

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “1/10/75 - Remarks for the Vince Lombardi Outstanding College Lineman Award Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *J.F.*

VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR THE
VINCE LOMBARDI OUTSTANDING COLLEGE
LINEMAN AWARD DINNER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1975

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO TAKE PART IN THIS FINE TRIBUTE
TO A GREAT AMERICAN SPORT AND A GREAT AMERICAN SPORTSMAN.
I ONLY WISH THAT I COULD BE WITH YOU IN PERSON TO SAY HELLO
TO MY MANY FRIENDS IN HOUSTON.

VINCE LOMBARDI WAS ONE OF THE ALL-TIME GIANTS IN THE

HISTORY OF FOOTBALL. BUT HE WAS MORE THAN THAT. HE WAS ALSO

A GREAT PATRIOT -- A MAN WHO LOVED HIS COUNTRY AND REPRESENTED

our society.

MUCH OF WHAT IS BEST IN IT. HE HAD A COURAGEOUS FIGHTING SPIRIT,

A DETERMINATION ALWAYS TO DO HIS BEST, AND A DEEP, ABIDING LOVE

OF FOOTBALL AND OF LIFE ITSELF. EVEN IN HIS LAST DAYS, AS HE

FOUGHT A BRAVE BUT LOSING BATTLE AGAINST CANCER, HE WAS AN

INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US WHO RESPECTED AND ADMIRER HIM.

VINCE WOULD BE PROUD OF THIS GATHERING IN HIS HONOR.

HE WOULD BE PROUD OF THE OUTSTANDING ATHLETES BEING HONORED HERE THIS EVENING, AND PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THE PROCEEDS WILL HELP FIND A CURE FOR THE DISEASE THAT COST HIM HIS LIFE.

I CANNOT THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO VINCE LOMBARDI THAN THIS -- HELPING MEDICAL SCIENCE CONQUER THE DREAD DISEASE THAT HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES OF SO MANY FINE AMERICANS.

AS AN OLD COLLEGE LINEMAN MYSELF, I OFFER MY
CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS EVENING'S WINNERS. AND TO ALL OF YOU
WHO TURNED OUT FOR THIS FINE EVENT, MY BEST WISHES, AND MY
ADMIRATION FOR MAKING IT SUCH A SUCCESS. YOU ARE SERVING
A GOOD CAUSE, AND YOU ARE HELPING TO KEEP ALIVE THE MEMORY OF
A GREAT MAN AND A GREAT TRADITION.

THANK YOU AND HAVE A GOOD EVENING.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN *per JCS*
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *Att*
SUBJECT: Videotaped remarks for the Vince Lombardi
Outstanding College Lineman Award Dinner

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 12:50 p.m.
Friday, January 10, 1975, The White House

SPEECHWRITER: Bakshian

EDITED BY: Casserly/Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:
Scheduling Office

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) RBC
(X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) Jm
(X) PRESS (Nessen) RHN
() LEGAL (Buchen) _____
() ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) _____
() OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) _____
() DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cole) _____
() NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) _____
(X) RESEARCH (Waldron) TBR
(X) OTHER Pam Needham PCN
(X) Bob Mead BM
() _____