

The original documents are located in Box 20, “11/13/75 - Video Taped Salute to Frank Capra” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

VIDEO TAPED SALUTE TO FRANK CAPRA

NOVEMBER 13, 1975

(TO BE SHOWN NOVEMBER 22)

FRANK, I AM DELIGHTED TO TAKE PART IN THIS WELL

DESERVED TRIBUTE TO YOU. I WISH I COULD BE THERE IN PERSON

To You

TO PASS ON MY BEST WISHES TO YOU, YOUR WIFE AND YOUR

FAMILY.

DURING YOUR HALF CENTURY OF FILM-MAKING, FRANK,
YOU HAVE COMMUNICATED TO COUNTLESS MILLIONS OF YOUR FELLOW
CITIZENS YOUR RICH LOVE OF MANKIND AND YOUR ABIDING FAITH
IN AMERICA.

IN AMERICA'S FIRST CENTURY, OUR YOUNG NATION
FORGED POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE.
UNITY GREW FROM DIVERSITY. YOU CAPTURED THE ESSENCE
OF WHAT THESE UNIQUE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MEANT TO
AMERICAN LIFE IN SUCH GREAT FILMS AS "MR. SMITH GOES
TO WASHINGTON."

OUR SECOND CENTURY TRANSFORMED AMERICA INTO
THE MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION THAT EVER EXISTED. AS YOUR
"MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN" DEPICTED SO VIVIDLY, AMERICA
PROGRESSED RAPIDLY THROUGH THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL
AND THE INCENTIVES OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

NOW, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF OUR THIRD CENTURY.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, I ENVISION THIS NEW CENTURY AS ONE OF
FULFILLMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE EXPANSION OF INDIVIDUAL
FREEDOM AND LIBERTY. I SEE A CENTURY DEVOTED TO THE QUALITY
OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE -- JUST AS YOU
PORTRAYED SO WELL IN "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE."

FOR SUCH MEMORABLE FILMS AS THESE AS WELL AS FOR
OTHERS LIKE THE "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES WHICH YOU PRODUCED
VOLUNTARILY TO FURTHER AMERICA'S CAUSE IN WORLD WAR TWO,
YOU WILL RECEIVE TONIGHT THE 1975 GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD FROM
THE NAVAL RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMUNITY.

IT IS A HIGHLY DESERVED HONOR. I CONGRATULATE

YOU -- AND I THANK YOU FOR HAVING CONTRIBUTED SO VERY,

VERY MUCH TO THE ENRICHMENT OF LIFE IN AMERICA.

END OF TEXT