

**The original documents are located in Box 11, folder “12/16/76 - Candlelighters” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 12-1-76

TO: SUSAN PORTER

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle 1

For Your Information           

Per Our Conversation ✓

Other:

*I HOPE SOMETHING  
CAN BE DONE FOR THEM  
THIS YEAR. APPRECIATE  
YOUR HELP.*





THE CANDLELIGHTERS

parents dedicated to the conquest of cancer

*therapy  
now 30 chapters  
lobby*

CONTACT:

BOB BECKER

O: 273-7900, X236

H: 437-4748

1507 Laburnum Street  
McLean, Virginia 22101  
November 24, 1975

*Fran*

*GF/BF  
prior A  
Nat'l Xmas  
tree 12/16/76*

*- scroll in  
appreciation*

*- lit candle*

*- 50-55 people*

Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (House)  
Executive Office of the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Charley:

*Chicago.*  
For the past few years the Candlelighters organization, composed of parents whose children have cancer, has made an annual visit to the White House around Christmas time to present to the President or his representative a symbolic candle which signifies the determination of the Candlelighters and all others to continue fighting until the dread disease is wiped out. The courtesies extended by the White House and its staff have been outstanding every year and in the past years we have worked with John Nidecker.

I am writing to you at this time to see if arrangements can be made to set up a time and a place for our annual visit to the White House. Briefly, as I have stated, the Candlelighters were organized in the Washington Metropolitan area approximately six years ago by concerned parents whose children have cancer for the two-fold purpose of highlighting the fight against this dread disease and for the secondary purpose of exchanging ideas of mutual interest to the group. Since this time Candlelighters chapters "unfortunately" have sprung up in many sections of the country and are in constant touch with each other exchanging ideas and proposals.

We have normally come through one of the gates of Pennsylvania Avenue bringing with us the parents, children and relatives, and march in a candle-light procession to the front of the White House where the symbolic candle has been presented. On several occasions the parents and children have been fortunate to visit the interior of the White House.

Any assistance you can provide to me in making these arrangements will be deeply appreciated by all of us in Candlelighters.

With kindest personal regards for a happy Thanksgiving, I am

Sincerely,

*Dick*

Richard J. Sullivan



ask

Charlie Lippert

about this year, 1976

before  
Dec. 9th  
Fri,  
DEC. 10

Context  
Mr. Richard  
Sullivan  
Staff for  
H.E. Furler  
Archie  
Comm.

225-  
492-  
#556-  
4078

- 50 people
- mostly children
- walk up drive
- present plaque
- see decer.

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE CALL —→

PHONE NO.  
CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Nita Brown - 2140  
schedule by proposal  
re: Candlelighters



RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

*lines  
in*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 12/3/75

TO: Susan Porter

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle \_\_\_\_\_

For Your Information \_\_\_\_\_

Per Our Conversation \_\_\_\_\_

Other:

Since Mrs. Ford did this last year,  
we are wondering if she would want  
to accept the candle and meet the  
people this year again.



GREET \_\_\_\_\_  
REGRET \_\_\_\_\_  
THIS YEAR, ✓  
1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE: December 2, 1975  
FROM: Charles Leppert, Jr.  
THRU: Max L. Friedersdorf  
Vern Loen VL  
VIA: Bill Nicholson

MEETING: The Candlelighters

DATE: December 17, 1975 - 6:30 p.m. *Regretted  
Mita Brown,  
x2140.  
sp*

PURPOSE: To present to the President a symbolic candle  
of The Candlelighters crusade against cancer.

FORMAT: The Oval Office (5 minutes)  
The President  
Mrs. Beverly McGaughy and group of 60  
(Mrs. McGaughy is President of The  
Candlelighters)  
(List of participants will be submitted later)

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH MATERIAL: None

PRESS COVERAGE: White House photographer. Announce to Press.

STAFF: Charles Leppert, Jr. *20.302*

RECOMMEND: Max L. Friedersdorf

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: This is a yearly event. Mrs. Ford saw the  
group last year and accepted "The Candle-  
lighters" symbolic candle.

BACKGROUND: 1. The Candlelighters are parents of young children who  
have cancer.

2. The Candlelighters primary goals are to obtain con-  
sistent and adequate federal support for cancer research  
and to help parents and other family members who share  
their experience.



3. The Candlelighters have made an annual visit to the White House at Christmastime to present to the President a symbolic candle which signifies the determination of the Candlelighters and others to continue the fight against cancer.
4. In previous years, the group has come to one of the gates on Pennsylvania Avenue, bringing the parents, children and relatives, marching in a candlelight procession to the front of the White House where the symbolic candle has been presented. It is hoped, as in the past, that the group can then tour the White House.

APPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 12-1-76

TO: SUSAN PORTER

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle 1

For Your Information

Per Our Conversation ✓

Other: *I HOPE SOMETHING  
CAN BE DONE FOR THEM  
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YOUR HELP.*





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*therapy  
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1507 Laburnum Street  
McLean, Virginia 22101  
November 24, 1975

*Sally*  
GF/BF  
prior  
with Xmas  
tree  
12/16/74

*- scroll in  
appreciation  
- lit candle*

*- 50-55 people*

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Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (House)  
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The White House  
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Dear Charley:

For the past few years the Candlelighters organization, composed of parents whose children have cancer, has made an annual visit to the White House around Christmas time to present to the President or his representative a symbolic candle which signifies the determination of the Candlelighters and all others to continue fighting until the dread disease is wiped out. The courtesies extended by the White House and its staff have been outstanding every year and in the past years we have worked with John Nidecker.

I am writing to you at this time to see if arrangements can be made to set up a time and a place for our annual visit to the White House. Briefly, as I have stated, the Candlelighters were organized in the Washington Metropolitan area approximately six years ago by concerned parents whose children have cancer for the two-fold purpose of highlighting the fight against this dread disease and for the secondary purpose of exchanging ideas of mutual interest to the group. Since this time Candlelighters chapters "unfortunately" have sprung up in many sections of the country and are in constant touch with each other exchanging ideas and proposals.

We have normally come through one of the gates of Pennsylvania Avenue bringing with us the parents, children and relatives, and march in a candle-light procession to the front of the White House where the symbolic candle has been presented. On several occasions the parents and children have been fortunate to visit the interior of the White House.

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Sincerely,

*Dick*

Richard J. Sullivan,



ask

Charlie Lippert.

about this year, 1976

Context  
Mr. Richard  
Sullivan  
Staff of  
Hq. Public  
Affairs  
Comm.

125-  
4472

536-  
4078

- 50 people
- mostly children
- walk up drive
- present plaque
- see decer.

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL —→

PHONE NO.  
CODE/EXT.

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Nita Brown - 2140  
Schedule by proposal  
re: Candu lighters

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

*Letter  
in*

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WASHINGTON

Date 12/3/75

TO: Susan Porter

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle \_\_\_\_\_

For Your Information \_\_\_\_\_

Per Our Conversation \_\_\_\_\_

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WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

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THRU: Max L. Friedersdorf  
Vern Loen VL  
VIA: Bill Nicholson

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DATE: December 17, 1975 - 6:30 p.m. *Regretted  
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The President  
Mrs. Beverly McGaughy and group of 60  
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Candlelighters)  
(List of participants will be submitted later)

CABINET PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH MATERIAL: None

PRESS COVERAGE: White House photographer. Announce to Press.

STAFF: Charles Leppert, Jr. *20.302*

RECOMMEND: Max L. Friedersdorf

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: This is a yearly event. Mrs. Ford saw the  
group last year and accepted "The Candle-  
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APPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_



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WASHINGTON

Date

12-1-76

TO:

SUSAN PORTER

FROM: CHARLES LEPPERT

Please Handle

For Your Information

Per Our Conversation

✓

Other:

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CAN BE DONE FOR THEM  
THIS YEAR. APPRECIATE  
YOUR HELP.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY



THE CANDLELIGHTERS

parents dedicated to the conquest of cancer

*therapy  
now 30 chapters  
lobby*

CONTACT:

BOB BECKER

O: 273-7900, X236

H: 437-4748

1507 Laburnum Street  
McLean, Virginia 22101  
November 24, 1975

SHEILA DEC 16  
GE  
BF PHOTO  
THURS,  
DEC. 16  
5:10  
ROSEGAARD

*- scroll in  
appreciation  
- lit candle  
- 50-55 people*

Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (House)  
Executive Office of the President  
The White House  
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Richard J. Sullivan

ask

Charlie Support.

about this year, 1976

Before  
Dec. 9th  
Fri,  
Dec. 10

0225-  
4472-  
536-  
4078

Contact  
Mr. Richard  
Sullivan  
Staff Dir.  
of  
HSE. Public  
Affairs  
Comm.

- 50 people
- mostly children
- walk up drive
- present plaque
- see deer

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

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MESSAGE

Nita Brown - 2140  
schedule by proposal  
re: Candlelighters



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SPEECH MATERIAL: None

PRESS COVERAGE: White House photographer. Announce to Press.

STAFF: Charles Leppert, Jr. *20.302*

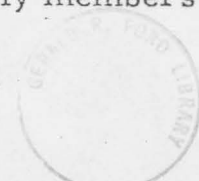
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APPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

