

**The original documents are located in Box 42, “12/10/76 - Recorded Remarks for the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce Meeting Honoring Congressman F. Edward Hebert” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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57

FILMED MESSAGE FOR NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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MEETING HONORING CONGRESSMAN HEBERT

FOR FILMING DECEMBER 10, 1976

I AM PROUD TO JOIN THE NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
AMBASSADOR ARMSTRONG, AND YOUR OTHER DISTINGUISHED  
GUESTS IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN,  
CONGRESSMAN EDDIE HEBERT.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE JOINED OTHERS  
IN HONORING EDDIE HEBERT. THE FACT IS, HE HAS BEEN  
HONORED MANY TIMES, AND FOR A VERY GOOD REASON -- HE HAS  
EARNED THE WARMEST THANKS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

BACK IN 1940, WHEN HE FIRST RAN FOR THE CONGRESS,  
EDDIE SAID HE WOULD SERVE ONLY ONE TERM.

NOW THAT HE IS RETIRING AFTER 18 CONSECUTIVE TERMS --

36 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE -- WE CAN ONLY BE

GRATEFUL THAT HE DIDN'T FULFILL THAT PARTICULAR CAMPAIGN

PROMISE.

THE CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE COUNTLESS

WAYS IN WHICH HE HAS HELPED MAKE THEIR STATE AN EVEN BETTER

PLACE TO LIVE.

ALL AMERICANS ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIS STAUNCH

AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF. IN PARTICULAR,

EDDIE HEBERT HAS STOOD FOR TWO CRUCIAL THINGS -- FISCAL

RESPONSIBILITY AND A STRONG DEFENSE. HE HAS PLAYED

A KEY ROLE IN MAKING AMERICA THE STRONG AND SECURE NATION

WE ARE TODAY.

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE CONGRESS IN 1949, EDDIE,  
YOU HAD ALREADY SERVED THERE FOR ALMOST A DECADE. IN THE  
YEARS THAT FOLLOWED WE DEVELOPED A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP  
OF WHICH I AM VERY PROUD. ALTHOUGH WE WORKED ON  
DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE AISLE, AND WE HAD SOME DISPUTES NOW  
AND THEN, YOU ALWAYS INSPIRED ADMIRATION AND RESPECT.  
I KNOW OUR WARM FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE FOR MANY YEARS  
TO COME.

SO, EDDIE -- AS PRESIDENT, AS A FORMER COLLEAGUE,  
AND AS A FRIEND -- LET ME SAY THIS: YOU HAVE DONE A GREAT  
JOB FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS AND FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I KNOW YOU WILL KEEP RIGHT ON WORKING FOR THEM WITH THE  
HIGHEST HONOR AND DISTINCTION●

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU●

END OF TEXT