

For Immediate Release
Thursday, November 20, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Thanksgiving dinner tonight at 7:30 PM in the White House family dining room for fourteen senior citizens.

The dinner is being held one week prior to thanksgiving with the hope that it will focus attention on the isolation of millions of senior citizens and encourage people throughout the country to set an American tradition of including older citizens in their thanksgiving plans.

Their guests will arrive at 7:00 PM and join the President and Mrs. Ford in the Red Room prior to dinner being served at 7:30 PM. The menu includes: Fresh Fruit Cup; Roast Stuffed Turkey with Cranberry Sauce; Candied Yams; Acorn Squash; Brussel Sprouts; Homemade Rolls; Tossed Green Salad; and Eggnog Pie.

Mrs. Ford is Honorary Patron of the organization "No Greater Love" who is sponsoring a National Thanksgiving Day Salute to Older Americans.

Guest list attached.

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Press Pick-up at 7:20 PM for Photo Opportunity



FACTS ABOUT NOVEMBER 20th DINNER FOR OLDER AMERICANS

Guests selected by:

Associated Catholic Charities
National Capital Union Presbytery
Washington Area Council of Churches
United Methodist Church
Episcopal Diocese of Washington Ministry to the Aging
Jewish Council on the Aging
National Association of Arab Americans
National Council of Senior Citizens
American Association of Retired Persons
National Retired Teachers Association

Ages of Guests: 64 to 68
64
66
68
71
72 (2)
73 (2)
75
78
79
88

Places of birth: VA (3)
MD (2)
New York City (2)
D.C. (2)
PA
Iowa
Mass.
Shershev, Poland

Number of Guests: 14 (9 women - 5 men) (There are 4 blacks and 10 whites)

National Statistics: 5.8 million senior citizens who live alone or without family)
4.5 million are women; 1.3 million are men
3.5 females for every male



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE DINNER FOR OLDER AMERICAN

Flora Ack (72), now a resident of Washington, D.C., was born in Spotsylvania County in Virginia. At present, she serves as a D.C. Village Volunteer. In addition, she is very active in various church affairs, including the choir in which she sings.

Lillian Barsky (71), originally from New York City, has been active in the Washington, D.C. Status of Women group while living in this city. Lillian has also traveled extensively to all parts of the world with the Conference of Christians and Jews. Recently, she has helped to research and plan a tour book of Washington for senior citizens.

Ardoin Casgrain (78), comes to Washington from Winchester, Massachusetts. One of Ardoin's main concerns is the promotion of the Foster Grandparents program in which he is very active. In addition, he devotes a good deal of his energies to his activities with the American Association of Retired Persons. In his spare time, Ardoin writes poetry that reflects his personal thoughts on aging.

Patricia Corbett (79), born in Dubuque, Iowa, is a former pediatric nurse. Patricia's family history can be traced back to America's earliest days. She is a descendent of Josiah Bartlett, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Charlotte Fillmore (75), has enjoyed various vocations in her years here in the Washington area. At one time, she was employed as the housekeeper for Mrs. McCaffrey, former secretary to Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower. She is currently involved in the Senior Aid Program. In addition, Charlotte runs a Day Care Center for some forty-four children ranging in age from two to four years and in nationality from African to Oriental. She is also, at the present time, a foster parent to a five year old child who has lived with Charlotte since the age of five weeks.

James Morris (73), was born in Tom's Creek, Virginia, but lived for a long time in Knoxville. There, he employed his abilities as a maintenance engineer for the Tennessee Board of Education.



Felix Morrison (64), is a native of Washington, D.C. Felix devotes much of his time writing these days. In addition to his literary pursuits, he is interested in photography. Felix is a rose fancier.

Corma Mowrey (68), comes to us from West Virginia where she was a teacher. From 1950-51 she served as the President of the National Education Association. Corma holds season's tickets to the Washington Redskins games. A devoted sports fan, she particularly enjoys baseball.

Raymond Parisi (72), originally from New York City, has enjoyed various careers. At one time, Raymond was a hair stylist at the famous Plaza Hotel in New York. He has also been a professional dancer. In his time he has worked out choreography with entertainer George Raft's dancing partner.

George Robinson (73), was born in Carolina County in Virginia. George is active in various affairs sponsored by the Baptist church.

Onalee Swain (76), worked for forty-one years at the Department of Defense where she served as assistant to General Medaris. Onalee assisted in the setting up of the Guided Missile Base in Huntsville, Alabama. No stranger to the White House, she has twice before attended teas there during the Truman administration - both before and after the White House was refurbished.

Betty Williams (88), who was born in Maryland, is the oldest of the guests for the dinner. She comes from a background of distinguished clerymen. Betty's father was the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the oldest church in the District. Her husband was also an Episcopal minister.

Frances Winthrop (77), came to the United States from Shershev, Poland. After living in New York, Frances came to Washington where she worked at the Department of Defense for twenty-six years. She is very active in the affairs of the Jewish Community Center. In addition, Frances is a Pioneer Woman, a Jewish group which sponsors many fund-raising activities to benefit the people of the community.

Wadia Ferris (75)

(Information forthcoming)

Lebanon, widow
Bill Baroody, rec.
Arab/American

