

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/5/76 - Remarks at the Birthday Celebration Honoring Catherine Fileen Shouse at the Wolf Trap” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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....

TALKING POINTS FOR USE AT WOLF TRAP, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1976

I'm happy to be here tonight to help celebrate so many wonderful events.

This evening we gather to honor Mrs. Catherine Shouse on her achievements and on her eightieth birthday. I wish you many happy returns not only because of your warmth, grace and dedication, but because of your contributions to beautifying this area.

We are all appreciative of the one hundred acres you donated to make this park possible. I remember when in 1966 the Congress accepted that gift and entered into a partnership with you to make this the only National Park for the Performing Arts in the United States.

Your donation of funds for the Filene (Fill-een) Center made possible one of the most beautiful stages in the world. Tonight, your friends from around the world will join you at the Center to perform especially for you.

Your conception for an open center for the performing arts here on the Virginia side of the Potomac is a more eloquent tribute to you than any words could provide.

But let us not forget that Mrs. Shouse's contributions to culture in America do not end here. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Kennedy Center since its inception.

Honorary
She is/Vice President of the National Symphony Society.

Clearly, Mrs. Shouse is one of the doers in this society. And she has been all her life. As early as 1916 she was trying to get women involved in civic affairs.

She has worked with many presidents on issues ranging from prison reform to cultural exchange. And so we meet tonight to pay tribute to this remarkable lady.

Tonight is also opening night. And like all opening nights, there is excitement and expectation.

If this season at Wolf Trap is as wonderful as others, we have much to celebrate.

As in other seasons, Wolf Trap will provide jazz, folk music, symphonies, ballets and operas.

Many Americans appreciate what is presented here in this very pleasant setting. I know my wife, Betty, herself very interested in the arts, would not forgive me if I did not mention her special concern and appreciation for this park.

Here artist and audience become one in the special relationship of an artistic event. That is why this benefit is so important.

A country without a culture, is like a man without a memory. In America our culture is strong, thanks to the efforts of people like Mrs. Shouse and thanks to places like Wolf Trap Park.

#