

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “12/17/74 - Pageant of Peace” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT OF PEACE

THE ELLIPSE

Tuesday - December 17, 1974

DEPARTURE: 5:28 P.M.

From: Terry O'Donnell

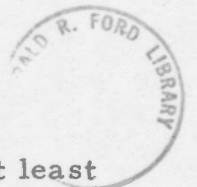
BACKGROUND:

While every President since Calvin Coolidge has participated at least once during his Administration in the lighting of a symbolic National Christmas tree, the first "Christmas Pageant of Peace" was not organized until 1954 when a group of local civic and business leaders banded together to formalize the ceremonies. The tradition has continued and the Pageant has grown to become the focal point of the Yuletide season in the Nation's Capital.

The focus of the celebration, which runs from December 17 to January 1, is the national Christmas tree, a living 42-foot Colorado blue Spruce donated last year by the National Arborists Association as a continuing year-round symbol of the Pageant and all it represents. Prior to 1973, each year's tree came from a different State.

In addition to the tree lighting ceremony, this year's Pageant will offer a "Pathway of Peace" composed of 57 live Norway spruce representing each of the 50 States, six territories, and the District of Columbia. These trees will be planted throughout the National Capital Parks after the Pageant. Eight live reindeer from the National Zoo will be on display as well as a sleigh ride for youngsters, evening musical entertainment and other Christmas displays and activities.

Your participation will involve observing a brief program, delivery of remarks and, finally, throwing of the switch to light the tree. The event is scheduled for live television coverage.



SEQUENCE:

5:28 p.m. You, Mrs. Ford and Susan board motorcade on South Grounds and depart en route Ellipse.

5:29 p.m. You, Mrs. Ford and Susan arrive staging area and proceed on foot to off-stage holding area.

5:30 p.m. Pause for announcement.

5:31 p.m. "Ruffles and Flourishes"
Announcement
"Hail to the Chief"

You, Mrs. Ford, and Susan proceed onto the stage and take your seats.

LIVE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION
ATTENDANCE: 1,000

5:32 p.m. Brief remarks by John W. Dixon, Master of Ceremonies.

5:33 p.m. Prayer for Peace by The Most Reverend William V. Baum, Archbishop of Washington.

5:35 p.m. "Behold that Star" by the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club.

5:37 p.m. Remarks by Girl Scout Camille Deppe.

NOTE: En route the podium, Camille will present Mrs. Ford with a bouquet of flowers. As she returns to her seat, Camille will shake hands with you.

5:38 p.m. Remarks by Boy Scout James Williams.

NOTE: Upon completion of his remarks, James Williams will shake hands with Mrs. Ford and you as he returns to his seat.



Annual Christmas Pageant of Peace
3. Tuesday - December 17, 1974

- 5:39 p. m. Dixon's introduction of Secretary Rogers
C. B. Morton.
- 5:40 p. m. Secretary Morton makes remarks, concluding
with the acknowledgement of Mrs. Ford,
Susan, and the introduction of you.
- 5:43 p. m. PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS.
- LIVE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION.
- 5:48 p. m. Your remarks conclude and you return to your seat.
- 5:49 p. m. John Dixon steps to the podium and asks
you to light the National Christmas Tree.
- 5:50 p. m. You stand and turn to your left to invite Camille Deppe
and James Williams, the two Scouts, to join you at the
switch box (stage left) in lighting the National Christmas
Tree.
- You, with the two Scouts to your left, place your
left hand on the switch box with that of the children
and ask them to help you throw the switch.
- 5:52 p. m. The tree is lighted.
- 5:52 p. m. You and the two Scouts remain standing at the
switch box for the signing of "O Tannenbaum" by
the Michigan Men's Glee Club.
- 5:54 p. m. You return to your seat upon completion of
"O Tannenbaum."
- 5:55 p. m. Benediction by Reverend E. Joseph Mackov,
Rector of All Soul's Memorial Episcopal
Church.
- 5:56 p. m. Mr. Dixon thanks the audience for coming.
- 5:57 p. m. Music by the U. S. Marine Band.
- 5:57 p. m. You and Mrs. Ford depart the stage and proceed
to motorcade for boarding.
- 5:59 p. m. Motorcade departs en route South Grounds.
- 6:00 p. m. Arrive South Grounds of the White House.

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