

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will be honored this weekend in Birmingham, Alabama as one of America's "Outstanding Women". She will be feted in 2 days of ceremonies - September 6 and 7 - at the Gala II Celebration Benefiting St. Vincent's Hospital.

Mrs. Ford will leave Washington D. C. at 3:00pm Friday and will attend a dinner at the Birmingham Museum of Art on Friday evening. Saturday activities include a tour of St. Vincent's Hospital, a luncheon and fashion show, and a brief question and answer session with members of the press. The highlight of the weekend will be the Gala Ball Dinner Saturday evening at the Birmingham Civic Center. One thousand guests are expected. Mrs. Ford will leave Birmingham for Washington, D. C. at about noon on Sunday.

Others being saluted as "Legendary Women of America" at the Gala II festivities are: Rep. Yvonne Burke; Patricia Buckley, wife of columnist William Buckley; television personality Kitty Carlisle; Marion Javits, wife of Senator Jacob Javits; Patrice Munsel, Metropolitan Opera soprano; actress Merle Oberon; New York fashion authority Eleanor Lambert; Diana Vreeland, consulting editor to Vogue Magazine; Grace Warnecke, wife of architect John C. Warnecke; Emmy Award winning actress Cicely Tyson.

Aileen Mehle (syndicated columnist "Suzy") is Honorary Chairwoman for the Gala, and Cornelia Wallace is the official hostess. CBS television personality Charles Kuralt will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Gala II Ball. Singer John Gary will entertain.

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Note: Members of the press wishing to travel with Mrs. Ford must contact her press office by the close of business Wednesday, September 4th. It will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For planning purposes: both dinners require black-tie.

