

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Presentation of Stone Plate, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 26, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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**MRS. FORD'S REMARKS
PRESENTATION OF "STONE" PLATE
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 26, 1976**

IT'S REALLY A TREAT FOR ME

I.

TO BE HERE TODAY,

BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED

IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

AND THE 56 SIGNERS-----

WHO PLEDGED "THEIR LIVES, THEIR FORTUNES

AND THEIR SACRED HONOR."

SEVERAL YEARS AGO

THIS INTEREST PROMPTED

MY COLLECTING A PROOF SET OF COINS

OF ALL THE SIGNERS. of The Declaration of Independence

JUST LAST MONTH,

I RECEIVED THE LAST ^{memorial} COIN.
^

IT'S REALLY BEEN FASCINATING,

3.

BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH MORE,

ABOUT THESE BRAVE MEN.

I REALLY ADMIRE THOSE PHILADELPHIANS

WHO WANTED TO HAVE THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

BACK HERE FOR THE BICENTENNIAL

BECAUSE I SHARE YOUR PRIDE

IN PHILADELPHIA'S IMPORTANT ROLE

IN THE MAKING OF OUR REVOLUTION.

ALTHOUGH THE ORIGINAL IS ^{TOO} TOO FRAGILE TO MOVE

I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE FOR THESE CEREMONIES

BRINGING TWO SPECIAL COPIES

BACK TO THE DECLARATION'S HOME TOWN.

AS I VISITED THIS EXCELLENT RESTORATION
OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S HOME AND SHOP,
I WAS THINKING WHAT MARVELOUS STORIES
FRANKLIN COULD TELL ABOUT THOSE SIGNERS----
WHO CAME TO PHILADELPHIA AS COLONIALS —
AND LEFT AS AMERICANS.

I IMAGINE FRANKLIN AND ALL THE SIGNERS

WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS CEREMONY.

AS A PRINTER, FRANKLIN WOULD BE FASCINATED

WITH THE COPPER PLATE,

STRUCK FROM THE ORIGINAL DECLARATION IN 1823,

AND WITH THE COPY

MADE FROM THAT PLATE EARLIER THIS MONTH

ESPECIALLY FOR PHILADELPHIA.

BUT AS A WRITER AND PHILOSOPHER,

8.

FRANKLIN AND THE OTHER SIGNERS

WOULD MOST LIKE TO KNOW

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE IDEAS

OF THE DECLARATION.

WE COULD TELL THEM:

still

•THE DECLARATION [^]LIVES on

IN THE HEARTS OF FREE MEN EVERYWHERE

AND AMERICA DERIVES ITS JUST POWERS

FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED----

JUST AS THEY ENVISIONED

SO LONG AGO IN PHILADELPHIA.●

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