

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “1976/05/07 - Shriners' Party, Sioux Falls, South Dakota” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Shriners' Party, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

I have a great personal fondness for Shriners. After all, I'm married to one. So from the wife of a member of the Saladian Temple of Grand Rapids to the members of the El Riad Temple---hello and thanks for letting me drop by.

I've visited some of your excellent medical facilities, and I know how many children the Shrine Hospitals help. The outstanding support this Temple gives to the Twin Cities unit really is special. How grand to combine helping those in need with the ties of friendship as Shriners do.

Since clowns are always favorites of mine---it's a double treat to stop by a Shriners party sponsored by a clown unit. Again thanks for your warm welcome. Have a good time!

Shriners Party, ~~Sixth~~ Sioux Falls, South Dakota

I have a great personal ~~friendship~~ fondness for Shriners.
After all, I'm married to one. So from the wife of
a member of the Saladin Temple of Grand Rapids to
the members of the El Rind Temple---hello and thanks
for letting me drop by.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Through the years, I've visited some of your very
fine medical facilities, and I know what ^{how many people} good work the
Shriners Hospitals ^{help.} do. I've heard about the ~~work~~
outstanding ~~in~~ support your Temple gives to the Twin
~~Sixth~~ Cities unit. It's just grand to combine helping
others with ~~fine~~ fine associations---like this organization
does.

Since clowns are always favorites of mine---it's a
double treat to stop by a Shriners party sponsored by a
clown unit. Again thanks for your warm welcome. Have
a good time.

Wally, South Dakota

We do have a chance to talk on the phone once in a while, but I must say we do miss each other---he is really not used to having me out on the road in these tasks---it was usually the other way around, he was out on the road ~~N~~ and I was home with the children.

But I am trying to go out and help him because I believe so sincerely in the message that he brings---what he has done for this country, and I am very grateful to have the opportunity to talk to you tonight because from the standpoint---my personal standpoint---the way I look at it---where were we, where was this country about 18 months ago. It was really in rather bad shambles, and the President was put into the position where he had a great deal of responsibility to bring things around, and set the country straight on the right track and I think he has done it and I think he should continue to do it and

APPLAUSE

All of you Republicans---all of you need to get out and work if you have to go door-to-door, I have done it myself, and it is fun if you ~~n~~ just stick with it you can make it a real interesting things, and you can bring better government to our country and that is what we are all looking for. So I thank you all for letting me have this opportunity to say hi and just drop in for a minute---the cake is beautiful and by the way, it is delicious

2.

~~and~~ so you want to be sure and have a piece because it is absolutely yummy. Thank you very much for being here and thank you for letting me speak to you for a few minutes and please, let us all get organized and let's all get together and get pointed in the right direction.

Swire Falls, S. Dakota

> Clown Unit holding Fund-raisers

Hanger

> learns make-up

make-up uniform

working in circus

mostly Shriners & Masons

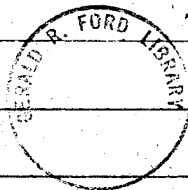
> to be a Shriner have to be a Mason —

Masonry more serious

Shriners colorful part of Masonry —

hard

~~hard~~ get to Gillem)



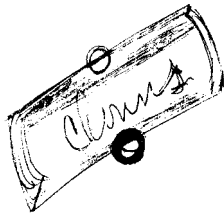
orthopedic unit in minneapolis...

children up to 15

last six mos. burns instances...all under three...hot water
in the bathtub...

nearest burn center...just put a southdakota on the plane
yesterday...

22 Shringers hospitals ~~is~~ for crippled and burned children..(19 orthpedic...and three burns)
appros. 8000 new patients are treated each year...
in addition to approx. 150,000 outpatients...
the 1976 operating budget exceeds 35 million dollars...
during 1975....El Riad Temple contributed over 50-thousand
to the hospital program...this represented the best ratio
of dollars ~~is~~ to members of all the 18 temples ~~is~~
who support the Twin Cities Unit at Minneapolis...
last year...El Riad clowns contributed 1650 dollars
to the hospitals in attddtion to furnishing a 600
wheelchair to local sioux falls resident...
temple 2500....clown unit 40 members



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 17, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Alexandria, Virginia)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
UNVEILING OF THE
GERALD R. FORD MASONIC MEDALLION

MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

12:00 NOON EST

Most Worshipful Brother Ellis, most worshipful Brother Fowler, Grand Masters and other officers of the fraternity, Brothers and friends:

Let me, at the outset, express my deepest personal gratitude to Brother Ellis for his more than generous observations and comments, and I truly hope that my performance in the future will bear out the comments that he has made concerning the past. I am deeply grateful for those very kind words.

The dedication of this medallion gives me a great personal pleasure and, of course, is an honor that I will always cherish.

When I took my obligation as a Master Mason-- incidentally with my three younger brothers--I recalled the value my own father attached to that order. But I had no idea that I would ever be added to the company of the Father of our Country and 12 other members of the order, who also served as Presidents of the United States.

Masonic principles -- internal, not external -- and our order's vision of duty to country and acceptance of God as Supreme Being and guiding light have sustained me during my years of government service. Today, especially, the guidelines by which I strive to become an upright man in Masonry give me great personal strength.

Masonic precepts can help America retain our inspiring aspirations while adapting to a new age. It is apparent to me that the Supreme Architect has set out the duties each of us has to perform, and I have trusted in His will with the knowledge that my trust is well-founded.

MORE

(OVER)

As our Nation approaches its 200th anniversary, we do live in very challenging times. It was almost 200 years ago in the darkest days of our war for independence that George Washington answered a question that is sometimes asked today. The question is whether things are as bad as some say.

George Washington answered, and I quote: "We should never despair. Our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times."

Let us today rededicate ourselves to new efforts as Masons and as Americans. Let us demonstrate our confidence in our beloved Nation, and a future that will flow from the glory of the past.

When I think of the things right about America, I think of this order with its sense of duty to country, its esteem for brotherhood and traditional values, its spiritual high principles and its humble acceptance of God as the Supreme Being.

Today, we honor our first President, who was also our first Masonic President. In a letter in 1798, to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Washington used some words which are now especially appropriate.

Washington told the order that he "conceived it to be the indispensable duty of every American to come forward in support of the government of his choice and to give all the aid in his power towards maintaining that independence, which we have so dearly purchased."

Such involvement by every American is as essential today as it was in George Washington's Day.

I express to all of you my deepest thanks for this tribute and I ask that we resolve together to honor George Washington and America by perpetuating the national heritage he engendered through the principles which guide our order -- friendship, morality and brotherly love.

I thank you very, very much.

END (AT 12:10 P.M. EST)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON BEING PRESENTED THE MASONIC MEDALLION
FROM THE GRAND LODGE
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE ROSE GARDEN

12:24 P.M. EST

Let me say Worshipful Layton, distinguished officers of the Grand Lodge and honorable past Grand Masters, that this is a wonderful, wonderful thought on your part and I am most grateful for being included with the father of our country on this silver medallion.

I, of course, have a very special allegiance to the Lodge here in the District of Columbia because although I started back in Grand Rapids, because I was in Congress it was not possible for me to participate, and as a result the brothers here in the District of Columbia were very helpful and I actually got my degrees here in Washington, D. C. So I thank those that participated and I am highly honored to have the opportunity here in the District of Columbia.

You noted that I am the fourteenth President that belonged to the Masonic Fraternity. I also note that some 19 Vice Presidents also belonged to the Masonic Fraternity plus innumerable hundreds and maybe thousands of Members of Congress over the years have likewise been a part of our Fraternity. I can't, of course, tell you how many judges and other high public officials have already been a part of what we hold so dear.

It was also significant, I thought, that some of the original or some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Paul Revere and, of course, George Washington, and perhaps others -- I don't recall any of the others -- were signers of the Declaration of Independence which is, of course, a very basic document in the establishment of our concepts, the establishment of our Government.

MORE

(OVER)

I know Masonry has contributed over the years, the length and the breadth of this country, a great moral spirit that has helped significantly in the building of America. They have done it for two centuries. I am told there were only about 3,000 Masons at the time this country was formed, 3,000 out of some 3 million who were in the thirteen colonies that made America.

Well, Masonry has contributed in the 200 years. I am confident it will do likewise in the third century and longer than that. So I thank you for the honor, Worshipful Layton, and I thank all of the members, and particularly those who are here today for their coming to the White House to participate in this ceremony.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 12:30 P.M. EST)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Peoria, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SHRINERS TEMPLE

9:10 P.M. CST

We have had a great day in the wonderful State of Illinois and this is the culmination of a great experience, particularly in Peoria. I want to thank Mayor Carver; I want to thank my very dear friend Bob Michel, your outstanding Congressman; most of all I want to thank the overly friendly and generous people of Illinois for making this day a wonderful one in my political career. I can't thank all of you enough.

But let me talk, if I could, Nobles and your lovely ladies, a little about my feeling about and my experiences with the Shrine. I come from Saladin Temple in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am proud of it. My father was very , very active.

My first real personal exposure to the Shrine came in late December of 1934. I was selected to be one the East team of the Shriners East-West football game. We went out to San Francisco where the Shrine has an outstanding hospital for crippled children. It was a tremendous experience for us on an Eastern football team to go to that hospital to see what is done to help unfortunate people, primarily young people, and I learned at that point, not only what my father had sort of imbued in me, but I learned what great people like all of you do on a day-to-day basis to help those less fortunate than yourself.

I have been proud ever since having the experience and I thank you for inviting me tonight. I am deeply grateful for the association that I have had with my fellow Nobles, with Saladin Temple, and it is just nice to see all of you in this temple here in Peoria.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 9:14 P.M. CST)