

Mrs. Ford's Remarks
June 17, 1976
New York Republican State Committee Convention
Waldorf Astoria

I always love to come to New York---this is a city of happy memories and good friends. The President and I appreciate the support and encouragement of New York Republicans, and this elephant will be a lovely reminder of you.

I'm especially pleased to join your Salute to Women. The spirited and talented women I've met during my travels have truly been an inspiration. My own commitment to equal rights has been reinforced by women like a young school principal I met in Florida. The enthusiasm and dedication of that woman and her assistants has made Creel School a center of learning and community pride. There are so many others like her---some pioneering in new professions and others assuming new leadership responsibilities.

The Mayor of San Antonio is one of the many women whose political skills are earning them challenging opportunities. There are more women in public life now---like Mary Louise Smith, Anne Armstrong, Carla Hills, Shirley Black and Mary Brooks. Their successes are giving Americans a new perspective on the abilities of women.

Increased visibility and attention to the accomplishments of women are so important for young people, who often pattern their lives after a person of achievement. I think it's wonderful to see women succeeding at many different jobs from policeman to diplomat.

The drive for equal rights for women opens up new possibilities for men and women. America is an ongoing experiment in freedom. To keep our country strong, we need the talents and energies of all our people.

Tonight we honor not only the visible women of achievement---of whom we are very proud---but those unsung women whose determination to try new paths moves our country forward.

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