

**The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/13/76 - Remarks at Guilford Courthouse Battlefield, North Carolina” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

## Acknowledgements

- Thank you, Jim - Gov. Holshouser introduces you)
- ~~Senator Morgan~~
- Congressman Martin ?
- Congressman Preyer
- Director Everhardt
- Mr. Froelich
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Rev. Cherry  
May 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

REMARKS AT GUILFORD COURTHOUSE BATTLEGROUND,

MARCH 13, 1976

-|-

I AM HONORED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ANNIVERSARY  
OF A MEMORABLE BATTLE THAT TYPIFIED THE DEEDS THAT WE  
SO PROUDLY CELEBRATE IN OUR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL.

IT WAS HERE ON THIS BATTLEFIELD THAT  
NORTH CAROLINA'S FAMOUS TAR HEEL SPIRIT INSPIRED  
THE MEN OF MANY STATES TO STAND TOGETHER AGAINST  
THE COMMON FOE.

THE ENEMY CAME ON, WITH DRUMS BEATING  
AND FEATHERS IN THEIR CAPS.

BUT THE TAR HEELS PROVIDED THE TAR.  
THE FEATHERS FLEW / BUT THE TAR STUCK.

OUR FARMERS AND FRONTIERSMEN DEALT EUROPE'S  
BEST PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS A BLOW THAT LED TO THEIR  
ULTIMATE SURRENDER•

THE NORTH CAROLINIANS, POSTED ON THE FRONT LINE,  
MADE THE DIFFERENCE•

TODAY, TAR HEEL TENACITY REMAINS A MODEL  
FOR AMERICA'S TENACITY•

TAR HEEL PRIDE IS AMERICA'S PRIDE•

AND TAR HEEL COMMON SENSE AND MODERATION

SYMBOLIZES THE NEW REALISM OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA.

WHEN I LEAVE HERE TODAY, I HOPE THAT SOME OF

YOUR MAGIC TAR STICKS TO MY HEELS.

I CONGRATULATE YOU, NOT ONLY ON YOUR STATE'S

COURAGE, BUT FOR YOUR MODERN NORTH CAROLINA

LIFESTYLE. YOU COMBINE THE BEST OF THE PRESENT

WITH THE FINEST VALUES OF THE PAST.

AND YOU DO THIS WITH GENUINE HUMILITY.

I LIKE THE NORTH CAROLINA APPROACH.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE FOUNDING FATHERS  
FAVORED WHAT THEY CALLED "MILD GOVERNMENT."

THEY BELIEVED THAT YOU CAN ONLY ACHIEVE "MILD  
GOVERNMENT" IF YOU MAINTAIN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SO RESPONSIVE THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS LIMITED  
IN SCOPE. THEY BELIEVED IN THE ABILITY OF  
INDIVIDUALS TO GOVERN THEMSELVES.

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, NORTH CAROLINA,  
AND OTHER STATES, ARE STRIVING TO RESTORE THE NECESSARY  
AND EFFECTIVE BALANCE BETWEEN THE STATES AND THE MASSIVE,  
CENTRALIZED POWER OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

YOU KNOW ALL TOO WELL HOW STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY  
HAS ERODED / AS THE FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT HAS GROWN AND  
GROWN.

WHEN YOUR STATE CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED, YOU  
TOOK GREAT CARE TO PRESERVE THE BASIC OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.



BUT POWER HAS BEEN DRAWN AWAY FROM YOUR STATE,  
YOUR COUNTY, YOUR CITY, YOUR TOWN, YOUR FARM TO AN  
INCREASINGLY CENTRALIZED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ALWAYS  
BIGGER, ALWAYS MORE MEDDLESOME BUT NOT ALWAYS MORE  
EFFICIENT NOR MORE RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS.

THIS PROCESS UNDERMINES INDIVIDUAL RESOURCEFULNESS  
AND PRIDE. IT THREATENS OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.  
IT DIMS OUR VISION OF A FUTURE IN WHICH YOU CAN CONTROL  
YOUR OWN LIFE.

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NEVER TRANSFER SERIOUS  
PROBLEMS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STATE GOVERNMENTS  
WITHOUT REGARD FOR HUMAN NEEDS OR FISCAL REALITIES.  
I WILL PRESERVE A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH  
NORTH CAROLINA.

BUT I AM ALSO DETERMINED TO COOPERATE WITH  
NORTH CAROLINA TO MOVE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS  
BACK TO THE PEOPLE.

IF THE BICENTENNIAL IS TO HAVE REAL MEANING,  
WE MUST RESTORE TO YOU, ON A STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL,  
A REAL VOICE IN YOUR OWN DESTINY.

SHOULD THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR ACCOMPLISH NOTHING  
ELSE, THIS ALONE WOULD BE A FITTING TRIUMPH.

WHAT WAS THE BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE ALL  
ABOUT? AMERICANS DARED TO CHALLENGE THE OPPRESSION  
OF A DISTANT AND UNRESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT THAT TRIED  
TO GOVERN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED AND TO  
IMPOSE TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

OUR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS REALLY A FIGHT  
TO ASSERT THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLE OF LOCAL CONTROL  
OVER THE FATE OF LOCAL PEOPLE.

THE SOLDIERS WHO STOOD HERE UNDER GENERAL  
NATHANAEL GREENE DID NOT DRIBBLE AWAY THEIR RESOURCES  
IN FOOLISH EXPERIMENTS. THEY MADE WISE USE OF THEIR  
TERRAIN. THEY MADE EVERY SHOT COUNT.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A RESURGENCE OF THE COMMON  
SENSE THAT MADE MEN BECOME HEROES ON THIS BATTLEFIELD.

TO KEEP THE FAITH WITH THE AMERICANS WHO DIED HERE,  
WE MUST STRIVE FOR THE RESPONSIBLE SELF-GOVERNMENT  
THEY SOUGHT.

A SELF-GOVERNING REPUBLIC REQUIRES RESPONSIBLE  
CITIZENS. THEY MUST HAVE THE TRADITIONAL VIRTUES  
OF SELF-DISCIPLINE, SELF-RELIANCE, AND A PATRIOTIC  
CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

THESE QUALITIES MUST BE NURTURED AND REWARDED.

THEY MUST NOT BE PENALIZED AND EXPLOITED.

I BELIEVE IN AMERICA AND IN THE CAPACITIES OF ALL

AMERICANS. NORTH CAROLINA PROVIDES US WITH A

SHOWCASE OF PROGRESS.

YOU HAVE MADE GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS IN INDUSTRY,

IN AGRICULTURE, IN EDUCATION, IN HARMONIOUS RURAL

AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND IN HELPING ALL CITIZENS

ACHIEVE THEIR HIGHEST HUMAN POTENTIAL.

SOUTHERNERS, INCLUDING TAR HEELS, MUST BE  
DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.

YOU KNOW IT AND I KNOW IT. A LOT OF OTHERS  
MUST KNOW IT, TOO, AS WE WATCH THE TREND OF PEOPLE  
MOVING TOWARD THE SOUTH RATHER THAN AWAY FROM IT.  
YOUR REGION IS GROWING MORE RAPIDLY THAN ANY OTHER  
PART OF AMERICA.

IN NORTH CAROLINA, THE RATE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HAS INCREASED FASTER THAN IN MOST OF OUR STATES. THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN STUDENTS ATTENDING YOUR EXCELLENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

TWO GENERATIONS OF THE FORD FAMILY HAVE COME HERE TO STUDY. I ATTENDED NAVAL FLIGHT SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR NINE MONTHS DURING WORLD WAR TWO AND MY OLDEST SON ATTENDED WAKE FOREST.

*Law School  
Carr Dormitory*



WE SHARE WITH YOU AN AFFINITY FOR THE ENLIGHTENED  
SPIRIT OF YOUR STATE.

THE PATRIOTISM, THE DEDICATION, AND THE WILLPOWER  
OF THE THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES STILL BURN BRIGHTLY  
THROUGHOUT THE OLD NORTH STATE.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, SOME INDIVIDUALS SAID  
THAT IT WAS UNWISE TO MAKE A STAND HERE AGAINST THE ENEMY.  
THEY SAID THAT WE LACKED ADEQUATE EXPERIENCE, THAT WE  
WERE SHORT OF WEAPONS, AND THAT WE WOULD BE WIPED OUT.

BUT THERE WERE MANY MORE WHO SAID "WE ARE NORTH  
CAROLINIANS. WE ARE AMERICANS. WE CAN DO IT."

THEY DID IT. AND WE CAN DO IT.

OUR CHALLENGE -- YOURS AND MINE --  
IS TO FOSTER NEW COURAGE AND NEW REALISM AT HOME,  
NEW MODERATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNMENT  
TO THE GOVERNED, AND NEW AMERICAN STRENGTH THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD.

TOGETHER WE WELCOME AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY.

TOGETHER, WE OFFER OUR OPTIMISM TO ALL OUR FELLOW

COUNTRYMEN. TOGETHER, WE WILL BUILD A BETTER AMERICA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT