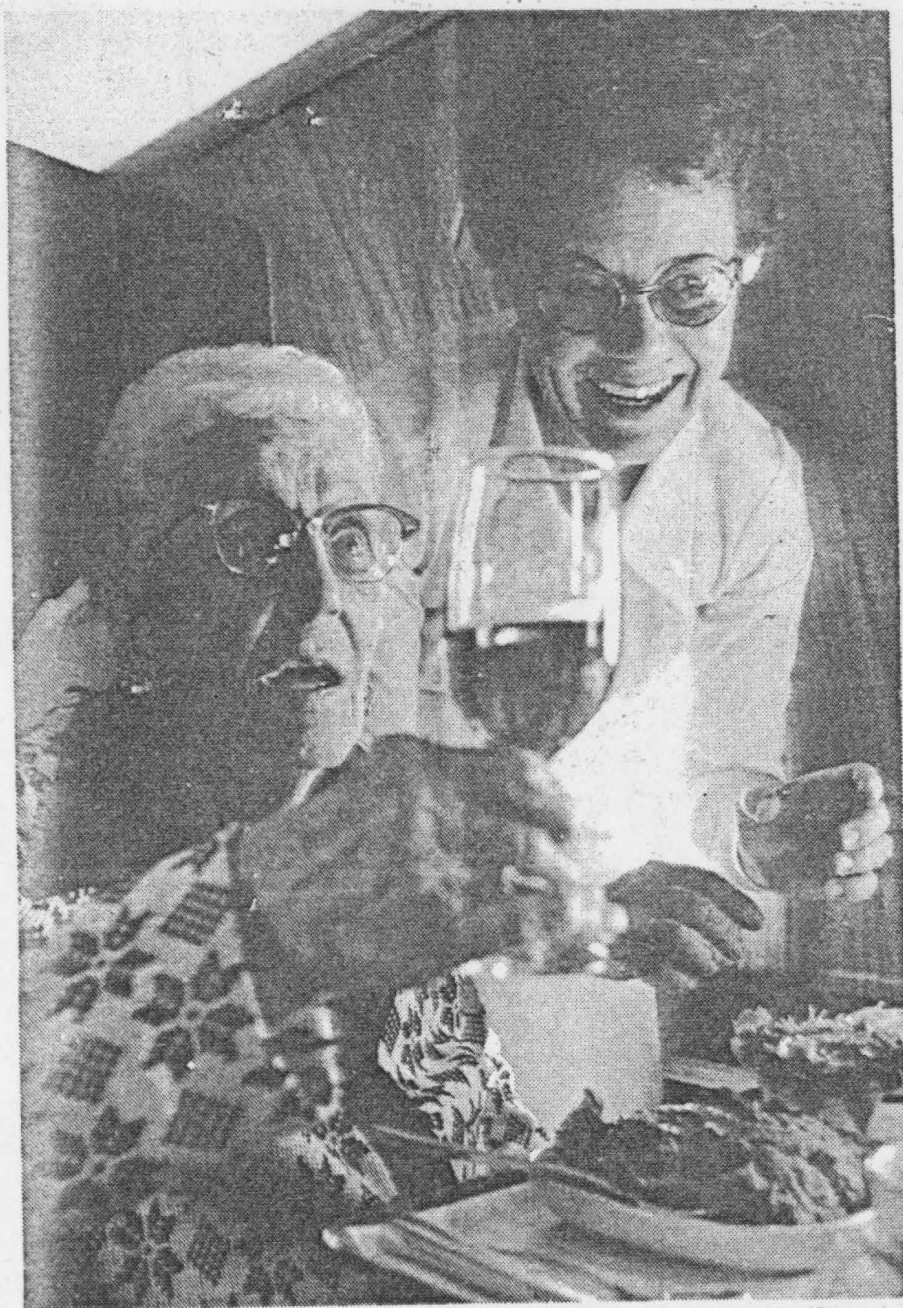
Thanks again.



Flying at 99

Miss Leah Irvine of Sioux City, who will be 100 years-old on her country's 200th birthday, boards a North Central Airlines Convair 580 Saturday as she prepares to take her first airplane ride. "I can walk up these steps by myself," she declared. However, she graciously permitted flight attendants to take her up the steps prior to departure on a Bicentennial flight over Mount Rushmore. An account of the trip and other pictures are on Page A3. (Staff photo by Porter)





Wine Complements Meal Aloft

In surprise and delight, Miss Irvine holds a glowing glass of rose wine, a complement to the lavish Bicentennial dinner served aboard the North Central Airlines plane which took her to Mount Rushmore. Mrs. Howard (Maxine) Owen, director of nursing service at Holy Spirit Retirement Home, stands at her side.

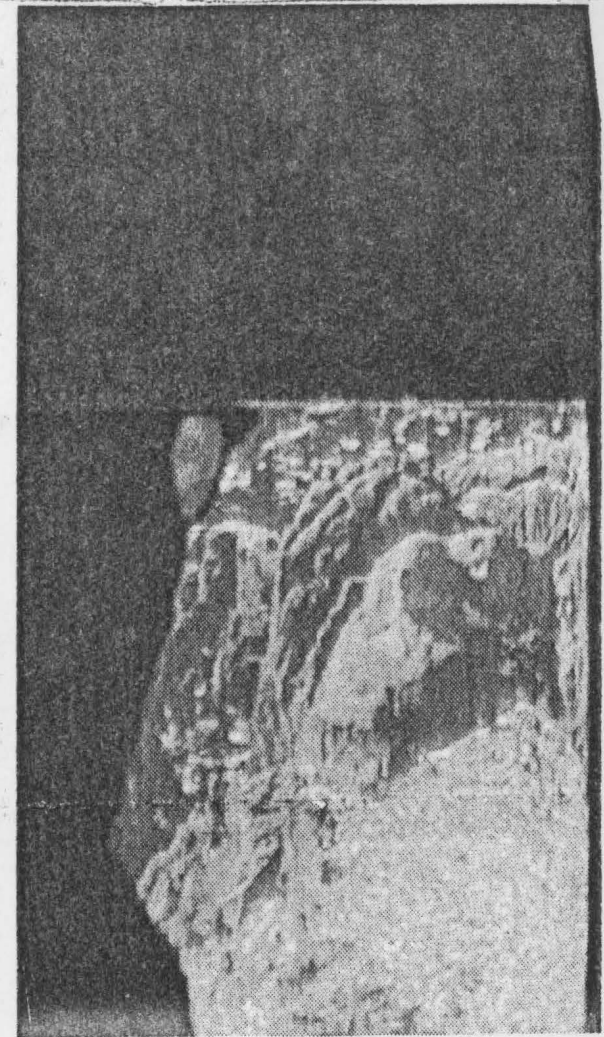




Chordsmen Give Rousing Send-off

It was a real send-off for Miss Leah Irvine at the Sioux City Municipal Airport. She was serenaded prior to departure by the Floyd Valley Chordsmen of Le Mars, Iowa, members of the Society for the

Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. They presented Miss Irvine with a Bicentennial scroll and a small American flag. (Staff photos by Porter)



Monument in View

Mount Rushmore's famous faces — Washington, Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Lincoln — carved in granite on the Black Hills mountainside, are viewed through the airplane window by Miss Irvine.

Centenarian Enjoys First Flight: Round Trip to Mount Rushmore

By Louise Zerschling
Journal Staff Writer

Almost 100 years of living were enhanced Saturday for Sioux City's Leah Irvine who literally was flying high — on a triple overpass of world-famous Mount Rushmore.

Miss Irvine, who will be 100 years old on the nation's 200th birthday, was a guest of North Central Airlines on her first airplane flight — a Bicentennial trip arranged in her honor.

"It was gorgeous, lovely, and beyond all expectations," smiled Miss Irvine, as the 2½-hour round trip flight from Sioux City ended.

"Gorgeous" was the word for it as perfect winter weather, North Central personnel, representatives of Holy Spirit Retirement Home where Miss Irvine lives and several friends combined to make the flight a perfect and memorable one.

Guests on the flight included four Minnesota newsmen, winners of journalism and excellence awards from the Minnesota Newspaper Association, their wives, and Sioux City news people.

Capt. Art Henke and his copilot, Barbara Wiley, flew at an altitude that was low enough so Miss Irvine could see the winter panorama sparking in bright sunshine below.

"I only wish they made these holes a little bigger so I could see better," said Miss Irvine as she peered through a window of the Convair 580.

The windows were popular with all aboard, as they watched snow-covered farms and ranchlands give way to the rugged Badlands, as spectacular in black and white as they are in their summer colors minus snow.

As the mountains came into view, unusually dark with their thick cover of spruce and pines massed below white peaks, it was easy to understand how the Black Hills were named.

Even pilots Henke and Wiley, old hands at seeing beauty from above, joined in the general excitement as they spotted Mount Rushmore.

"This is beautiful — simply wonderful," Capt. Henke repeated, as he obligingly banked the Convair for three runs past Mount Rushmore to provide dramatic glimpses of the carved faces of Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt.

Miss Irvine took her place for a while in the seat of the first officer, Miss Wiley, North Central's first and only woman pilot and one of the very few women commercial airline pilots in the nation.

"I understand you're going to take my job away," said Miss Wiley.

"That's right, I am!" declared the sprightly Miss Irvine. She was assisted to the cockpit and back by her physician, Dr. Robert C. Larimer, and Mrs. Howard Owen, director of nursing at Holy Spirit Retirement Home, who went on the flight to keep an eye on their remarkable charge.

However, although both had a great time, there didn't seem to be much need for them as far as Miss Irvine was concerned.

"Leah doesn't admit to having any infirmities," said Dr. Larimer.

The guests on the carpeted and paneled Convair, an executive plane, were served a dinner prepared according to recipes from Williamsburg, Va., taverns. The menu is part of North Central's "Explorer's Bill of Fare" from great

American inns dating back to Revolutionary times, and currently a Bicentennial offering of the airlines.

Miss Irvine's flight had its beginnings last summer when she had her first helicopter ride. At that time she declared that her next desire was to ride in an airplane.

Howard Owen, whose wife is the nursing director at Holy Spirit, is Sioux City station agent for North Central, and got the word to North Central officials in Minneapolis.

The airline officials, after conferring with Phyllis Peters, retirement home director, decided to combine a Bicentennial flight for Miss Irvine with one for the award-winning Minnesota newsmen.

The newsmen on the trip included Roger Smed of Marshall, Terry Licence of Detroit Lakes, Chuck Warner of Bronton and Jerry Chapman of Janesville.

Owen also is a member of the Floyd Valley Chordsmen of Le Mars, Iowa, who serenaded Miss Irvine at the Sioux City Municipal Airport prior to departure.

Miss Irvine, enthusiastic over her first airplane flight, didn't hesitate to let everyone know that she has future plans.

As she left the plane, she announced without hesitation, "Now I want to ride an elephant — and it had better be a Republican one."

Thursday 7/15/76

We have arranged to have birthday cards sent to:

Mrs. Fannie Schaap
1082 West Main
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

Will be 86 on 8/3

Mr. Walter Immick
41 Park Place
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

Was 90 on 7/3

(Douglas Despins' uncle and aunt)



Thursday 7/15/76

4:25 We have arranged to have a birthday card sent
from the President to

Margaret Whitehead whose birthday is today.

2620 Mandeville Canyon Road
Bel Air, California 90049



Tuesday 7/20/76

7/25

10:15 Called the Greetings Office and asked that a
 Presidential birthday card be sent to:

Mrs. Silva Vitek
911 South Union Street
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Birthday 7/25 -- birth year 1892 (84 years old)

Deceased
Dec. 1976



Friday 7/18/75

10:30 Called Margaret Bozak's office
and spoke to Edith.

2852

They will send a birthday card to

Mrs. Silva Vitek
911 South Union Street
Kennewick, Washington 99336

for her birthday on July 25, when she will be 83.
(birth date 7/25/1892)



Wednesday 7/28/76

11:50 At Timmie White's request, we are
having a birthday card sent to a "young Lady"
who will be 80 on August 10th -----

Mrs. Marie G. Marilley
39 Main Street
Croghan, New York 13327



Sept. 9

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Senior
Citizens
Birthday



Wednesday 7/28/76

10:15 Bruce Sundlun called to say his 86-year old father went to the hospital yesterday and he's very sick.

They had planned to be here on Saturday with you -- but feels now that it would be taking too much of a chance if they came down here.

Thought he should let you know now -- rather than wait until Saturday to let you know.

His father --

Walter L. Sundlun
Jane Brown Hospital
Providence, Rhode Island

(I'm having a Presidential get-well card sent to him)

If you need to reach Bruce Sundlun, he can be reached at his home there

(401) 331-8700

Mr. Walter Sundlun's birthday is September 9th -----
(Will be 87)



Friday 7/30/76

7:55 I requested a Presidential letter for
Bruce Sundlun's mother -- attached is a
copy of the letter that was sent.

cc: Mrs. Buchen



July 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Sundlun:

Mrs. Ford and I were saddened to learn that you have not been well and that you have had to spend some time in the hospital.

I am sure the love and encouragement of your family and friends are a great help. Keep up your spirits and know that you have our prayers and warm wishes always.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mr. Walter I. Sundlun
Jane Brown Hospital
Providence, Rhode Island

GRF:BB:EH:AVH:DS:nch

P-R (2nd Rev.)
70

cc: Phil Buchen



*Convalescent
card sent
8/6/76*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Anne Goldfield
61 Craigmoor Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107

N. P. Goldfield's

mother

had surgery



Thursday 8/19/76

9:50 Vicki Chern called to say her father will be 60 years old on either Sunday, August 22, or Monday, August 23, and wondered if it might be possible to get a birthday card for him from the President.

376-7726

11:55 I called White House greetings and they will send me the card for him so Vicki can take it down with her when she flies to Tallahassee on Saturday.

His address is:

Thomas V. Chern
4010 Tralee Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

I also asked Mildred if we might be able to get a pair of cufflinks for Mr. Chern -- we did so bEicki will be picking up the birthday card and the cufflinks at the same time.



Tuesday 9/7/76

W.H. Birthday
Greeting
9/9/76

9:20 At Twila and Douglas Despins' request,
we requested a birthday card to be sent
from the President to:

Mrs. Freda Doersam
Shady Lawn Nursing Home
Savannah, Missouri

Her birthday is on Thursday 9/9. She was
born on 9/9/85.



Thursday 9/16/76

Birthday
9/21/76

11:40 A Presidential birthday card will be sent for the Tuesday 9/21 birthday of the following:

Mrs. Isabelle Barton
2500 Que St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Barton will be 83 on Tuesday.



Senior Citizen

Tuesday 10/26/76

11:55 MRS. BUCHEN:

Attached is a copy of the letter which
Dottie Cavanaugh prepared for Miss McDowell --
I'm sure it will make her happy and proud.

If you find out her birth date, we can send
a birthday card.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1976

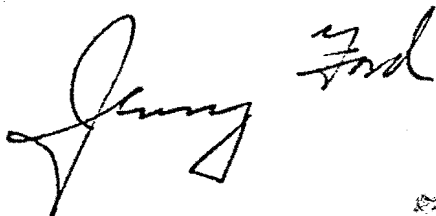
Dear Miss McDowell,

Before leaving for Williamsburg and the final debate, I want to let you know how very grateful I am for your wonderful support.

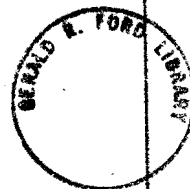
Through Mrs. Dent, I have learned of your activities in my behalf. She tells me you are one of the finest campaigners in the area.

I thought you might enjoy having the enclosed booklet about the White House. It comes to you with my kind personal regards and appreciation for your encouragement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jimmy Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed address.

Miss Marie McDowell
Washington Home
3720 Upton Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20016



October 22, 1976

To: Dottie

From: Eva

Mrs. Buchen was delighted that you would work to get a Presidential letter for Miss Marie McDowell.

She thought the portrait of the Ford family could also be sent, and she is sure Miss McDowell would be very proud to show it to the people at the Home and to their visitors.

Thanks again.



Wednesday 10/20/76

Mrs. Buchen said Millie Dent goes to the Washington Home and visits and she has found an 80-year old lady who is the greatest supporter of the President -- and we should send her a letter.

Talks to everybody all day long. Sees everyone as they enter the place and tells them to be sure to vote and be sure to vote for President Ford.

Suggests we have a letter sent to the effect that someone told me that you're one of our finest campaigners in the area and you don't know how much I appreciate your support. God bless you.

Miss Marie McDowell
Washington Home
3720 Upton Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20016



Thursday 10/28/76

10:05 We have asked that a Presidential
birthday card be sent to
Robert LeBaron for his 85th birthday
on October 31st.



Wednesday 11/10/76

4:30 We have asked that a Presidential
birthday card be sent to

Mr. Frank Grimmer
505 S. 22nd Street
Belleville, Illinois 62221

Mr. Grimmer will be 82 on November 21.

*Request of
Grimmer
White*



Tuesday 11/16/76

4:05 We have requested a Presidential birthday
card be sent to

Mrs. Gerda Hall
610 North Garfield Avenue
Monterey Park, California 91754

96 years old on December 8.

Request of Timmie White



Thursday 11/18/76

11:00 Howard Haynes' mother has been having lots of problems, and is now out of the hospital and recuperating at his home.

We have asked that a Presidential card be sent to her:

Mrs. Aline S. Haynes
7802 Dasset Court
Apt. 202
Annandale, Virginia 22003



October 22, 1976

STRAIGHTWIRE

Mrs. Kathy Roth
St. Mary's Hospital
Room 453
West Sixth Street
Reno, Nevada 89509

Mrs. Ford and I were saddened to learn of your
hospitalization but wanted to take this opportunity
to send our warmest wishes on your birthday.
Keep up your spirits and know that our thoughts
are with you.

GERALD R. FORD

bcc: Phil [✓]Buchen, Attn: Eva



October 22, 1976

3:15 Requested virthday and get-well card for
Kathie Roth -- to be sent to:

St. Mary's Hospital
Room 453
West Sixth Street
Reno, Nevada 89509

(702) 323-2041



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1976

TO: White House Greetings Office

FROM: Eva Daughtrey *Eva Daughtrey*

It would be appreciated if birthday greetings from the President could be sent to the following:

<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Age</u>	
Jan. 7	92	Mrs. Irene Immick 600 Admiral Boulevard Vista Del Rio Kansas City, Missouri 64106
Jan. 9	82 ?	Mrs. Louis Ordnung Savannah, Missouri
Jan. 13	92	Mrs. Onie Smith Rea, Missouri 64480
Jan. 28	83	Mrs. Emma Smith Rea, Missouri 64480
Jan. 17	86	George F. Mansur, Sr. 200 Bingham Road Columbia, Missouri



Wednesday 11/3/76

Senior Citizen
Birthday
11/7/76

5:00 Called the Presidential birthday card
office and asked that a card be sent
for the 90th birthday on November 7th
to:

Mr. Walter E. Barton
2500 Q Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

