

For Immediate Release
Friday, February 20, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY TO MRS. FORD

The President and Mrs. Ford have asked singer Tony Bennett to entertain at the black-tie dinner honoring the Governors of the States and Territories and their wives, February 23 at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Bennett previously performed at the White House during the Johnson Administration at a State dinner honoring the Prime Minister of Japan. He also has had two command performances before the Queen of England.

Tony Bennett has been a popular singing star for more than two decades. After singing with various military bands during World War II, he got his first big professional break when he won a spot on the Arthur Godfrey television show. That performance led to a tour with Bob Hope, who gave Bennett his stage name, and to his first recording contract. A series of hits in the 1950s placed him among the front ranks of American male vocalists.

His recording of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" in 1962 has become an American classic, and he has been active on the concert tour. Today he performs about 45 weeks of the year.

He was born Anthony Dominick Benedetto in Long Island City, New York in 1926. His father died when Tony was eight, and for the next 17 years his mother worked as a seamstress in the garment industry. He began his career as a teen-ager as a singing waiter. Before the war, he enrolled at the Manhattan's School of Industrial Art and planned a career as a commercial artist. When his plans were interrupted by three years service in the United States Army, he changed his interest to music.

He and his wife Sandi have three children, two sons and a daughter. They live in Englewood, New Jersey, where Bennett continues his interest in art by painting oils and watercolors.

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