

SENATOR BOB DOLE

GERALD FORD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION

JUNE 9, 1993

Marty Allen welcomes attendees

Mike Ford gives invocation

Dinner

Marty Allen introduces Senator

Bob Dole

**IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE
THIS EVENING AS WE GATHER
TO SALUTE THE MAN WHO
ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY
GUIDED THIS COUNTRY AND THE
FREE WORLD THROUGH SOME
VERY TURBULENT TIMES IN THE
1970'S...BUT ENOUGH ABOUT
HENRY KISSINGER.**

**SERIOUSLY, IT IS A PLEASURE
TO SERVE AS MASTER OF
CEREMONIES AT THIS
CELEBRATION MARKING
PRESIDENT FORD'S 80TH
BIRTHDAY, BETTY'S 75TH
BIRTHDAY, AND THEIR 45TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.**

**AS YOU MAY KNOW, JERRY
DOESN'T TURN 80 UNTIL JULY,**

**BUT THE CELEBRATION IS
TONIGHT, BECAUSE THIS IS THE
ONLY DAY BETWEEN NOW AND
THEN HE DIDN'T HAVE A 'TEE
TIME."**

**WHETHER WE'RE
REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRAT,
LIBERAL, OR CONSERVATIVE,
90% OF US HERE THIS EVENING
SHARE ONE EXPERIENCE IN**

**COMMON--WE'VE ALL BEEN HIT
IN THE HEAD BY ONE OF JERRY
FORD'S GOLF BALLS.**

**ACTUALLY, JERRY TOLD ME
DURING DINNER THAT HIS GOLF
GAME IS REALLY IMPROVING.
JUST THE OTHER DAY HE MADE
AN EAGLE, A BIRDIE...AN ELK, A
MOOSE, AND A MASON.**

**THIS IS A BI-PARTISAN
GATHERING, BUT I HAVE TO SAY
THAT IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE
SO MANY REPUBLICAN
VETERANS OF THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION. I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE ALL DOING WHAT I'VE
BEEN DOING ALL
EVENING...LOOKING AROUND
AND WONDERING WHO WILL BE**

**THE NEXT ONE TO JOIN THE
CLINTON WHITE HOUSE.**

**AND SPEAKING OF DAVID
GERGEN...I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT
WHEN HE SAID HE'D NEVER
BEEN A REPUBLICAN, SOME
THINGS MADE A LOT MORE
SENSE.**

**IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, MR.
PRESIDENT, DAVID WAS A**

**MEMBER OF YOUR
COMMUNICATIONS STAFF, AND
WASN'T HE THE ONE WHO
KEPT TELLING YOU OVER AND
OVER AGAIN THAT POLAND
WASN'T DOMINATED BY
RUSSIA...**

**SERVING AS JERRY'S
RUNNING MATE IN 1976 WAS AN
HONOR I WILL NEVER FORGET.**

**AND ELIZABETH AND I WILL
ESPECIALLY REMEMBER THE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MY HOME
TOWN OF RUSSELL, KANSAS THE
DAY AFTER THE CONVENTION
ENDED.**

**AFTER THE CAMPAIGN RALLY
WITH 10,000 PEOPLE WHO HAD
SOMEHOW CROWDED INTO THE
COURTHOUSE SQUARE, MY**

**MOTHER INVITED JERRY TO HER
HOUSE FOR SOME
REFRESHMENTS.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, SOMEONE
HAD TAKEN VISITORS THROUGH
THE HOUSE EARLIER IN THE
DAY, LOCKED THE DOOR, AND
HAD FORGOTTEN TO PUT MY
MOTHER'S SPARE KEY BACK IN
ITS USUAL PLACE. SO, THERE I**

**STOOD WITH THE PRESIDENT,
LOCKED OUT OF MY OWN
HOUSE. AFTER A FRANTIC
SEARCH, ELIZABETH FOUND THE
KEY BEHIND A DRAIN PIPE.**

**ELIZABETH DID ASK ME TO
EXTEND HER GREETINGS THIS
EVENING. SHE WANTED TO BE
HERE, BUT SHE HAD TO ATTEND
A MEETING OF THE HARVARD**

**BOARD OF OVERSEERS...
SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP AN EYE
ON ALL THOSE LIBERALS.**

**ELIZABETH ALSO ASKED ME
TO SAY THAT RED CROSS
BLOOD SUPPLIES ARE A BIT
LOW RIGHT NOW, SO SHE WAS
HOPING, JERRY, THAT YOU
COULD STAY OFF THE GOLF
COURSE FOR A WEEK OR TWO.**

**I ALSO BRING GREETINGS
THIS EVENING FROM PRESIDENT
REAGAN. I SAW THE PRESIDENT
AND NANCY WHEN I WAS IN
CALIFORNIA LAST WEEK. HE
TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT I
WAS STILL A BIT YOUNG TO BE
PRESIDENT, BUT THAT JERRY
WAS JUST THE RIGHT AGE.**

**ACTUALLY, JERRY, I HAVE A
DIFFERENT PROPOSITION FOR
YOU THIS EVENING. IN YOUR
POLITICAL CAREER, YOU'VE
SERVED AS CONGRESSMAN,
VICE PRESIDENT, AND
PRESIDENT. IT SEEMS TO ME
THERE'S ONE THING MISSING.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ELECTED TO
THE SENATE.**

**AND THERE JUST HAPPENS
TO BE A SEAT OPEN IN
MICHIGAN NEXT YEAR...WE PAY
ALL RELOCATION COSTS, AND
WE'LL EVEN MAKE YOU
REPUBLICAN LEADER. IF
ANYONE THINKS YOU'RE TOO
OLD, JUST REMIND THEM THAT
STROM THURMOND STILL CALLS
YOU "JUNIOR."**

**I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH
BEFORE COMING HERE THIS
EVENING, AND I HAPPENED A
COPY OF AMERICAN
HERITAGE MAGAZINE. BACK IN
1988, THE MAGAZINE ASKED THE
NATION'S LEADING HISTORIANS
AND SCHOLARS TO RATE WHO
WAS THE MOST OVERRATED
AND THE MOST UNDERRATED**

**FIGURE IN AMERICAN HISTORY---
NOT JUST IN THIS DECADE, OR
LAST DECADE--BUT IN
AMERICAN HISTORY.**

**AND ONE OF AMERICA'S
MOST RESPECTED HISTORIANS--
PULITZER PRIZE WINNER
EDMUND MORRIS--SAID THAT
THE MOST UNDER-RATED**

**PERSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY
WAS JERRY FORD.**

**AND NO DOUBT ABOUT IT,
FROM RESTORING THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE'S
CONFIDENCE IN THEIR
GOVERNMENT....TO CUTTING
INFLATION BY MORE THAN
HALF...TO HAVING THE
COURAGE TO VETO BUDGET**

**BUSTING LEGISLATION TIME AND
TIME AGAIN...TO REDUCING THE
ARMS RACE....AMERICA IS FOR
THE BETTER BECAUSE JERRY
FORD WAS PRESIDENT.**

**I'VE LONG BELIEVED THAT
JERRY FORD WAS PRECISELY
THE RIGHT PERSON TO LEAD
AMERICA IN HER BICENTENNIAL
YEAR, BECAUSE JERRY FORD IS**

**WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT--
HARD WORK, HONESTY,
DECENCY, AND COMPASSION.**

**AND I'M ONE WHO BELIEVES
THAT OF ALL THE BENEFITS THE
FORD ADMINISTRATION GAVE TO
AMERICA, ONE OF THE
GREATEST WAS HAVING BETTY
FORD AS AMERICA'S FIRST
LADY.**

**I'VE BEEN CALLED MANY
THINGS DURING MY POLITICAL
CAREER. BUT ONE OF THE
BIGGEST COMPLIMENTS I
RECEIVED WAS WHEN SOMEONE
CALLED ME THE "BETTY FORD
OF PROSTATE CANCER."**

**WHEN MY DOCTOR GAVE ME
THE DIAGNOSIS OF PROSTATE
CANCER A WHILE BACK, I**

**THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I WOULD
HANDLE IT.**

**PROSTATE CANCER IS NOT A
TOPIC FOLKS LIKE TO DISCUSS,
AND SOME URGED ME TO HAVE
THE SURGERY DONE WITH AS
LITTLE PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE.
BUT THE MORE I THOUGHT
ABOUT MY DIAGNOSIS, THE
MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT BETTY**

**FORD, AND HOW SHE HANDLED
HER BATTLE WITH BREAST
CANCER. BY TALKING ABOUT IT
OPENLY AND HONESTLY, SHE
ENCOURAGED OTHER WOMEN
TO SEE THEIR DOCTORS, AND
SHE SAVED MANY LIVES.**

**SO I DID AS BETTY HAD DONE.
I LEARNED AS MUCH ABOUT THE
DISEASE AS I COULD, AND I**

**WENT PUBLIC, DISCUSSING THE
IMPORTANCE OF EARLY
DIAGNOSIS.**

**SO, THANK YOU BETTY, FOR
YOUR COURAGE, AND FOR ALL
THE LIVES YOU HAVE SAVED
AND THE LIVES YOU CONTINUE
TO TURN AROUND AT THE BETTY
FORD CENTER.**

INTRODUCTIONS:

**BEFORE WE HEAR FROM OUR
GUEST SPEAKERS THIS
EVENING, THERE ARE A FEW
INTRODUCTIONS I WANT TO
MAKE:**

**WE'RE PLEASED TO WELCOME
THREE OF JERRY AND BETTY'S
FOUR CHILDREN THIS EVENING.
PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING
MIKE FORD, AND HIS WIFE,**

GAYLE. JACK FORD AND HIS
WIFE, JULIE ANN, AND SUSAN
FORD BALES, AND HER
HUSBAND VADEN. STEVE FORD
COULD NOT BE WITH US THIS
EVENING, BUT HE SENDS HIS
BEST WISHES.

SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING
THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESIDENT
FORD BESTOWED THE

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF
FREEDOM--THE HIGHEST
CIVILIAN HONOR IN THIS
COUNTRY--ON A NUMBER OF
VERY WORTHY AMERICANS.

ONE OF THOSE RECIPIENTS IS
WITH US THIS EVENING, AND
ALTHOUGH MARTY HAS
INTRODUCED HER, I WANT TO
ACKNOWLEDGE HER PRESENCE.

**LADY BIRD JOHNSON'S
MEDAL OF FREEDOM READ AS
FOLLOWS:**

**"ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT
FIRST LADIES...SHE MADE
GOVERNMENT HUMAN WITH HER
UNIQUE COMPASSION AND
GRACE, WARMTH, AND WISDOM.**

**" HER LEADERSHIP
TRANSFORMED THE AMERICAN**

**LANDSCAPE AND PRESERVED IT
AS A NATIONAL TREASURE."**

**I THINK EVERYONE HERE
TONIGHT IS IN COMPLETE
AGREEMENT THAT LADY BIRD
JOHNSON, HERSELF, IS A
NATIONAL TREASURE.**

**AND FINALLY, I'M PROUD TO
INTRODUCE A YOUNG MAN WHO
JOINED MY SENATE STAFF A**

**FEW MONTHS AGO. BACK IN
JANUARY 1977, HE WAS TWELVE
YEARS OLD, AND HE AND HIS
PARENTS HAD THE HONOR OF
SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH THE
FORD'S ON THEIR FINAL DAY IN
THE WHITE HOUSE.**

**PRESIDENT FORD HAD SET UP
A PRACTICE DRIVING RANGE IN
THE HALL, AND THE TWELVE**

YEAR OLD TOOK TWO SWINGS,
MISSING BOTH TIMES. "DON'T
WORRY," HIS FATHER, WHO
HAPPENED TO BE VICE
PRESIDENT, TOLD HIM,
"PRESIDENT FORD
UNDERSTANDS ALL ABOUT
MISSING SHOTS."

I CAN'T SAY THAT THIS
YOUNG MAN'S GOLF GAME HAS

**IMPROVED, BUT I CAN SAY HE IS
A HARD WORKER WHO IS
CARRYING ON A FAMILY
TRADITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE.**

**PLEASE WELCOME NELSON
ROCKEFELLER, JR.**

....

ONE OF THE POWERS OF THE

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE IS THE
FACT THAT HE CONTROLS WHO
HAS ACCESS TO STATUARY
HALL. WE THANK SPEAKER
FOLEY FOR ALLOWING US TO
GATHER HERE THIS EVENING,
AND WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE
HIM JOIN US IN PAYING TRIBUTE
TO HIS OLD FRIEND AND
COLLEAGUE.**

SPEAKER FOLEY GIVES BRIEF REMARKS

SENATOR DOLE

**IN 1965, JERRY CAME TO ME,
ASKING FOR MY SUPPORT IN HIS
RACE FOR HOUSE REPUBLICAN
LEADER. I'M PROUD TO SAY
THAT NOT ONLY DID I VOTE FOR**

**HIM, BUT I ALSO PERSUADED
THREE OTHER KANSAS
REPUBLICANS TO VOTE FOR
JERRY, AND OUR VOTES MADE
THE DIFFERENCE IN HIS RACE.**

**LIKE HOUSE REPUBLICAN
LEADERS BEFORE HIM, AND LIKE
ALL THOSE AFTER HIM, JERRY
FORD'S DREAM WAS TO ONE**

**DAY BE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE. AND HERE TO
ANNOUNCE HIS CONTINUED
INTEREST IN THAT JOB IS THE
CURRENT HOUSE REPUBLICAN
LEADER, MY GOOD FRIEND, BOB
MICHEL.**

**CONGRESSMAN MICHEL
GIVES BRIEF REMARKS**

**SENATOR DOLE ANOTHER
LEGACY OF THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION WAS THE
IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE
AND THE MEDIA.**

**BEFORE JERRY BECAME
PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE
AND THE PRESS VIEWED EACH
OTHER WITH SUSPICION,**

DISDAIN, AND MISTRUST.

**AND TODAY....WELL, I GUESS
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE
MORE THEY STAY THE SAME.**

**ONE OF THE MOST
RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE
PRESS AND STUDENTS OF THE
PRESIDENCY IS TIME
MAGAZINE'S HUGH SIDEY, WHO
JOINS US TONIGHT.**

REMARKS FROM HUGH SIDNEY

SENATOR DOLE:

**REPRESENTING THE FORD
FAMILY THIS EVENING IN
SALUTING THEIR PARENTS IS
THEIR DAUGHTER, SUSAN FORD
BALES. SUSAN MAY CALL
WASHINGTON AND MICHIGAN**

**HOME, BUT SHE ALSO HAD THE
GOOD SENSE TO SPEND SOME
TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS.**

REMARKS FROM SUSAN FORD

BALES

**SENATOR DOLE: SINCE IT'S
OPENING IN SEPTEMBER 1981,
COUNTLESS AMERICANS HAVE
VISITED THE GERALD R. FORD**

**LIBRARY AND MUSEUM IN
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.**

**THE MUSEUM IS JUST ONE OF
MANY WORTHWHILE CAUSES TO
WHICH JERRY HAS DEVOTED HIS
ATTENTION SINCE LEAVING THE
WHITE HOUSE. AND JOINING US
NOW IS A MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
GERALD FORD FOUNDATION,**

**THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF
ALCOA, PAUL O'NEILL.**

REMARKS FROM MR. O'NEILL

**SENATOR DOLE: MY FRIENDS, IT
IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO
INTRODUCE TWO AMERICANS
WHO HAVE EARNED A PLACE OF
HONOR IN HISTORY AND IN THE
HEARTS OF THE AMERICAN**

**PEOPLE--THE FORMER
PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY OF
THE UNITED STATES, JERRY AND
BETTY FORD.**

REMARKS FROM THE FORDS

**SENATOR DOLE: AS WE
ADJOURN THIS EVENING, WE
WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY THE
U.S. ARMY CHORUS.**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.
AND PLEASE BE SURE AND PICK
UP YOUR "WHIP INFLATION NOW"
BUTTONS ON THE WAY OUT.**