The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Acceptance of Annual George Washington Award from American Good Government Society, Washington, DC, May 1, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., UPON ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL
GEORGE WASHINGTON AWARD PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN GOOD GOVERNMENT SOCIETY,
SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 1, 1966, AT THE SHERATON PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Mahon, Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, honored guests, and good friends all:

May I express my heartfelt appreciation for having been selected to receive the George Washington Award of the American Good Government Society. This honor is especially satisfying when I look back to January, 1965. I was elected to the House by the landslide margin of six votes--73 to 67. It is really gratifying--here tonight--to be a unanimous choice for something.

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George and I have been friends for a long time. He became chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee the year I took my seat in Congress--1949. I went on the Appropriations committee in 1951, and
George Washington Award Speech

George, who had been on the Committee many years, helped me immeasurably in the years to follow. George taught me much of what I know today.

George is a great Texas Longhorn. And one of the things I appreciate most about him is that, unlike a fellow Texan who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, George has never given me a real hard time.

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them, too, for this award, because without their support I wouldn't be standing here tonight.

I want to thank, too, my mother, Mrs. Dorothy Ford, who is here tonight from Grand Rapids. I am deeply indebted to my lovely and loyal wife, Betty, who may even be getting a little bit tired. The fact that I have survived in the House for nine terms shows that all you really need to be successful in politics is an allegation of virtue, a moderate amount of hard work, and lots of luck.

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