

**The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/4/76 - Remarks During Bell-Ringing Ceremony Aboard USS Forrestal in New York Harbor During Operation Sail” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Nell,  
Outbox left on the  
helo from July 4th.

Charlie Munn

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...7

REMARKS AT U.S.S. FORRESTAL BELL-RINGING CEREMONY  
NEW YORK HARBOR, JULY 4th, 1976

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO JOIN MY FELLOW AMERICANS  
AND THE CITIZENS OF THE WORLD IN THIS CELEBRATION OF  
AMERICA'S 200TH BIRTHDAY.

NO TRIBUTE COULD BE MORE SPECTACULAR THAN THE GRAND  
INTERNATIONAL ARMADA WHICH FILLS THIS GREAT HARBOR TODAY.

THE MAGNIFICANT ARRAY OF TALL SHIPS AND NAVAL VESSELS,  
THE PROUD EMISSARIES OF 30 OTHER NATIONS, FORM AN ESCORT  
OF SPECIAL GRACE AND BEAUTY AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
ENTERS ITS THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.

AS WE VIEW THIS DRAMATIC SCENE, WE ARE REMINDED THAT

AMERICA IS A PROUD FAMILY OF MANY PEOPLES FROM MANY LANDS.

WE ARE REMINDED, AS WELL, HOW THE SEA AND SHIPS

HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE LIFE OF OUR COUNTRY.

OUR DISCOVERERS AND EXPLORERS WERE SEA-VOYAGERS

FROM MANY NATIONS.

OUR EARLIEST COLONISTS SEEKING A NEW LIFE IN A NEW LAND

FIRST HAD TO TEST THEIR STRENGTH AND SPIRIT AGAINST THE ATLANTIC•

THE U.S. NAVY AND THE NAVIES OF OUR ALLIES PLAYED

A LEADING PART IN WINNING AND DEFENDING THE FREEDOM WE

CELEBRATE TODAY•



THAT TRADITION OF STRENGTH AND COURAGE SPANS TWO  
CENTURIES, FROM THE TIME OF JOHN PAUL JONES TO THE BATTLES  
OF MIDWAY AND LEYTE GULF.

SINCE WE BECAME A NATION, THE SEA HAS ALSO BEEN  
A PASSAGEWAY FOR MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL  
OVER THE WORLD WHO HAVE COME TO AMERICA, TO SHARE ITS  
BOUNTY AND ITS OPPORTUNITY, AND TO ENRICH OUR FUTURE IN  
RETURN.

IN THIS HARBOR STANDS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, HERSELF

AN IMMIGRANT FROM FRANCE, LIFTING HER TORCH TO THOSE WHO COME

TO JOIN THE AMERICAN ADVENTURE.

BUT THIS WE DO KNOW: AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS MOVED AHEAD  
WITH CONFIDENCE, AS WE DO NOW, WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE  
PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE AND GUIDED BY THE FIXED STAR  
OF FREEDOM.

~~AND~~ SO, LET US JOURNEY TOGETHER INTO THE

SEA OF TOMORROWS.

FOR AMERICA, THE FUTURE IS A FRIEND.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT