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Juliette C. "Judy" McLennan Papers, 1976

Collection Type

Personal Papers

Extent

0.4 linear feet (ca. 800 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open.

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Revised by Anne-Louise Mittal, February 2010

Biography

Juliette Clagett “Judy” McLennan

January 7, 1946 - Born, Maryland

1975-76 - Campaign volunteer: Assistant Delegate Coordinator; Director of Volunteers for the Washington campaign office, President Ford Committee (PFC)

Fall 1976 - Director, National Volunteer Desk of People for Ford, PFC

1979-80 - National Volunteer Coordinator, George H.W. Bush for President campaign

1981-83 - Managing Director, Blair House

1987-88 - National Steering Committee Coordinator, George H.W. Bush for President campaign

1989-92 - U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

2000 - Deputy to the Volunteer Director, National Republican Convention

Scope and Content Note

As a young activist in the Republican Party, Juliette C. “Judy” McLennan served in several campaign volunteer positions before becoming the director of the National Volunteer Desk of People for Ford (PFF) during the 1976 general election campaign.

PFF was the volunteer unit of the President Ford Committee (PFC), President Ford’s 1976 election campaign committee. Developed in the wake of the party’s national convention, the National Volunteer Desk worked to connect volunteers with their state campaign headquarters. It did this primarily by responding to expressions of support and volunteer interest that had been forwarded from the White House, and by re-directing contact information compiled from this correspondence to the appropriate state campaign headquarters.

From her earlier position as director of volunteers in the Washington campaign office, McLennan had some experience coordinating volunteer programs prior to assuming leadership of the National Volunteer Desk. As director of this program, McLennan was responsible for reporting on the program’s efforts and outcomes following the election. The McLennan Papers, which date from November 1976, reflect this responsibility. Scattered communications within these files between McLennan and Elly Peterson, director of PFF, are also indicative of the program’s position within the broader context of the volunteer arm of the PFC.

McLennan’s reporting on the National Volunteer Desk highlights the program’s process for responding to letters from supporters and volunteers forwarded from the White House, as well as those received directly by the National Volunteer Desk itself. This involved compiling master lists of volunteer contact information and routing this information to the appropriate state campaign headquarters. The program also followed up directly with volunteers through a VIP phone bank run out of the National Headquarters and staffed by Cabinet and Administration wives and their friends. McLennan’s assessment of the National Volunteer Desk highlights the program’s goals and priorities: first, providing volunteers to staff Republican National Committee phone banks throughout the country, and second, encouraging volunteers to establish “Neighborhood Headquarters” at the local level.

The McLennan Papers provide some insight into the interaction between national and state level efforts to mobilize volunteers in the 1976 general election

campaign. Additionally, the collection offers an indication of the extent of volunteer interest and willingness to participate in the Ford campaign that the National Volunteer Desk encountered through its efforts.

Related Materials (February 2010)

Additional files accumulated by Juliette C. McLennan are in the People for Ford: National Volunteer Desk Files (Boxes F40-F52) of the President Ford Committee Records. Information concerning other aspects of the 1976 general election campaign is located throughout many White House staff files and various categories of the White House Central Files Subject Files. Researchers are encouraged to request a PRESNET search for additional citations.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-10

Box 1

***President Ford Committee National Volunteer Desk Subject File, 1976.
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Reports, memoranda, and lists assembled by McLennan in her summative report on the activities of the National Volunteer Desk of People for Ford following the 1976 general election. The file documents the program's recruitment of volunteers to staff Republican National Committee phone banks and establish local campaign headquarters. Also included is a partial set of lists of supporters by state, with information available only for North Carolina through Texas.

Box 1 President Ford Committee National Volunteer Desk Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Lists of Supporters – North Carolina to Texas (1)-(6)
OPEN	Report on the National Volunteer Desk – People for Ford, November 16, 1976 (1)-(8)