The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “2/26/75 - Jackie Gleason Golf Reception” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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AS AN OFFICE HOLDER WHO CARRIES A LOT OF WEIGHT

IN WASHINGTON, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TONIGHT TO SAY

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO A MAN WHO CARRIES A LOT OF WEIGHT

ANYWHERE -- JACKIE GLEASON!
I DO APPRECIATE THESE FEW HOURS OF RELAXATION TODAY -- ALTHOUGH I FIND I CAN NEVER QUITE PUT THE PROBLEMS OF WASHINGTON OUT OF MY MIND -- EVEN ON THE GOLF COURSE.

FOR INSTANCE, GOING TO THE FIRST TEE, JACKIE ASKED ME WHAT MY HANDICAP IS. I SAID, "CONGRESS!"
BUT IT WAS REALLY A GREAT AFTERNOON PLAYING WITH
JACKIE, BOB HOPE, JACK NICKLAUS AND ELLIOTT KAHN. THEY'RE
ALL MUCH BETTER GOLFERS THAN I AM -- BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW
THAT LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN WASHINGTON, I SHOT A 72!

(PAUSE) ACTUALLY, IT WAS A 95 BUT THEY GAVE ME A REBATE.
LET ME JUST SAY THAT FLORIDA'S REPUTATION FOR SUNSHINE IS NOT RESTRICTED TO ITS WEATHER ALONE. YOU HAVE GIVEN BETTY AND ME TWO MEMORABLE AND GLOWING DAYS. WE HAVE BASKED IN THE WARMTH OF THE SUN -- BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT -- IN THE WARMTH OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP.
THANK YOU, MOST SINCERELY, FOR ALLOWING TWO MORE
SNOW BIRDS TO ROOST HERE TODAY AT INVERRARY. UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN -- BLESS YOU ALL....
As an office holder who carries a lot of weight in Washington, it gives me great pleasure tonight to say "Happy Birthday" to a man who carries a lot of weight anywhere -- Jackie Gleason!

I do appreciate these few hours of relaxation today -- although I find I can never quite put the problems of Washington out of my mind -- even on the golf course. For instance, going to the first tee, Jackie asked me what my handicap is. I said, "Congress!!"

But it was really a great afternoon playing with Jackie, Bob Hope, Jack Nicklaus and Elliott Kahn. They're all much better golfers than I am -- but I want you to know that last Saturday afternoon in Washington, I shot a 72! (Pause) Actually, it was a 95 but they gave me a rebate.
Let me just say that Florida’s reputation for sunshine is not restricted to its weather alone. You have given Betty and me two memorable and glowing days. We have basked in the warmth of the sun -- but even more important -- in the warmth of your friendship.

Thank you, most sincerely, for allowing two more snow birds to roost here today at Inverrary. Until we meet again -- bless you all . . .

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