

MRS. FORD'S REMARKS
THIRTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT LUNCHEON
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 11, 1976

From all the wonderful things I've heard about you and your hard work for the GOP, I just wish we could package your energy and enthusiasm and distribute the packages around the country for the benefit of all other GOP volunteers.

Of all the stories I've heard about your dedicated service, my favorite is about the elderly voter who was taken to the polls twice. She was so impressed by your concern and helpfulness she couldn't bear to tell the second volunteer she'd already been to vote. That story told me so much--not only about how hard you work, but something even more important--how much personal attention you give to people.

Sometimes all of the sophisticated talk about polls and percentages overshadows what good politics is about--people! You obviously understand this very well.

Americans who've never been involved in party work watch those votes flick on the television screen election night and think only of numbers.

You see those numbers and think about people--people who must be registered and urged to the polls.

Grassroots is exactly the right description of the silent, indispensable work volunteers like you do for the Republican party. Just as the roots of grass hold the soil in place--so your work keeps the party together. You prevent the erosion of Republican support during off years, and you work every season to build up GOP registration and to keep the party organization running smoothly.

You do the Party's hard work--out of the limelight and without pay. All of the jobs you do--keeping headquarters open, raising your own funds, distributing literature and registering and getting out voters--require time, patience, and energy and lots of dedication.

I know how indispensable GOP volunteers are for our Party, and I'm proud to join this "Thank You" for all those hours and all those sore feet.

I've been asked to present five awards to those who represent the dedicated service you all give, and I'm very honored to do so.

To the Canoga Park Jr. Republicans--a youth group dedicated to the principles and philosophy of the Republican party and pledged to carry them out with energy, devotion and enterprise. Group President Mark Wildberger.

To Mrs. Reta Fitzpatrick--during the past two years of tireless grassroots work in the 38th Assembly District, she gave generously of her time and efforts while serving as precinct chairman.

To Mrs. Madge Tarter--after retirement, she found a new and enjoyable career working for the GOP when she became headquarters and phone chairman for the 38th Assembly District.

To Mrs. Virginia Blashill--for many years, she has served as precinct chairman for the Pacific Palisades area of the district, and her efforts have increased Republican voter registration and produced more GOP votes on election day.

To Mrs. Mary Robinson--she found no limitations as a Republican Party worker and wore many hats, but she displayed her most exceptional talents as registration chairman.

I congratulate each of these special award recipients and all of you in this audience who have given so generously of yourselves to the Republican Party. Keep up the good work.

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