

The original documents are located in Box 11, folder “10/14/76 - Martha Graham Medal of Freedom Presentation (2)” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

allow-
of that,
erpico"

who've
er at the

on sub-
the 75-
Houston,
TA-26 at

s, will be
was sup-
can take
in the top



Martha Graham: Still Splendid at 82

By Anne Marie Welsh
Special to The Washington Star

Betty Ford laughed only once last night while her husband presented modern dance pioneer Martha Graham with the Medal of Freedom during a White House dinner.

Solemnly extolling Graham as a "brilliant star and a national treasure"

faith, a nation can disappear from the memory of man."

But Graham, a commanding presence as she stood by the East Room stage where she had performed "Frontier" for President Roosevelt, moved through a seamless verbal dance from philosophy to wit to the mystical and back again.

Introducing one of her company solo-

-2-
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD PRESENTED THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO DANCER MARTHA GRAHAM THURSDAY AND SAID HE WILL SEEK A \$50 MILLION THREE-YEAR GRANT FOR THE CULTURAL CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

FORD SAID THE PROGRAM WOULD "RAISE THE LEVEL AND BROADEN THE BASE OF ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS FROM NON-FEDERAL SOURCES." THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD TO THE 82-YEAR-OLD DANCER WAS INSPIRED BY BETTY FORD, WHO ONCE WAS A MEMBER OF THE MARTHA GRAHAM TROUPE. FORD SAID HE WOULD REQUEST \$12 MILLION FOR THE PROGRAM IN FISCAL 1977; \$13 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1978 AND \$20 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1979.

-2-
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD HAS DECLARED A STATE OF MAJOR

N030

R

FORD-MARTHA GRAHAM
BY FRANCES LEWINE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- IT WAS MARTHA GRAHAM NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS THE 82-YEAR OLD MOTHER OF MODERN DANCE RECEIVED THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR, THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM FROM PRESIDENT FORD.

SALUTING HER AS "A SUPERSTAR" OF THE DANCE WORLD, FORD GAVE MISS GRAHAM THE BLUE AND WHITE SASH THAT GOES WITH THE MEDAL AND BESTOWED TWO KISSES ON THE FAMOUS DANCER AS WELL.

CALLING IT "AN OVERWHELMING NIGHT," MISS GRAHAM RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION IN THE STATE DINING ROOM FROM MORE THAN 100 GUESTS, INCLUDING ARTISTS, PERFORMERS AND PATRONS OF THE ARTS.

FORD, WHO HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE EARLIER THURSDAY EVENING, HONORED A WOMAN WHO ONCE TAUGHT HIS WIFE, BETTY, TO DANCE.

THE PRESIDENT MADE THE OCCASION A DUAL SALUTE FOR THE ARTS BY ANNOUNCING HE WOULD SEEK \$50 MILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, FOR THE CULTURAL CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM THAT CONGRESS AUTHORIZED TO BOOST FUNDS FOR THE ARTS. IT PROVIDES \$1 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR EVERY \$3 ART GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS CAN RAISE FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.

MISS GRAHAM STARRED BOTH IN RECEIVING THE MEDAL AND DURING AN AFTER-DINNER PERFORMANCE IN WHICH SHE INTRODUCED AND NARRATED WHILE THE PRINCIPAL DANCER OF HER COMPANY, JANET EILBER, PERFORMED TWO SOLOS.

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO SPEAK WHEN I'D MUCH RATHER DANCE," MISS GRAHAM REMARKED WISTFULLY. AND SHE NOTED "THERE'S NO USE SAYING AGE IS LOVELY. IT ISN'T. IT'S A BORE."

10-15-76 10:31EDT

UP-137

(MARTHA GRAHAM)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD HAS SELECTED MODERN DANCE PIONEER MARTHA GRAHAM TO RECEIVE THE FOURTH MEDAL OF FREEDOM HE HAS AWARDED.

IT WAS NO WHITE HOUSE SECRET THAT MISS GRAHAM'S SELECTION STEMMED IN PART FROM URGING BY MRS. FORD, WHO DANCED WITH HER COMPANY BEFORE HER MARRIAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. FORD WILL MAKE THE PRESENTATION TONIGHT AT A FORMAL WHITE HOUSE BANQUET HONORING THE 82-YEAR-OLD LEADER OF THE NATION'S OLDEST MAJOR DANCE COMPANY.

THE OTHER THREE PERSONS FORD PRESENTED THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD WERE DIPLOMAT DAVID BRUCE, PIANIST ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN AND OLYMPIC TRACK STAR JESSE OWENS.

MISS GRAHAM, BORN IN PITTSBURGH MAY 11, 1894, CONCEIVED AND PERFORMED HALF A CENTURY AGO THE CONTEMPORARY DANCES THAT SINCE HAVE GAINED THE ACCEPTANCE OF OLDER CLASSICAL FORMS OF THE DANCE.

UPI 10-14 36:25 PED



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

President Ford will present the Medal of Freedom to modern dance pioneer Martha Graham October 14. The Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award the President can bestow. The presentation follow an 7:30 p.m. black tie dinner hosted by the President and Mrs. Ford in Miss Graham's honor.

After the presentation, Janet Eilber, principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, will perform two solos, "Lamentation" and "Frontier." Both were choreographed by Miss Graham.

Mrs. Ford has chosen the first performing arts theme to be used in the decorations. Sculptures of primarily American dancers, both classical and modern, will highlight the table decorations. The sculptures, most of them bronzes, will be placed on mirrors and surrounded by flowers. American flowers, including anemones, ranunculus, lilies and gardenias, will compliment the Scalamandre red silk tablecloths. Garlands of greens and flowers will be hung on the mantels in the State Dining Room. White mums will decorate the bases of the ficus trees on the State Floor.

The round tables will be set with Johnson china, the Morgantown crystal and the Monroe vermeil flatwear.

Joan Peck, New York City designer and contributing editor of House and Garden, will coordinate the decorations. The sculptures are on loan from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pischl and the New York Public Library.

The menu: Filet of Pompano Meuniere, Roast Saddle of Lamb, Currant Sauce, Rice Pilaff, Eggplant Parmesan, Spinach Salad, Brie Cheese, Hazelnut Ice Cream Bombe, Petits Fours, Demitasse.

Wines: Wente Brothers Sauvignon Blanc; Louis Martini Mountain Zinfandel; Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs.

#



last 10/15/76 pg. B-3

An 'Overwhelming Moment' for Graham

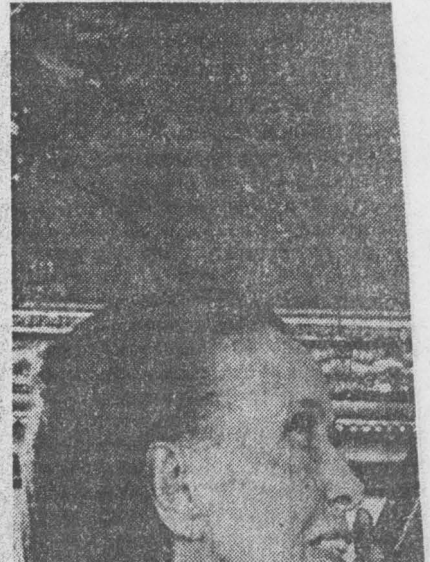
By Donnie Radcliffe
And Nina S. Hyde

Proclaiming her "a brilliant star and a national treasure," President Ford last night bestowed upon 82-year-old Martha Graham, pioneer of modern dance, the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom.

It was, said the petite octogenarian, who was once Betty Ford's teacher, "an overwhelming moment."

Molly Parnis), trend-setting department stores and the cosmetic industry. Then there were actors and actresses of a certain age such as Claudette Colbert, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Kitty Carlisle. For the most part they seemed to know each other since many were from New York and several serve on the board of the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance.

During dinner, the President seemed very confident and cheerful.



Guests at Last Night's White Ho

The following were guests at last night's dinner, given by President and Mrs. Ford in honor of Martha Graham.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Mrs. Burger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare David Matthews and Mrs. Matthews

Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Mary Ellen Briggs, guest of Rep. Brademas, Ethel Butler, instructor, Ethel Butler Dance Studio, Bethesda.

Claudette Colbert, guest of Peter Rogers, Joan Kaplan Davidson, former chairman, Arts Council of New York, Martha Hill Davies, Juilliard School of Music, New

Halston Frowick, designer, member of the board, R. Buckminster Fuller, inventor, architect, co-Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, gineer, author, and Mrs. Fuller, Philadelphia, Benjamin Garber, St. Maartin, French Antilles, John B. "Dizzy" Gillespie, musician, Englewood, N.Y.

Milton Goldman, head of the theater department at



Personalities

John Warner, chairman of the Bicentennial Commission, arrived in Vienna yesterday and checked into the Imperial Hotel. That would not ordinarily be news, but for the fact that **Elizabeth Taylor** is making a movie.

That would not ordinarily be news,

The voice sounds familiar when the robot answers the phone at the home of the **Sabin Robbins** with the automatic answering recorder plugged in during the family's absence. Could it really be **David Brinkley**, whose wry-dry delivery matches his observations on NBC television news? Yes, that is

the National Symphony Orchestra in a performance of **Aaron Copland's** "Lincoln Portrait" at the United Nations. The 74-year-old contralto will speak the words to music in a program in honor of United Nations Day.

Alex Haley, whose best-seller

know how to preach. Our preacher could lift the roof off the church," the 55-year-old author recalled from the old front porch.

The entertainment couldn't be more appropriate when **Martha Graham** is honored at a White House dinner next Thursday after receiving the Medal of

It was a sell-out in Washington last April, so the French Theater Club will be taking its "Tartuffe" on the road to New York City this weekend. The cast includes **Henri Pierre**, chief correspondent of Le Monde in Washington, who drops his byline to play the title role in the Moliere comedy. Also appearing prominently are three professors



THE WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, October 7, 1976 B 3
... R



America's *grande dame* of modern dance (and, incidentally, Betty Ford's former teacher), Martha Graham, will receive the coveted Medal of Freedom from **President Ford** at a black tie dinner in her honor Oct. 14 at the White House.

In other First Family news, Mrs.

Personalities

raising concert Friday night at Constitution Hall.

Joining Leonard Bernstein, Rosalynn Carter and others will be composer Cy Coleman, who wrote the

Last year, Jennings threatened not to attend the awards show, although he finally put on a tuxedo and reluctantly accepted the male vocalist

Klyce of St. Petersburg, Fla., mystified Little Rock municipal officials by bequeathing \$600 of his estate to the city to provide chinning bars for its parks. The city accepted the money.

Elizabeth Ray is busy in Chicago preparing for her opening next week in "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter"

-2-
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD PRESENTED THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO DANCER MARTHA GRAHAM THURSDAY AND SAID HE WILL SEEK A \$50 MILLION, THREE-YEAR GRANT FOR THE CULTURAL CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

FORD SAID THE PROGRAM WOULD "RAISE THE LEVEL AND BROADEN THE BASE OF ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS FROM NON-FEDERAL SOURCES." THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD TO THE 82-YEAR-OLD DANCER WAS INSPIRED BY BETTY FORD, WHO ONCE WAS A MEMBER OF THE MARTHA GRAHAM TROUPE. FORD SAID HE WOULD REQUEST \$12 MILLION FOR THE PROGRAM IN FISCAL 1977; \$18 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1978 AND \$20 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1979.

-2-
WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD HAS DECLARED A STATE OF MAJOR

N030

R

FORD-MARTHA GRAHAM
BY FRANCES LEWINE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- IT WAS MARTHA GRAHAM NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS THE 82-YEAR OLD MOTHER OF MODERN DANCE RECEIVED THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR, THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM FROM PRESIDENT FORD.

SALUTING HER AS "A SUPERSTAR" OF THE DANCE WORLD, FORD GAVE MISS GRAHAM THE BLUE AND WHITE SASH THAT GOES WITH THE MEDAL AND BESTOWED TWO KISSES ON THE FAMOUS DANCER AS WELL.

CALLING IT "AN OVERWHELMING NIGHT," MISS GRAHAM RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION IN THE STATE DINING ROOM FROM MORE THAN 100 GUESTS, INCLUDING ARTISTS, PERFORMERS AND PATRONS OF THE ARTS.

FORD, WHO HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE EARLIER THURSDAY EVENING, HONORED A WOMAN WHO ONCE TAUGHT HIS WIFE, BETTY, TO DANCE.

THE PRESIDENT MADE THE OCCASION A DUAL SALUTE FOR THE ARTS BY ANNOUNCING HE WOULD SEEK \$50 MILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, FOR THE CULTURAL CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM THAT CONGRESS AUTHORIZED TO BOOST FUNDS FOR THE ARTS. IT PROVIDES \$1 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR EVERY \$3 ART GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS CAN RAISE FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.

MISS GRAHAM STARRED BOTH IN RECEIVING THE MEDAL AND DURING AN AFTER-DINNER PERFORMANCE IN WHICH SHE INTRODUCED AND NARRATED WHILE THE PRINCIPAL DANCER OF HER COMPANY, JANET EILBER, PERFORMED TWO SOLOS.

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO SPEAK WHEN I'D MUCH RATHER DANCE," MISS GRAHAM REMARKED WISTFULLY. AND SHE NOTED "THERE'S NO USE SAYING AGE IS LOVELY. IT ISN'T. IT'S A BORE."

10-15-76 10:31EDT

UP-137

(MARTHA GRAHAM)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD HAS SELECTED MODERN DANCE PIONEER MARTHA GRAHAM TO RECEIVE THE FOURTH MEDAL OF FREEDOM HE HAS AWARDED.

IT WAS NO WHITE HOUSE SECRET THAT MISS GRAHAM'S SELECTION STEMMED IN PART FROM URGING BY MRS. FORD, WHO DANCED WITH HER COMPANY BEFORE HER MARRIAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. FORD WILL MAKE THE PRESENTATION TONIGHT AT A FORMAL WHITE HOUSE BANQUET HONORING THE 82-YEAR-OLD LEADER OF THE NATION'S OLDEST MAJOR DANCE COMPANY.

THE OTHER THREE PERSONS FORD PRESENTED THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD WERE DIPLOMAT DAVID BRUCE, PIANIST ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN AND OLYMPIC TRACK STAR JESSE OWENS.

MISS GRAHAM, BORN IN PITTSBURGH MAY 11, 1894, CONCEIVED AND PERFORMED HALF A CENTURY AGO THE CONTEMPORARY DANCES THAT SINCE HAVE GAINED THE ACCEPTANCE OF OLDER CLASSICAL FORMS OF THE DANCE.

UPI 10-14 26:25 PED



Martha Graham Hailed by Nation; Given Freedom Medal by Ford

By ANNA KISSELGOFF

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 — Martha Graham, whose 50-year pioneering career as a dancer and choreographer has made her the foremost figure in American modern dance, received the nation's highest civilian award from President Ford tonight.

Mr. Ford presented Miss Graham with the Medal of Freedom at a dinner in her honor at the White House. The 82-year-old iconoclastic artist became the



SUZY

Dinner for a Doyen of Dance

PRESIDENT AND MRS. GERALD FORD'S gala dinner-dance at the White House tomorrow will honor Martha Graham, Betty Ford's pet in the world of dance. The President will present Martha with the Presidential Medal of Freedom to add to her collection. It will be a touching moment. Miss Graham is unique, to put it mildly.

Once again, Mrs. Ford has asked Joan Peck, a former House and Garden editor, to design and coordinate the dinner in the State Dining Room. One hundred and twenty will sit at table and an additional 100 representatives of every area of the performing arts will pop in later for the dancing.

Mrs. Ford has chosen pieces of American sculpture as centerpieces for her tables. They will be placed on



N.Y. Times 10/14/76 Pg. 42

Notes on People

Ford Signs Grant of \$750,000 In L.S.D. Death in C.I.A. Test

President Ford has signed a law giving \$750,000 to the family of the late Frank R. Olson, who leaped to his death from the Statler-Hilton Hotel here 22 years ago after two agents of the Central Intelligence Agency laced his drink with LSD. The police here had called the death a suicide. Not until 1975, after the Rockefeller Commission's report on the C.I.A., did it become known that the agency had used Mr. Olson, a 43-year-old bacteriologist, as an unwitting guinea pig.

A month later, Alice Olson, his widow, and their three grown children went to the White House to hear an apology from President Ford. Yesterday's award was \$500,000 short of the 1.25 million in the private bill that had been agreed upon by the Administration and Congressional leadership. A private bill can be blocked by one dissent and Representative John H. Rousset, Republican of California, objected to the amount.

In Frederick, Md., however, Mrs. Olson said the family was satisfied with the settlement as an "apology" by the Government "for the deceit and deception of 22 years," adding, "I'm very glad we made the effort to go public on this."

At a Waldorf-Astoria dinner last night for 1,000 guests, Harold S. Geneen, chairman of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Richard Rodgers, the composer, shared the fifth annual Communications Awards sponsored by the ICD Rehabilitation and Research Center (formerly the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled). Diahann Carroll and Richard Kiley, who co-starred in Mr. Rodgers's musical "No Strings," entertained with a presentation of Rodgers songs con-

at P.S. 41 yesterday and "will be so jealous."

It was not specified what elements of "the press" Stavros Niarchos was talking about but the 67-year-old Greek shipping magnate issued a statement yesterday concerning "reports circulating" that linked him with Princess Maria Gabriela of Savoy. She is the 36-year-old daughter of Italy's last king and the wife of Count Robert de Balkany of Paris, a Rumanian-born financier and real estate developer.

Mr. Niarchos said he had known the princess for 20 years "and they remain excellent friends, as always." In a passage that particularly suggester a lawyer's hand, the statement said, "The relations between the princess and her husband do not in any way involve or concern Mr. Niarchos," who went on to say that reports of a possible marriage between himself and the princess "are totally without foundation." It was recalled that Mr. Niarchos issued a similar denial shortly before his 1971 marriage to Tina Livanos Onassis Blandford, who died in 1974. His earlier wives included the latee Eugenia Livanos and Charlotte Ford Forstmann, daughter of Henry Ford 2d.

At a White House dinner tonight in her honor, Martha Graham will become the first dancer to receive the Medal of Freedom. President Ford will present the nation's highest civilian award to the 82-year-old pioneer of American modern dance. First Lady, Betty Ford, is a former Graham student. Miss Graham will join her dance company, now in Madrid, early next week in Paris. The company opens Oct. 23 at the Theatre des Champs Elysees,