

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “9/18/74 - National Press Club” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SWEARING IN OF MR. RONALD SARRO AS PRESIDENT  
OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB

SHERATON CARLTON HOTEL

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 18, 1974

7:10 P.M. Departure

Attire: Dark Business Suit, Long Dresses

From: Terry O'Donnell

BACKGROUND:

The Washington Press Club is 55 years old and is made up of professional journalists. It was originally the Women's National Press Club and was open to only women, but in January 1971, it opened to qualified male journalists. It changed its name to the Washington Press Club in January 1971.

Ron Sarro, the incoming President, is the first male President of the Club. He is the 46th President. A new President is elected every July. Sarro has been with the Evening Star for 8-1/2 years and is presently serving as the Assistant National Editor. Prior to that, he was with the Providence Journal-Bulletin as a reporter. Sarro has been a member of the Washington Press Club for 3 years and was one of the first men to join. Last year he was elected the first Vice President of the Club. (Mr. Sarro is not a member of the National Press Club.) He is the co-author of the book Are You Safe from Burglars, written with Robert Earl Barnes, a professional housebreaker.

Your participation will be to attend the swearing in ceremony, make brief remarks, administer the oath, and depart. (Or, if you wish, you and Mrs. Ford may remain for dancing following the ceremony.)



2. Swearing In of Ron Sarro as President  
of the Washington Press Club  
Wednesday - September 18, 1974

SEQUENCE:

7:10 p.m. You and Mrs. Ford board motorcade on the South Grounds and depart en route the Sheraton Carlton Hotel.

7:15 p.m. Arrive Sheraton Carlton Hotel and proceed inside the front entrance where you will be met by Maggie Hunter (New York Times).

Escorted by Miss Hunter, you and Mrs. Ford proceed to the Federal City Club Room to mingle informally with approximately 400 members and guests of the Washington Press Club.

PRESS POOL PHOTO COVERAGE

NOTE: Immediately prior to the beginning of the program, you and Mrs. Ford should move to an area near the platform in the Crystal Room, an adjacent Room to the Federal City Club Room also being used by the guests.

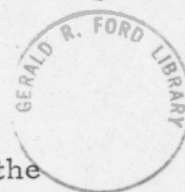
7:30 p.m. Program commences.

Opening remarks by Miriam Ottenberg, Evening Star, brief remarks by Wauhillau LaHay (Scripps Howard) outgoing President, photographic slide presentation of famous Italian-Americans, and introduction of you by Miss LaHay.

7:45 p.m. You step onto the platform and deliver your remarks from a Presidential podium.

PRESS POOL PHOTO COVERAGE

7:50 p.m. Your remarks conclude. Ron Sarro joins you on the platform and you administer his oath as the first male President of the Washington Press Club (Oath previously provided by speechwriter Orben).



3. Swearing In of Ron Sarro as President  
of the Washington Press Club  
Wednesday - September 18, 1974

7:53 p.m.

Upon completion of the oath, you step down from the platform and join Mrs. Ford.

Following brief remarks by Mr. Sarro and Mr. Kauffman, President of the Evening Star, and an exchange of the Cora Rigby Bowl (emblematic to the office of Washington Press Club President) between Wauhillau and Ron Sarro, you and Mrs. Ford proceed to the motorcade for boarding.

8:05 p.m.

Motorcade departs en route the White House.

8:10 p.m.

Arrive South Grounds.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1974

MEMO TO RIC SARDO

(R)

FROM: SALLY QUENNEVILLE

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB EVENT, SEPTEMBER 18

Per Red the following tentative schedule is proposed:

7:10 PM Depart White House via motorcade enroute  
Washington Press Club

7:15 PM Arrive

MINGLE (15 min.)

7:30 PM Swearing-In of Mr. Ron Sarro  
(30 min.)

8:15 PM Dancing begins

DARK SUIT BUSINESS  
LONG DRESS  
(375 in attendance)

Red will be meeting with contact person today at 1:00 PM. Will send final schedule to Susan Porter this afternoon.

The Fords have the option of staying after the program for dancing if they desire.

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Bill Henkle's office have not yet received any information on the LBJ Grove Dedication ceremony--probably next day or so.

