

**The original documents are located in Box 69, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - Schedules and Lists of Events (2)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Jack Marsh*

JUN 1 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RED CAVANEY  
GWEN ANDERSON  
TERRY O'DONNELL  
BOB ORBEN  
DOUG BLASER

FROM:

WILLIAM NICHOLSON *WNN*

SUBJECT:

The President's Participation in  
Bicentennial Activities, July 1-5

The President has approved participation in the following events in honor of the Nation's Bicentennial. Background information is attached. Please coordinate the announcement of these events with me.

Thursday, July 1

11:00 a.m.

Dedicate the National Air and Space Museum.  
The museum is located on the Mall along  
Independence Avenue between 4th and 7th Streets.

Saturday, July 3

12:00 Noon

Deliver address at the National Archives at a  
ceremony in honor of the Declaration of  
Independence.

8:30 p.m.

Honor America program at the Kennedy Center.

Sunday, July 4

7:30 a.m.

Attend early Church Service at either St. John's  
on Lafayette Square or Christ Church in Alexandria.

8:00 a.m.

Depart for Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.



9:00 a. m. Greet wagonmasters at Wagon Train Encampment at Valley Forge Park and accept Pledges of Rededication which were signed by hundreds of thousands of Americans and collected by the wagon trains enroute to Valley Forge.

9:40 a. m. Depart for Philadelphia.

10:00 a. m. Special Bicentennial Program at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

12:15 p. m. Depart for New York City.

2:00 p. m. Review Operation Sail 1976 and the International Naval Review.

9:30 p. m. View Happy Birthday USA fireworks program from the Truman Balcony of the White House.

Monday, July 5

10:00 a. m. Depart for Charlottesville, Virginia.

11:00 a. m. Speak following naturalization ceremonies on the steps of Monticello, the home of President Jefferson.

cc: ~~John~~ O. Marsh, Jr.  
Russ Rourke  
Milt Mitler  
Ted Marrs  
Carole Farrar





SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

*Re  
Invitation  
July 1, 1976*

19 March 1976

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

*RL*  
Dear Mr. President:

I have just learned with great pleasure that you will help dedicate the opening of the National Air and Space Museum on Thursday, July 1, at 11:00 a.m.

We believe that this will be the most notable event of the Bicentennial Year celebration in Washington. Your participation will add immeasurably to its significance.

Our offices will be working out the details of the event.

With our deep appreciation and best wishes, I am,

Always sincerely yours,

S. Dillon Ripley  
Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENT

DATE: JANUARY 9, 1976

FROM: THEODORE C. MARRS

THRU: JOHN O. MARSH, JR.

VIA: WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON

CEREMONY: To dedicate the Smithsonian Institution's new National Air and Space Museum.

DATE: July 3, 4 or 5, 1976 at the President's convenience.

PURPOSE: To participate in the opening of this museum which will be one of the major official activities in the Washington, D. C. area commemorating the Nation's Bicentennial during 1976 Independence Day Weekend.

FORMAT: -National Air and Space Museum  
-List of participants to be supplies  
-Time to be determined but preferably afternoon  
-Participation about one hour -- includes walk-through

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH MATERIAL: To be provided by the Editorial Division.

STAFF: John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Theodore C. Marrs  
Milton E. Mitler

RECOMMEND: John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Theodore C. Marrs  
Milton E. Mitler  
John W. Warner

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

PRESS COVERAGE: Full Press Coverage.

BACKGROUND: The dedication of this museum will be one of the major Bicentennial activities in the Washington, D. C. area scheduled for the 1976 Independence Day Weekend and will also draw national attention.

The museum was conceived back in 1946 when Congress established a National Air Museum to "memorialize the national development of aviation." The new site, on the Mall along Independence Avenue between 4th and 7th Streets, was chosen in 1958. In 1966, Congress amended the name to be the National Air and Space Museum. Congress set a \$40 million limit for construction. The building was begun in 1972.

The museum will contain 200,000 square feet of exhibit space and 26 exhibit halls. The exhibits will be rotated from time to time as funds allow and will range from man's first aspirations to fly to his landing on the moon. One of the special and permanent displays will be the Wright Kitty Hawk Flyer.

In addition to the halls, there are two special purpose chambers. The first is a theater with a seating capacity of 480, and the second, which will be known as the Einstein Spacearium, will facilitate 200 persons who can sit in a circle under a dome 70 feet in diameter and watch accurate simulations of the sky and flight into space. The ~~projector~~ <sup>telescope</sup> to be used in the Spacearium is a Bicentennial gift to our nation from the Federal Republic of Germany.

Also housed in the building will be a research library and information center which will contain 20,000 bound volumes and 200 periodicals.

Although this museum was not funded by special Bicentennial appropriations, the Smithsonian Institution considers this federal project as a Bicentennial event. Because of the national significance of this event, we believe it appropriate for the President to make this one of his appearances on Independence Day 1976.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

October 6, 1975

Dear Mr. Ripley:

Thank you, on behalf of the President, for your letter of September 26 inviting him to attend the opening of the new Air and Space Museum which will take place on July 4, 1976.

Your invitation to the President to participate in this significant event is most appreciated. While it is not possible to make a commitment to you at present, we are carrying your invitation forward for careful consideration.

With the President's warm good wishes,

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Deputy Director  
Scheduling Office

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley  
Secretary  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C. 20560

✓ cc w/incmg to M. Widner for July 4 cons.

WWN:jlc





SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

*Invitation  
July 4, 1976*

*Warren  
Preston*

ACTION	
T/D	_____
26 September 1975	
SCHEDULED	
DATE RECEIVED	
OCT 2 1975	
MESSAGE	
SPEAKERS BUREAU	
OTHER	
APPOINTMENT OFFICE	

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you may be aware, the Smithsonian Institution plans to open the National Air and Space Museum on July 4, 1976. I believe that this long-awaited-for event has a particular relevance to the Bicentennial in that the new museum speaks to a number of milestones in America's technological development, and more -- to the ingenuity of man, his aspirations, and his ability to realize his dreams.

This letter is to request the honor of your presence on July 4, 1976, and to ask your participation in the official opening and dedication of the new National Air and Space Museum to the American people. Realizing how heavy the demands on your time are, and will be, I am writing now in the hope that we may plan the ceremonies around the requirements of your schedule.

Most sincerely yours,

S. Dillon Ripley  
Secretary



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL NICHOLSON

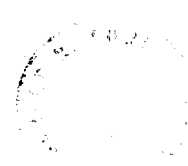
FROM: MILT MITLER *MIT*

Bill, I just had a talk with Bob Goldwin concerning the possibility of Presidential participation in a solemn ceremony at the Archives with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution on display. There is a Schedule Proposal in for this with a choice of days over the July Fourth weekend.

Bob pointed out that we might want to suggest July 1st instead in order to keep away from the crowded period of the actual weekend and to assure Congressional participation since many members of Congress will probably be heading home for that weekend.

I support the thought.

cc: Bob Goldwin



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 1975

FROM: TED MARRS *JM*

THRU: JACK MARSH *JM*

VIA: WARREN RUSTAND

ATTEND: Ceremonies at the National Archives, deliver remarks and view the Declaration of Independence.

DATE: July 2, 3 or 4, 1976

PURPOSE: To pay appropriate tribute to the Declaration of Independence -- the document that is central to the entire celebration -- during the Bicentennial year.

FORMAT: -National Archives  
-List of participants to be supplied  
-One hour

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH MATERIAL: To be provided by the Editorial Division.

STAFF: JACK MARSH  
BILL BAROODY  
TED MARRS  
MILT MITLER

RECOMMEND: JACK MARSH  
BILL BAROODY  
TED MARRS  
MILT MITLER

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press coverage

BACKGROUND: It is most appropriate as well as important to the Bicentennial commemoration, that the President visit the Declaration of Independence in its permanent home in the National Archives at some point during 1976. The significance of this is evident.

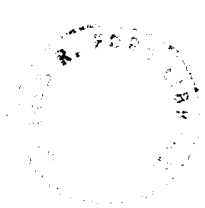
The Deputy Archivist and a member of the Federal Agency Bicentennial Task Force, Dr. James E. O'Neill, has made the following proposal for a Presidential visit to the Archives which would include special ceremonies commensurate with the solemn importance of the occasion.

The scenario calls for a special ceremony on the Constitution Avenue steps of the National Archives building. Participating would be a variety of honored guests from the three branches of government, foreign nations and the private sector. The ceremony, scheduled for July 2, 3, 4, or 5, depending upon the President's availability, would open at 11:00 AM with appropriate musical and choral renditions, dramatic readings from significant texts, including a portion of the Declaration of Independence. These performances would be by well-known musicians, singers and actors.

At 12:00 noon, the President would appear accompanied by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President would then speak for about ten or fifteen minutes after which he and the other dignitaries would enter the Rotunda of the Archives to view the Declaration of Independence. Following the departure of the President, other distinguished visitors and the public would be invited to view the historic document.

The steps and a seating area opposite across Constitution Avenue would be suitably decorated for the occasion and a loud speaker system would be installed to reach the multitude of people who would stand along the Mall and Constitution Avenue.

We feel fully confident, based upon past history and conversations with the Deputy Archivist, that with the proposed assistance they have been assured from the General Services Administration, they will produce a very successful and meaningful event. They have recently hosted special events involving the First Lady and the Vice President in a very successful manner.



Page 3

If at all possible, it is suggested the date selected by July 2, 1976 which would then serve as a "kick-off" to the Bicentennial weekend and provide a focal point for the commemoration in Washington, D. C. Currently, there is no activity in being which would appropriately start that historic weekend.

Full media coverage would be arranged for both the ceremony on the steps of the Archives and within the Rotunda.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



DATE: SEP 30 1975

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, DC 20408

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Acting Archivist of the United States

SUBJECT: July 4, 1976 celebration

OCT 1 1975

Mr. Milton Mitler  
Deputy Special Assistant  
to the President  
The White House

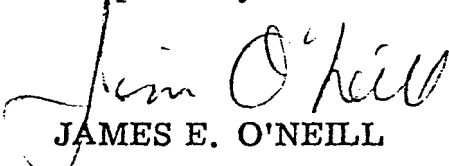
As I indicated in my memorandum of July 21, we believe that President Ford's activities on the weekend of July 4th, 1976, should if at all possible, include a ceremonial visit to the home of the Declaration of Independence here at the Archives. Such a visit is, to put it simply, a "natural," and could not help but receive widespread attention from the media.

Our original proposal, (see attachment), was for quite an elaborate ceremony sometime on July 2nd, 3rd or 4th. We would still be happy to follow through on this. However, we have just learned that the President intends to make his major weekend appearance in Washington at the Kennedy Center on the evening of the 3rd, and I suppose that this vitiates the ceremony we have proposed.

This leads us to make the following new proposal: That the President, together with the Chief Justice and the Speaker of the House (as representatives of the two other arms of government) visit the Archives at any time that is convenient on the 2nd, 3rd or 4th without public notice or ceremony—the event to be attended by only a handful of invited guests, but thoroughly covered by television and the press. The President, Speaker, and Chief Justice may wish to make brief remarks, but the entire visit could be completed in 20 minutes. The President could say that he is visiting the Declaration on behalf of all American people who are not able to be in Washington to see for themselves the document whose anniversary we are celebrating.

The symbolic—and news—value of the kind of ceremony we are proposing need not be belabored. Equally important, it has the advantage of being brief (we realize that the President will be extremely busy the weekend of the 4th), and safe (attendees can be strictly controlled).

I hope that you will find this an attractive and practical suggestion.

  
JAMES E. O'NEILL

*Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds*

Attachment

A Plan for a Visit by the President to the Declaration of  
Independence in the National Archives on the Weekend of  
July 2-4, 1976

It seems entirely fitting that sometime during the weekend festivities of July 2-4, 1976, the President pay a symbolic visit to the Declaration of Independence in its permanent home in the National Archives. Indeed, such a visit could, if carried out in some such manner as is suggested below, provide a focal point--well-covered by television and the other media--for the weekend's celebration in Washington, and even nationwide.

It is recommended that the visit be staged along the following lines:

A covered stage, suitably decorated with flags and bunting, would be erected on the Constitution Avenue steps of the National Archives building. The stage would be of sufficient size to accommodate honored guests from the three branches of government and the private world. Other guests (diplomatic corps et al) would be seated directly across Constitution Avenue in the area just north of the new Park Service skating rink. (Traffic would have to be diverted during the course of the proceedings.) Ordinary citizens would be accommodated (standing) on the Mall and along Constitution Avenue; sound would be carried by loudspeakers.

Ideally, the ceremony would take place on the 4th proper, beginning at 11:00 a.m. However, if the President plans to be out of the city on that day, the ceremony would serve equally well to kick off the weekend's celebrations. It could be held on the evening of either Friday the 2nd or Saturday the 3rd beginning, say at 8:00 p.m. (a good time to reach a maximum audience on television).

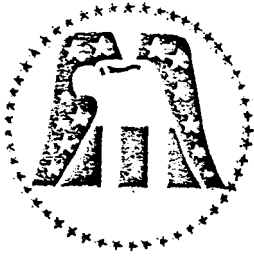
The program would open with appropriate musical and choral renditions, dramatic readings from appropriate texts (including at least a portion of the Declaration of Independence), to be performed by well-known musicians, singers and actors. If the performers are sufficiently well-known--and it should not be very difficult to secure the services of almost anyone who is desired for an event of this kind--it seems likely that all three networks will wish to carry the program live.



Promptly one hour later, the President would appear, flanked by the Chief Justice of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. They would be escorted to the stage with full panoply, including, perhaps an honor guard in Continental uniform. The President would speak for ten to fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of his remarks, (and following, perhaps, the singing of the National Anthem and/or the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance) he would enter the Rotunda of the National Archives building, accompanied by the Chief Justice and the Speaker, to view the Declaration of Independence. The three would remain in the Rotunda for two or three minutes, their progression followed by previously installed television cameras, and then proceed to the Pennsylvania Avenue exit. The President would indicate in his remarks that his visit and that of the Speaker and Chief Justice--representatives of the three branches of government created by the Founding Fathers--is made in behalf of all the American people who cannot be in Washington during the Bicentennial year to visit the Declaration for themselves. Following the President's exit, the other dignitaries in attendance would also enter the Rotunda, to be followed in turn by ordinary citizens.

It should be noted that a precedent for a Bicentennial presidential visit to the National Archives was established on July 3, 1971, when President Nixon, accompanied by the Chief Justice and the Speaker of the House, officially opened the Bicentennial era with a televised program from the Rotunda. The arrangements suggested above would seem to provide a fitting climax for the commemoration begun on that occasion. It is difficult to think of a site more appropriate for such a ceremony than the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence--the document that is, after all, central to the entire celebration.

Honor America



# HonorAmerica

A program of the American Historic and Cultural Society, Inc.

July 3rd

8:30 to 9:00 pm  
90 minutes  
duration

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5161 River Road  
Washington, D. C. 20016

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May 20, 1975

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Dear Mr. Buchen:

Thanks for your recent letter. Our Honor America Committee is delighted that the President will be with us on July 3, 1976 at the Kennedy Center. We will do everything possible to make this a great occasion, one that will merit the attention of the whole nation as well as many parts of the world. We will only use his name in connection with the program of the event itself.

The recent decision in connection with Cambodia was certainly a good demonstration to the world that we mean business. I am sure everyone knows now that the President isn't going to let anyone push us around.

Best personal regards to you.

Sincerely,

*Willard Marriott*  
J. Willard Marriott

Mr. Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President  
The White House  
Washington

#### Executive Director

John P. Cosgrove  
927 National Press Building  
Washington, D. C. 20004  
202/628-3400

— talked w him 5/19/76



Valley Forge



5

*Re. Invitation*  
*July 4, 1976*

# BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF PENNSYLVANIA



SUITE 203, 660 BOAS STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102  
(717) 787-1976

## CHAIRMAN

Ernest P. Kline

Lieutenant Governor

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

George H. Ebner

April 28, 1976

TID  
SCHEDULE 80  
DATE 5/1/76

SPEAKERS BUREAU  
OTHER

APPOINTMENT

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

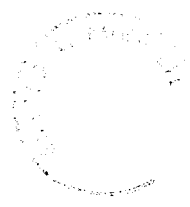
I am delighted to learn that you have planned to visit Valley Forge State Park, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, as part of your Bicentennial itinerary for July 4, 1976.

The Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania is now developing a program for that day which we hope will meet with your situation. I hope to have a tentative schedule of events in my hands by May 3, and as soon as I have had a chance to review it, I will ask the staff of this Commission to make it available to anyone you may designate, for the purpose of further review.

I will look forward to working with your office to develop an impressive and appropriate ceremony for this important occasion, and I will look forward to greeting you personally at Valley Forge.

Sincerely,

ERNEST P. KLINE  
Lieutenant Governor  
and Chairman



file July 4

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL NICHOLSON

FROM:

TED MARRS *Ted*  
MILT MITLER *Milt*

Bill, this is a follow-up to our Schedule Proposal for the President to stop at Valley Forge on the morning of July 4, 1976.

Letters and messages being received indicate a strong desire on the part of many Americans for that day to be a solemn occasion. We believe there would be great and profound satisfaction for many if the President visited the area at Valley Forge where the statue of George Washington kneeling is located and at that time issue a solemn statement concerning our heritage with a religious context.



TO: BOL  
From: MAY

File  
July 4

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF

THRU:

VERN LOEN VL

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. CLEP

SUBJECT:

Rep. Richard Schulze (R-Pa.)

Rep. Schulze understands that the President will be going to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1976. Schulze would like the President to visit the proposed Valley Forge National Historical Park site which is near Philadelphia.

See if Scheduling can  
help on this.









file 7/4/10

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

FRANK L. RIZZO  
MAYOR

April 20, 1976

Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

ACTION
T/D
SCHEDULE BD.
DATE RECEIVED
APR 23 1976
MESSAGE
SPEAKERS BUREAU
OTHER
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

Dear Mr. President:

May I take this opportunity, Mr. President, to thank you for your support of Philadelphia's Bicentennial efforts, and to wish you well in the days ahead.

I join with all Philadelphians in extending this invitation to you and to Mrs. Ford to join us as we mark America's 200th birthday in ceremonies at Independence Hall on Sunday, the Fourth of July. We ask that you deliver the keynote address to the nation on that solemn occasion.

The ceremonies will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at noon. We would be extremely honored if you and Mrs. Ford would join us for a luncheon at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel.

Anticipating your favorable response, I remain

Sincerely,

FRANK L. RIZZO

FLR:lv

Special Note: The Advance Office of the Bicentennial Office should notify Mayor Rizzo that President & Mrs Ford will not attend luncheon

MFW

MARSH & NICHOLSON  
Philadelphia July 4th Weeknd

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH  
✓ BILL NICHOLSON

FROM:

TED MARRS  
MILT MITLER

A meeting was held on Monday, April 26, 1976, to discuss the Philadelphia plans for July 4th. Attending were: William Rafsky, Philadelphia '76; Ann Marie O'Brien, Office of the Mayor; John W. Warner, ARBA; and Milt Mitler. Following is the information developed.

The Philadelphia planning group has developed the following time factors in the day's schedule:

8:00 - 9:30 AM

Ecumenical Service - Interfaith - Independence Hall Area (Quadrangle -under a tent). 50 leading churchmen will participate. About 2,500 to 3,000 seats.

9:30 - 11:15 AM

Program at Independence Hall (7,000 seats plus surrounding area space - Est: 100,000+)

9:30 - 10:00 AM - Band Concert - Armed Forces Band

10:00 - 11:30 AM:

- a. Hail to the Chief
- b. Invocation
- c. National Anthem
- d. Pledge of Allegiance
- e. Introduction of platform guests (MC: Charlton Heston)
- f. Historical Comments (Chief Justice Warren Burger)
- g. Reading of Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence (Marion Anderson)
- h. What America Means to Me
- i. Mayor's Remarks
- j. Governor's Remarks

- k. President's Remarks (15 minutes)
  - l. Benediction
  - m. Ringing of Church bells throughout the city.
  - n. Band music
- 
- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 11:30 - 12:30 PM | Mayor's Reception for the President.<br>(Bellevue-Stratford Hotel)                                   |
| 12:30 - 2:00 PM  | Luncheon for President (Bellevue-Stratford Hotel - 1,200 people)                                     |
| 12:30 PM         | 50 State Parade begins - Historic district   |
| 2:00 PM          | National Bell Ringing kicked off by the Sons of the American Revolution. Departure of the President. |
| 8:00 PM          | 50 State Parade concludes - Parkway  |
| 8:30 - 10:00 PM  | Concerts and fireworks - various locations   |

While the President's participation has been written in by the Philadelphia group, there has been no commitment and they are aware that all we were doing was serving in an information-gathering capacity. They hope to go to press with their program within the next two weeks.

Operation Sail

January 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of January 5th inviting him to be the Reviewing Official at the International Naval Review in New York Harbor on July 4.

The President is most appreciative of this cordial and appealing invitation, but the plans which he has made for July 4 will not make a trip to New York possible. Should there be any change in his commitments for Independence Day, however, I will get in touch with you immediately.

With the President's very best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Director  
Scheduling Office

The Honorable J. William Middendorf II  
Secretary of the Navy  
Washington, D.C. 20350

WWN:MHR:rs

cc and incmg to Mary Widner for July 4 cal.  
cc: 2 cys Nancy Gemmell





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

January 5, 1976

ACTION  
T/D  
SCHEDULE BD.  
DATE RECEIVED

JAN 7 1976

MESSAGE  
SPEAKERS BUREAU  
OTHER

APPOINTMENT OFFICE

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. President,

I have the pleasure of informing you that the United States Navy will host an International Naval Review in celebration of the Nation's 200th anniversary on July 4, 1976, in New York harbor. The Naval Review will be held in conjunction with Operation Sail which is a gathering of the large sailing vessels of the world. The two events will complement each other, and together will provide a most impressive bicentennial celebration.

It is anticipated that as many as thirty-five foreign warships will be present at the International Naval Review with additional observer representation from several nations not in a position to send a ship. Further, I envision that approximately fifteen United States Navy ships will take part, including one aircraft carrier which will also serve as the reviewing platform.

On behalf of the United States Navy, it is my honor to invite you to be the Reviewing Official at this event. Your presence would add immeasurably to the historic nature of this occasion and underscore America's sea-borne heritage.

Respectfully,

J. William Middendorf II  
Secretary of the Navy



March 1, 1976

Dear Mr. Hubner:

Thank you for your letter of February 18 to me about  
OPERATION SAIL.

We very much appreciate your interest in the President's participation in this important historic event. As you may know, Secretary Middelndorf invited the President to be the Reviewing Official at this International Naval Review. We have written him that the President's plans for July 4 will not make a trip to New York possible but, should there be any change in his commitments for Independence Day, we would get in touch with him immediately.

Your letter to me will be made a part of this file and I will get in touch with you, also, if it develops the President can participate in OPERATION SAIL.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Director  
Scheduling Office

Mr. Robert W. Hubner  
Chairman, Executive Committee  
OPERATION SAIL 1976  
International Business Machines  
Corporation  
Armonk, New York 10504

cc and incoming to Mary Widner for July 4 calendar  
2 xerox copies to Nancy Gemmell

WWN:MHR:kt



Armonk, New York 10504  
1976 FEB 20 AM 2 38

Office of Senior Vice President

February 18, 1976

Mr. William Nicholson  
Appointment Office  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

Dr. Ted Marrs suggested I write you about President Ford's schedule on July 4th with regard to OPERATION SAIL.

OPERATION SAIL 1976 is attracting immense international interest. Our strong feeling that the President should participate in this event comes from three principle factors -- first, the widespread international flavor and participation with so many countries represented; second, the historical significance and beauty of the tall ships, together with a full-fledged international naval review; and finally, the youth orientation involving over 5,000 sailing cadets from many nations.

The sail ship parade is presently due to begin on favorable tides at ten o'clock in the morning underneath the Verrazano Bridge, although we have a little flexibility on the starting time. The President could view a good part of the parade from any given point in approximately one hour, and we would recommend the carrier FORRESTAL. Including transportation by helicopter, his participation to and from Philadelphia could be accomplished in a total of two to three hours.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hubner  
Chairman, Executive Committee  
OPERATION SAIL 1976

RWH: az





March 4, 1976

Dear Emory:

Many thanks for your letter of February 27  
in further reference to the naturalization  
ceremony at Monticello.

Please be assured that I fully appreciate  
the very practical reasons that have prompted  
the several questions noted in your letter. In  
order that you might receive adequate responses  
to your inquiries, I am calling your letter to  
the attention of the appropriate people here at  
the White House. I am certain that you will be  
receiving a direct contact in the very near  
future.

With warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable H. Emory Widener, Jr.  
Judge  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fourth Circuit  
Arlington, Virginia 22210  
copy to Red Cavaney  
and Jerry Jones ✓



United States Court of Appeals

for the Fourth Circuit

P. O. Box 888

H. Emory Widener, Jr.  
Circuit Judge

Abingdon, Virginia 24210

February 27, 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

This is further concerning the naturalization ceremony at Monticello this July 4th.

I have some time ago written to Mr. Warner to find out whether it will be on the 4th or 5th but have not received a reply, so, for right now, I am going on the assumption it will be on the 4th.

I realize the President's commitments are all tentative and that the announcement must be left to him, and that is really what this letter is about.

We have thus far been extremely fortunate in the fact that no one who has had access to the information that the President and Chief Justice were tentatively scheduled for Charlottesville has leaked the matter. The papers haven't gotten hold of it at all. But there are so many things that have to be done that we are going to have to start telling people the President and the Chief Justice are tentatively expected. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, for example, is going to have to be notified. I have not said anything to Mr. Kahn, who is the examiner, up until now, but since I wish to write to him and request that the aliens who would ordinarily be naturalized in Abingdon and Roanoke be included in the Charlottesville ceremony, it would be better if I had a reason to tell him. On top of that, I think he should know anyway. I have already had two people call me, who did not know the President was going to be there, who have asked to be naturalized on July 4th, at Charlottesville, simply because it is the birthday of the country and the symbolic significance they attach to



that fact. I have had to give them indefinite answers, which were in fact true because the court really doesn't have much to do with that. I should talk to Mr. Kahn about the whole subject, though, because when the word finally leaks out that the President will be there, we will be besieged by requests. We have thought about the matter and at first thought about including the Eastern District of Virginia but decided that since there are so many there, it would be better to confine it to the Western District as has been traditional.

There is also the matter of invitations. You have already received a copy of the minutes of the meeting which sets them out generally, and I am sure a few others will have to be added. For example, Chief Justice I'Anson thinks he probably should try to extend an invitation to one Justice from each of the State Supreme Courts. A lot of the people who will want to come are going to get themselves obligated in the near future for July 4th, and I am thinking of trying not to cause them any more embarrassment than possible by notifying them sooner, rather than later, that they will be invited.

There are a host of other practical problems such as making arrangements for transportation, housing, etc. We have reserved 100 motel rooms, and there is now the question as to whether we should reserve any more or any less.

An entirely separate thought should be this: Does the President desire to spend the night in Charlottesville? I am sure he would be welcome, and if he would like to, I should start making arrangements for his accommodations at once. In line with that, how many would be in his party?

This is just a rather rambling letter leading up to the question as to whether or not an announcement should be made of the President's tentative engagement to take part in the ceremony. I suggest that it would be the thing to do, but I am entirely in your hands on this subject and will acquiesce in your judgment without any



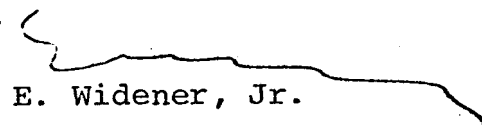
complaint. If an announcement is made, should it come from the White House or from the Chief Justice, or would you prefer that it be made locally? If it should be made locally, I can make arrangements to have that done after receiving your approval and that of the Chief Justice.

Many of the questions I have asked here also pertain to the Chief Justice, particularly housing accommodations for him and the matter of the announcement, and by copy of this letter to Mark Cannon, I am asking him if he will reply to them.

I will await your advice.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to the members of the committee.

Sincerely,



H. E. Widener, Jr.

cc: Mr. Russell Rourke  
Mr. Mark Cannon  
Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Honorable Lawrence W. I'Anson  
Honorable James C. Turk  
Honorable Richard B. Kellam  
Honorable Ted Dalton  
Honorable John W. Knowles  
Honorable William W. Sweeney  
Mr. Paul Baier  
Mr. James A. Bear, Jr.

December 12, 1976

Dear Emory:

Many thanks for your letter of December 3 and the attached materials relative to the MacArthur Naturalization Ceremony scheduled for July, 1976.

Quite frankly, I doubt that anyone from the White House will be able to attend the February meeting. We are simply too limited in terms of staff and their duties and responsibilities. I would, however, be grateful for a copy of the minutes of your next meeting.

Thank you again for keeping me advised of the progress of this matter.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable H. Emory Widener, Jr.  
Judge  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fourth Circuit  
Arlington, Virginia 22210  
JOM:RAR:cb

*To Rep Cavanaugh - dis reg*

United States Court of Appeals

for the Fourth Circuit

P. O. Box 868

Arlington, Virginia 24210

H. Emory Widener, Jr.

Circuit Judge

December 8, 1975

Honorable John O. Marsh  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

Mr. Russell Rourke from your office called today to inquire about the Monticello Naturalization Ceremony next July 4th and to say he was sorry the letter took so long to get to the top of the pile. I certainly appreciate letters being buried in the files. It even happens to me, and I know in your job it is absolutely unavoidable despite all precautions.

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes of the meeting we held on November 10th, which are accurate except for one item, which has been corrected as you can see from my attached letter to the committee and Mrs. Pritchard's reply.

We plan to have another meeting some time after the first of February. I will let you know when that date is set so that someone from the White House may attend if they wish.

Mr. Rourke indicated that at some stage of the game the Secret Service will wish to participate in the plans, and, of course, they are welcome.

For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the transcript of a Naturalization Ceremony at which I presided and Senator Byrd was the principal speaker.

Page 2 -

It is our present intention for the Chief Justice to preside, sitting as a district judge, with the President to be the speaker.

Jim Turk, Mr. Baer from Monticello, and I are going over the transcription to cut out all unnecessary parts of the program, such as announcements, etc., which will shorten it considerably.

If any of us can be of any further help, please let me know.

Sincerely,



H. E. Widener, Jr.

cc: Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Honorable Lawrence W. I'Anson  
Honorable James C. Turk  
Honorable Richard B. Kellam  
Honorable Ted Dalton  
Honorable John W. Knowles  
Honorable William W. Sweeney  
Mr. Paul Baier  
Mr. James A. Bear, Jr.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 5, 1975

*Invitation  
July 1975*

TO	
SCHEDULE	
DATE RECEIVED	
AUG 11 1975	
BY	BUREAU
OTHER	
APPOINTMENT OFFICE	

Dear Mills:

Many thanks for your letter of August 4 requesting assistance in connection with the invitation extended to the President to view the restored Rotunda at the University of Virginia.

I have been happy to contact Mr. Warren Rustand, Appointments Secretary to the President, regarding this matter. I am sure you will be hearing from Mr. Rustand in the very near future.

I, too, hope to be with the President during his trips to Virginia on January 31 and July 4.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Governor of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Governor

August 4, 1975

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsllor to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

I am enclosing a letter to the President dated July 30 from Dr. Frank L. Hereford, Jr., President of the University of Virginia. The letter is self-explanatory and is simply an invitation for the President to view the restored Rotunda at the University of Virginia, if he has sufficient time when he visits Monticello next year.

I simply pass the letter along to you so it may be given to the President. Naturally, I would add my hope that he could do this if time permitted.

There is a great deal of excitement in Virginia about the President's probable visits to Williamsburg on January 31 and to Monticello on the afternoon of July 4. I certainly trust you would plan to be with him on both of these visits because so many Virginians would expect you to be with him. It would be our great pleasure, of course, for you to come also.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

nl

Enclosure

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLOTTESVILLE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 30, 1975

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I understand you might pay an official visit to Virginia in connection with the Bicentennial observance and, in fact, that the Trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation have invited you to speak at Monticello on the Fourth of July next year.

I join my fellow Virginians in hoping that it will be possible for you to visit the Commonwealth next year. Your participation would be of the greatest significance to our celebration of the Bicentennial and it would be particularly appropriate, I think, if you could take part in the ceremonies at Thomas Jefferson's house.

If you can be in Charlottesville next year, I want to extend to you an invitation, both personally and on behalf of the University, to visit the University of Virginia. The University, as you know, was founded by Thomas Jefferson and he designed the oldest buildings which form an architectural grouping unique in this country. The Rotunda, which is the focal point of Mr. Jefferson's design, is being restored and will be reopened officially on his birthday next April 13th; John Warner has called this restoration one of the most significant events of the Bicentennial. We would be delighted to show you the Rotunda and to receive you at Carr's Hill, the President's House.

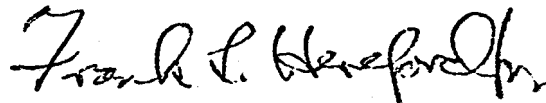
The President of the United States

Page Two

July '30, 1975

Governor Godwin has very kindly agreed to transmit this letter to you. I have asked him, too, to tell you how pleased the University community would be if you could visit Monticello and the University of Virginia next Fourth of July.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Frank L. Hereford, Jr." in a cursive style.

Frank L. Hereford, Jr.  
President

FLHjr:ls

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1975

*July 4*

*July 5th*

Dear Dr. Whitehill:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of July 7 inviting him to speak at Monticello on July 4, 1976.

The President is pleased to have this cordial invitation which is most appealing to him. It will be carried forward for careful consideration as the schedule for this period of time is under advisement.

In the meantime, please be assured of the President's deep appreciation of your thoughtfulness for him.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Deputy Director  
Scheduling Office

Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill  
President  
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation  
44 Andover Street  
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845

cc/ M. Widner w incmg for Jan. 31 and July 4 cons.

MR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1975

Dear Mills:

Many thanks for your letter of July 11 regarding the invitation extended to the President to visit Monticello on July 4, 1976.

I have been happy to contact Mr. Warren Rustand, Appointments Secretary to the President in your behalf. I am certain that you will be hearing from Mr. Rustand in the very near future.

Thank you for taking the time to write me on this matter.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Governor of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

① M.R. ACKNOWLED + SAY WE ARE  
CARRYING FORWARD.

② Split + File ~~JAN 31~~ + } 1976  
July 4 }



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Office of the Governor*

*Richmond 23219*

Mills E. Godwin, Jr.  
Governor

July 11, 1975

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jack:

In connection with the visit by Harry and me to the White House recently extending the invitations to the President to visit Virginia, we were mightily pleased that he indicated he would try to be with us in Williamsburg on January 31, 1976, and at Monticello in the afternoon of July 4, 1976. We are thrilled with this response and desire to be in Virginia for these two highly significant occasions.

I am enclosing a formal invitation for the President to visit Monticello on July 4, 1976, from Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill, President of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation.

It is interesting to note that this date will not only be the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, but will be the 150th Anniversary of the death of Mr. Jefferson. It will be a very dramatic and popular event, not only for Virginians, but for Americans everywhere.

As to the Williamsburg visit, everything is in order for this to take place and the officials of Colonial Williamsburg, the College of William and Mary and the City of Williamsburg, are happy to cooperate in every way and a formal invitation to the President will be forthcoming promptly upon the convening of our next session of the General Assembly on January 8, 1976. The General Assembly actually authorizes the commemorative sessions at the Colonial Capital in Williamsburg and extends invitations in that connection.

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Page Two  
July 11, 1975

I trust that you will see that Dr. Whitehill's letter will be brought to the President's attention. Please tell him again how grateful we are for his generous responses to our invitations. He will unquestionably be warmly received in Virginia.

With best personal regards to you, I am

Sincerely yours,



Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

ten  
Enclosure



*Trustees*

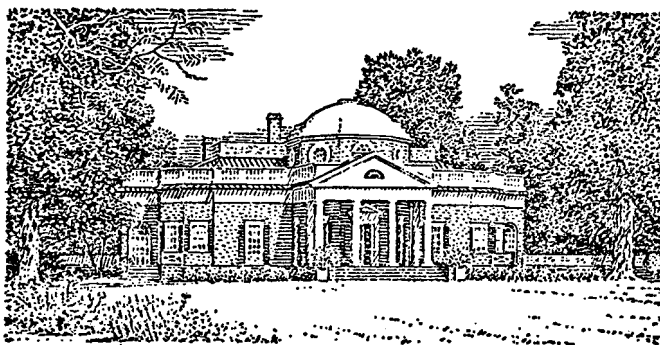
WALTER MUIR WHITEHILL  
*President*  
GEORGE C. PALMER, II  
*Executive Vice President*  
FRANCIS L. BERKELEY, JR.  
*Vice President & Secretary*  
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HENRY J. TAYLOR

*Resident Director*

JAMES A. BEAR, JR.



# Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation

44 Andover Street, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845

7 July 1975

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of my fellow Trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to speak at Monticello on 4 July 1976. It has been our custom for a number of years to have the judge of the United States District Court, Western District of Virginia conduct naturalization ceremonies on the steps of Monticello on the 4th of July and to have someone speak following the conclusion of these ceremonies. As next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 150th anniversary of the death of Thomas Jefferson, we hope very much that your engagements may permit you to be the speaker and that you could persuade the Chief Justice of the United States to accompany you and conduct the naturalization ceremonies next year.

We have normally held this ceremony at 11 a.m., but it could, next year, take place at any time during daylight hours that might be more convenient for you.

I am asking my fellow Trustee, Governor Godwin, to transmit this letter to you and to tell you how pleased we and the residents of Charlottesville would be if you were able to be with us on this anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

*Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill*

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC.

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PRESERVING AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL, MONTICELLO,  
THE HOME AND BURIAL PLACE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA