

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “12/10/74 - Remarks at Unveiling of Portrait of Congressman Mahon” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *h.f.*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT

UNVEILING OF PORTRAIT

OF CONGRESSMAN MAHON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1974

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT GEORGE MAHON AND HIS LOVELY WIFE, HELEN, HAVE BEEN MY FRIENDS FOR ALL OF THE TIME I HAVE BEEN IN GOVERNMENT. IN THE HOUSE, HE SAT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE -- BUT THAT IS ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS ABOUT OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT: THE AISLE SEPARATING REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS IS NOT SO WIDE THAT A WARM FRIENDLY HANDSHAKE CANNOT REACH ACROSS IT.

This relationship goes beyond the handshake. The relationship is ^{an} ~~a~~ trust, an understanding - a person to person bridge that transcends partisanship

It's an interesting
~~IN~~ FACT, IT WAS ONLY THE SECOND WEEKEND

AFTER I BECAME PRESIDENT -- THAT GEORGE MAHON, LES ARENDS,

MEL LAIRD AND I PLAYED GOLF TOGETHER AT BURNING TREE.

I WON'T SAY HOW I DID THAT DAY -- BUT I THINK I WAS IN A

VETO-PROOF FOURSOME.

I UNDERSTAND THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE SUBSCRIBE
TO THE THEORY THAT WHEN YOU PLAY GOLF WITH THE PRESIDENT,
YOU DO NOT TRY TOO HARD TO WIN. • WELL I HAVE NEWS.

I DO NOT THINK GEORGE MAHON EVER HEARD OF THAT THEORY.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVE NOT PLAYED WITH
ANYBODY WHO HAS.

BUT MY RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR

George
~~CONGRESSMAN~~ MAHON GOES FAR BEYOND THE GOLF COURSE.

GEORGE MAY HAVE AN INTERLOCKING GRIP ON A PUTTER -- BUT

HE HAS A HAMMERLOCKING GRIP ON UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT

SPENDING. WE SERVED TOGETHER ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

ON APPROPRIATIONS. *for 14 years* AS CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE FOR

MORE THAN TEN YEARS, GEORGE MAHON HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

*He's not quite like Clarence Cannon or John
Tabor but he learned a few lessons from
those historic*

HE HAS DEVOTED ALL OF HIS ENERGIES AND BOUNDLESS RESOURCES
TO KEEPING AMERICA MORALLY, MILITARILY AND FISCALLY STRONG.
HE IS A MAN WHO NOT ONLY RISES ABOVE PARTY POLITICS --
HE SOARS ABOVE THEM IN HIS PURSUIT OF WHAT IS RIGHT FOR ALL
AMERICANS. IF THERE WERE NO SUCH WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE
AS "STATESMAN" -- IT WOULD HAVE TO BE INVENTED TO ADEQUATELY
DESCRIBE GEORGE MAHON.

GEORGE, THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE
A SMALL PART OF THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION. YOUR
FRIENDSHIP, EXAMPLE AND SUPPORT THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE
MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO ME -- BUT WORDS ALONE PROVIDE ONLY
A PASSING TRIBUTE. AND SO, I WELCOME THIS PORTRAIT
AS A LASTING REMINDER OF THE FIRM, SURE LEADERSHIP YOU
HAVE BROUGHT TO THE CONGRESS FOR THE PAST FOUR DECADES.

TEXAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR ITS BIGNESS.

IN GEORGE MAHON, IT HAS CERTAINLY LIVED UP TO ITS REPUTATION.

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END OF TEXT