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1974 FATHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON  
NATIONAL FATHER'S DAY COMMITTEE  
MAY 22, 1974

*When mutation comes:  
We are glad to announce  
you are FATHER of year  
In past we have honored  
some outstanding FATHER.*

*MacArthur  
Eisenhower  
Tamm  
Kennedy*

*We hope you will  
accept this high honor  
of a united man  
the father of  
have been  
exceptional*

I AM HONORED TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE 1974 "FATHER OF THE YEAR".

LET ME STATE AT THE OUTSET THAT WHILE I AM THE INDIVIDUAL

NAMED BY YOUR NATIONAL FATHER'S DAY COMMITTEE, I MUST INSIST UPON  
SHARING THIS AWARD WITH ALL THE FATHERS OF AMERICA. NOT THE LEAST  
OF THESE IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MANY YEARS STANDING WHO RECENTLY  
EXPERIENCED THE JOY AND REWARD OF FATHERHOOD WHEN HIS YOUNGER  
DAUGHTER MET WITH REPORTERS IN THE EAST GARDEN OF THE WHITE HOUSE.



I AM MOVED MUCH MORE BY THE HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED THAN BY POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS. IF FATHER'S DAY MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL, IT BESPEAKS THE UNITY AND CONTINUITY OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY AS A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE.



WHEN I THINK OF FATHER'S DAY, MY THOUGHTS TURN TO HUMAN TIES AND NOT NECKTIES. FATHER'S DAY IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE SPECIAL BOND OF LOVE THAT EXISTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A FATHER AND HIS CHILDREN. THE REAL GIFT IS THAT BESTOWED BY GOD IN HIS DIVINE PROVIDENCE IN THE CREATION OF THE HUMAN INDIVIDUAL.

FATHER'S DAY BRINGS TO MIND THE MAN WHO WAS FATHER TO ME.  
HE IS NO LONGER ALIVE IN A PHYSICAL SENSE. BUT THE QUALITY OF THE  
INSPIRATION HE PROVIDED AND THE MORAL VALUES HE INSTILLED ARE VERY  
MUCH ALIVE. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE HIS BELIEF IN ME --- A FAITH THAT  
GIVES REASSURANCE IN BOTH MY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIFE. I CHERISH THE  
MEMORY OF THIS WONDERFUL MAN.



THE ROLE OF THE FATHER CARRIES RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS THE JOYS AND REWARDS OF FATHERHOOD THAT YOU HAVE MENTIONED. IF THE FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY AS A GUIDE AND AUTHORITY BREAKS DOWN, THE FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE. IF THE FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE, THE NATION IS IN TROUBLE.



IT IS MY BELIEF THAT IF A FATHER IS TO RECEIVE RESPECT, HE  
MUST GIVE RESPECT. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE TRIED TO EQUIP MY CHILDREN TO  
MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. TO HAVE CHILDREN, ONE MUST BE WILLING TO  
ACCORD FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN THEY REACH  
THE CHALLENGE OF ADULTHOOD. THEN A VOLUNTARY AND FREELY-GIVEN LOVE  
GROWS. ATTEMPTS AT RIGID CONTROL AFTER A CERTAIN AGE DO NOT ENHANCE  
THE GROWTH OF RELATIONSHIPS.



HAVING SAID THAT, I HASTEN TO ADD THAT A FATHER MUST BE FATHER IN THE SENSE OF ASSUMING AUTHORITY IN THE HOME BUT REMAINING OPEN TO MEDIATION AND MODERATION. THE FATHER MUST BE A FATHER IN TERMS OF RESPECT FOR THE MOTHER AND OF SHARING WITH HER THE THRILLING HUMAN EXPERIENCE OF PARENTHOOD. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT CHILDREN SEE LIFE AND DEVELOP ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHERS IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR FATHER AND MOTHER. THE FAMILY INTO WHICH THEY ARE BORN AND WITHIN <sup>WHICH</sup> ~~THEY~~ GROW BECOMES FOR CHILDREN A MODEL OF THE FAMILIES THEY CREATE.



*Obviously*

~~IT IS OBVIOUS~~ THAT A FATHER CANNOT BE A FATHER WITHOUT A

MOTHER FOR HIS CHILDREN. BEFORE I GET TOO CARRIED AWAY WITH THE ROLE

OF THE FATHER, LET ME POINT OUT THAT IT IS MY WIFE, BETTY, WHO SHOULD

BE GETTING AN AWARD INSTEAD OF ME. MY WORK HAS TAKEN ME ALL TOO OFTEN

AWAY FROM HOME. BETTY HAS PROVIDED THE SPECIAL QUALITIES THAT HAVE

MADE OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FAMILY SUCH A GREAT SOURCE OF PLEASURE.

*really*

BETTY DESERVES THE CREDIT.

*1*





TWO OF MY CHILDREN ARE NOW PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION IN  
FIELDS FAR DIFFERENT <sup>FROM</sup> ~~THE~~ THE POLITICAL LIFE I CHOSE. MY OLDEST SON,  
MIKE, IS INSPIRED BY THE CONCEPT OF SPIRITUAL SERVICE AND IS IN  
TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY. HE WISHES TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO GOD AND  
*He is making up for his father's loss*  
HUMANITY. I AM VERY PROUD OF MIKE.

1



THE NEXT OLDEST, JACK, IS STUDYING FORESTRY AND IS DEEPLY  
INTERESTED IN THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. <sup>Naturally</sup> I AM ALSO  
VERY PROUD OF JACK.

MY YOUNGEST SON, STEVE, IS GRADUATING THIS SPRING FROM  
HIGH SCHOOL. MY DAUGHTER, SUSAN, IS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. THEY HAVE  
BEFORE THEM THE ADVENTURE --- AND RESPONSIBILITY --- OF CHOOSING  
APPROPRIATE VOCATIONS. I BELIEVE THEY WILL MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES AND  
I AM EQUALLY PROUD OF THEM.



MUCH IS SAID ABOUT THE GIVING OF GIFTS ON FATHER'S DAY, BUT THE FINEST GIFT THAT MY CHILDREN CAN GIVE ME --- ONE THAT I WILL REALLY CHERISH --- IS FOR EACH TO CONTINUE HIS OR HER OWN HUMAN GROWTH AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND AS A MEMBER OF OUR EXPANDING FAMILY, THE GIFT IS MANIFESTED BY A SPECIAL QUALITY OF LOVE AND THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH I DO NOT SEE SOME OF MY CHILDREN FOR PROLONGED PERIODS THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS VERY MUCH WITH ME. I APPRECIATE THAT GIFT WHICH MAKES EVERY DAY FATHER'S DAY IN THE TRUEST SENSE.



MY CHILDREN HAVE INFLATED MY EGO BY THEIR EXISTENCE AND  
WHAT THEY HAVE MADE OF THEMSELVES. MY CONCEPT OF FATHER'S DAY IS ONE  
THAT CELEBRATES HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS BUILT ON LOVE AND FAMILY UNITY  
WHILE INSPIRED BY THE LOVE OF OUR NATION AND THE MORAL VALUES INSTILLED  
BY THE SUPREME CREATOR.



AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR SELECTING ME FOR THIS CHERISHED  
AWARD. I APPRECIATE THE AWARD BECAUSE I APPRECIATE MY CHILDREN, MY  
WIFE, BETTY, AND MY LIFE AS A HUSBAND AND FATHER.

I WISH ALL THE FATHERS OF AMERICA AN EQUALLY HAPPY FATHER'S  
DAY. BUT LET US NOT FORGET THE MOTHERS, THE UNCLES, THE AUNTS, THE  
GRANDPARENTS, AND THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES WHO MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE.

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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
1974 FATHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON  
NATIONAL FATHER'S DAY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY - 1:00 PM

I am honored to be designated as the 1974 "Father of the Year."

Let me state at the outset that while I am the individual named by your National Father's Day Committee, I must insist upon sharing this award with all the fathers of America. Not the least of these is a personal friend of many years standing who recently experienced the joy and reward of fatherhood when his younger daughter met with reporters in the East Garden of the White House. I am moved much more by the human relationships involved than by political relationships. If Father's Day means anything at all, it bespeaks the unity and continuity of the American family as a central element in our national life.

When I think of Father's Day, my thoughts turn to human ties and not to neckties. Father's Day is the celebration of the special bond of love that exists in the relationship between a father and his children. The real gift is that bestowed by God in His divine providence in the creation of the human individual.

Father's Day brings to mind the man who was father to me. He is no longer alive in a physical sense. But the quality of the inspiration he provided and the moral values he instilled are very much alive. I deeply appreciate his belief in me -- a faith that gives reassurance in both my private and public life. I cherish the memory of this wonderful man.

The role of the father carries responsibilities as well as the joys and rewards of fatherhood that you have mentioned. If the father's responsibility as a guide and authority breaks down, the family is in trouble. If the family is in trouble, the Nation is in trouble.

It is my belief that if a father is to receive respect, he must give respect. Accordingly, I have tried to equip my children to make their own decisions. To have children, one must be willing to accord freedom and self-determination to young people when they reach the challenge of adulthood. Then a voluntary and freely-given love grows. Attempts at rigid control after a certain age do not enhance the growth of relationships.

Having said that I hasten to add that a father must be father in the sense of assuming authority in the home but remaining open to mediation and moderation. The father must be a father in terms of respect for the mother and of

(more)

sharing with her the thrilling human experience of parenthood. It is my belief that children see life and develop attitudes toward others in terms of their own experiences with their father and mother. The family into which they are born and within which they grow becomes for children a model of the families they create.

It is obvious that a father cannot be a father without a mother for his children. Before I get too carried away with the role of the father, let me point out that it is my wife, Betty, who should be getting an award instead of me. My work has taken me all too often away from home. Betty has provided the special qualities that have made our children and our family such a great source of pleasure. Betty deserves the credit.

Two of my children are now pursuing higher education in fields far different than the political life I chose. My oldest son, Mike, is inspired by the concept of spiritual service and is in training for the ministry. He wishes to devote his life to God and humanity. I am very proud of Mike.

The next oldest, Jack, is studying forestry and is deeply interested in the preservation of our natural resources. I am also very proud of Jack.

My youngest son, Steve, is graduating this Spring from high school. My daughter, Susan, is still in high school. They have before them the adventure -- and responsibility -- of choosing appropriate vocations. I believe they will make the right choices and I am equally proud of them.

Much is said about the giving of gifts on Father's Day. But the finest gift that my children can give me -- one that I will really cherish -- is for each to continue his or her own human growth as an individual and as a member of our expanding family. That gift is manifested by a special quality of love and the fact that although I do not see some of my children for prolonged periods, they are nevertheless very much with me. I appreciate that gift which makes every day Father's Day in the truest sense.

My children have inflated my ego by their existence and what they have made of themselves. My concept of Father's Day is one that celebrates human relationships built on love and family unity while inspired by the love of our Nation and the moral values instilled by the Supreme Creator.

Again, I thank you for selecting me for this cherished award. I appreciate the award because I appreciate my children, my wife, Betty, and my life as a husband and father.

I wish all the fathers of America an equally happy Father's Day. But let us not forget the mothers, the uncles, the aunts, the grandparents, and the children themselves who make it all possible.



Spooks  
1:00 P.M.  
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When I think of Father's Day , my thoughts turn to human ties and not to neckties . ~~The love and respect that make a family are in no way related to the purchase of gifts and commercial promotions .~~ Father's Day is the celebration of the special bond of love that exists in the relationship between a father and his children . The real gift is that bestowed by God in His divine providence in the creation of the human individual .

Father's Day brings to mind ~~XXX~~ the man who was father to me . He is no longer alive in a physical sense . But the quality of the inspiration he provided and the moral values he instilled are very much alive . I deeply appreciate his belief in me --- a faith that gives reassurance in both my private and public life . I cherish the memory of this wonderful man .





The role of the father carries responsibilities as well as the joys and rewards of fatherhood that you have mentioned . If the father's responsibility as a guide and authority breaks down , the family is in trouble . If the family is in trouble, the Nation is in trouble .

It is my belief that if a father is to receive respect , he must give respect. Accordingly , I have tried to equip my children to make their own decisions. To have children , one must be willing to accord freedom and self-determination to young people when they ~~reach~~ reach the challenge of adulthood . Then a voluntary and freely-given love grows . Attempts at rigid control after a certain age do not enhance the growth of relationships .

Having said that , I hasten to add that a father must be father in the sense of assuming authority in the home but remaining open to mediation and moderation . The father must be a father in terms of respect for the mother and of sharing with her the thrilling human experience of parenthood . It is my belief that children ~~must~~ see life and develop attitudes toward others in terms of their own experiences with their father and mother . The family into which they are born and within which they grow becomes for children a model of the families they create .

It is obvious that a father cannot be a father without a mother for his children . Before I get too carried away with the role of the father, let me point out that it is my wife, Betty , who should be getting an award instead of me . My work has taken me all too often away from home . Betty has provided the special qualities that have made our children and our family such a great source of pleasure . Betty deserves the credit .



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~~In very real sense,~~ <sup>M</sup> My children have inflated my ego by their existence and what they have made of themselves . ~~It is not now necessary for them to inflate their charge accounts to buy me gifts . To portray Father's Day as a mere presentation of material gifts does not conform to my concept of a day that~~

~~celebrates human relationships built on love and family unity while inspired by the love of our Nation and the moral values instilled by the Supreme Creator .~~

*Father's Day is one that*





Again , I thank you for selecting me for this cherished award . I appreciate the award because I appreciate my children , my wife , Betty , and my life as a husband and father .

I wish all the fathers of America an equally happy Father's D<sup>A</sup>y . But let us not forget the mothers, the uncles, the aunts , the grand<sup>A</sup>parents , and the children themselves who make it all possible .

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## NATIONAL FATHER'S DAY COMMITTEE

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# THIRTY NINTH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

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VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
1974 National Father of the Year

Wednesday, May 22, 1974  
Hotel Americana, New York



Tom Seaver  
*Sports*



Christopher F. Edley, Sr.  
*Humanitarian*



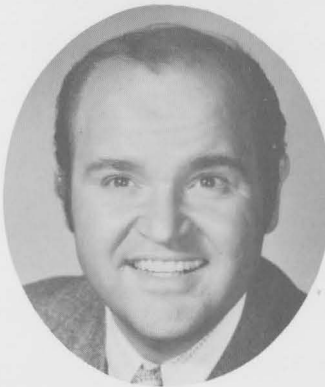
Frank McGee  
*Communications*



Joel Grey  
*Performing Arts*



Louis Nizer  
*Literary*



Dom DeLuise  
*Television*



Dr. Michael DeBakey  
*Medical Statesman*

# PROGRAM

The National *Anthem*  
2nd Marine Division Band  
Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Introduction  
*James A. Slear, Chairman*

Presentation of *Awards*

## FATHERS OF THE YEAR DESIGNATE

Vice President Gerald R. Ford  
*National Father of the Year*

Tom Seaver  
*Sports*

Joel Grey  
*Performing Arts*

*Self-disciplined  
most camp*  
Dr. Michael DeBakey  
*Medical Statesman*

Christopher F. Edley, Sr.  
*Humanitarian*

Frank McGee  
*Communications*

Louis Nizer  
*Literary*

Dom DeLuise  
*Television*