

The original documents are located in Box 13, “8/10/75 - Talking Points: St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, PAUL (Cong. Hammerschmidt
introduces you)

GOVERNOR PRYOR
SENATOR McCLELLAN
CONG. RAY THORNTON
CONG. THEODORE RISENHOOVER
SISITER JUDITH KEITH *Marie*
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Anne". The signature is slanted upwards from left to right and includes a long, sweeping underline.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

Gov. David Pryor

Sen McEllen

Congressman

John Paul Hammond

TALKING POINTS:

ST. EDWARD MERCY MEDICAL CENTER

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1975

*Arkansans -
3 plus 1*

MIDDLE EAST

- 1 -

1. I CONGRATULATE ALL INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND
CONSTRUCTION OF THIS VERY SPECIAL "HOSPITAL OF TOMORROW" TO SERVE

500,000

MORE THAN ONE-HALF MILLION PEOPLE IN WESTERN ARKANSAS AND

EASTERN OKLAHOMA. THIS NEW FACILITY IS AN OUTSTANDING

ADDITION TO THE THRIVING MEDICAL COMMUNITY IN FORT SMITH.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN 1905, ST. EDWARD
HAS PROVIDED VITAL HEALTH SERVICES TO THIS CITY AND SURROUNDING
AREAS.

70 yrs

12. - 2A -

1a. THE TWO MILLION DOLLAR FUND DRIVE COMBINED
WITH A 14.2 MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION
GUARANTEED LOAN FINANCED THIS FACILITY. I AM PROUD TO SAY
I SPONSORED THE LEGISLATION IN THE CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FOR THIS
TYPE OF F.H.A. LOAN TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

2. I COMMEND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE 65,000 PEOPLE OF THIS CITY AS WELL AS RURAL AREA RESIDENTS IN ARKANSAS AND NEIGHBORING OKLAHOMA. THIS FACILITY WILL HELP TO MEET THEIR MEDICAL NEEDS.

3. THE DECISION, MADE IN 1967, TO DESIGN A CENTER TO PROVIDE TOP-QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT REDUCED COSTS SHOWED AN UNDERSTANDING OF ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

THE INNOVATIVE DESIGN OF ST. EDWARD WITH AUTOMATION AND CENTRALIZATION
OF SERVICES WILL HELP KEEP COSTS LOW AND QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE HIGH.
AND YOUR PLAN TO COMBINE THE FORT SMITH CENTER WITH SMALLER RURAL
HOSPITALS SHOWS YOUR FORWARD THINKING. I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE
ALREADY WORKING WITH NINE SMALLER HOSPITALS IN THE AREA IN A GROUP
PURCHASING PROGRAM TO HELP ACHIEVE LOWER COSTS.

4. ST. EDWARD SHOWED ITS WILLINGNESS TO BREAK NEW
GROUND IN MEDICAL CARE WITH ITS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
PROGRAM. ONE OF THE FIRST PILOT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY, ST. EDWARD CONTINUES TO SERVE
AS THE CONTROL CENTER FOR THIS REGION.

I UNDERSTAND JUST LAST WEEK THE HOSPITAL OFFERED ITS SKILLED
EMERGENCY TREATMENT TO 30 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN INJURED WHEN
HIGH WINDS STRUCK FORT CHAFFEE.

5. MEDICAL PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED WHEN NEW TECHNIQUES
AND KNOWLEDGE ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL OUR CITIZENS. YOUR USE
OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE
TO OTHER MEDICAL FACILITIES. YOUR SUCCESS WILL INSPIRE OTHERS
TO SEARCH FOR MORE CREATIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF PROVIDING
HEALTH CARE.

6. THE BEST EQUIPMENT, THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND

THE FINEST MEDICAL SKILLS MUST BE COMBINED WITH COMPASSION AND

CARE IF A HOSPITAL IS TO SERVE ALL OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S NEEDS.

THE MOTTO OF ST. EDWARD'S IS -- "THROUGH OUR LOVE OF GOD AND

COMPASSION FOR OUR FELLOW MEN, WE SERVE."

THIS HOSPITAL FROM ITS BEGINNINGS IN 1905 TO TODAY HAS TRANSLATED

THOSE WORDS INTO COMMUNITY OUTREACH. FOR INSTANCE, THE

SPONSORSHIP BY THE HOSPITAL OF A VIETNAMESE FAMILY OF SEVEN AND

THE EMPLOYMENT OF TWO REFUGEES POINT UP THAT THIS FACILITY IS MORE

THAN JUST A FINE PLACE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE. IT IS ALSO A

CENTER WHICH CARES.

7. I AM PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEDICATION,
BECAUSE OF ST. EDWARD'S PROUD PAST AND ITS BRIGHT FUTURE.

END OF TEXT