

For immediate release
Friday, October 8, 1976

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

President Ford will present the Medal of Freedom to modern dance pioneer Martha Graham October 14. The Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award the President can bestow. The presentation follow an 7:30 p.m. black tie dinner hosted by the President and Mrs. Ford in Miss Graham's honor.

After the presentation, Janet Eilber, principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, will perform two solos, "Lamentation" and "Frontier." Both were choreographed by Miss Graham.

Mrs. Ford has chosen the first performing arts theme to be used in the decorations. Sculptures of primarily American dancers, both classical and modern, will highlight the table decorations. The sculptures, most of them bronzes, will be placed on mirrors and surrounded by flowers. American flowers, including anemones, ranunculus, lilies and gardenias, will compliment the Scalandre red silk tablecloths. Garlands of greens and flowers will be hung on the mantels in the State Dining Room. White mums will decorate the bases of the ficus trees on the State Floor.

The round tables will be set with Johnson china, the Morgantown crystal and the Monroe vermeil flatwear.

Joan Peck, New York City designer and contributing editor of House and Garden, will coordinate the decorations. The sculptures are on loan from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pischl and the New York Public Library.

The menu: Filet of Pompano Meuniere, Roast Saddle of Lamb, Currant Sauce, Rice Pilaff, Eggplant Parmesan, Spinach Salad, Brie Cheese, Hazelnut Ice Cream Bombe, Petits Fours, Demitasse.

Wines: Wente Brothers Sauvignon Blanc; Louis Martini Mountain Zinfandel; Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs.

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