

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Jerry Ford Day, Grand Rapids, Michigan, January 17, 1974” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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GRAND RAPIDS "JERRY FORD DAY"

MRS. FORD  
JANUARY 17, 1974

THANK YOU CAL. (ETC.)

NEVER IN MY LIFE DID I EXPECT TO BE STANDING HERE TODAY  
AS YOUR HONORED GUEST. I AM HERE DUE TO THE FACT THAT I AM  
NOW THE WIFE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT,

MANY OF YOU WOULD EXPECT ME TO BE HERE AS A FASHION  
COMMENTATOR, WHICH MOST OF YOU HAVE KNOWN ME AS BEFORE,  
OR MANY, AS A DANCE INSTRUCTOR, GOING BACK A GOOD MANY YEARS  
AND SAYING "A ONE-TWO-THREE KICK," BUT CERTAINLY NEVER THE SECOND

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AND SAYING, "A ONE-TWO-THREE KID," BUT CERTAINLY NEVER THE SECOND

LADY. IN FACT, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A FIRST LADY FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

EVEN WHEN I PINCH MYSELF, I STILL CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALL TRUE.

BUT ENOUGH OF THAT -- I'M THRILLED TO BE HERE AS JUST PLAIN BETTY BLOOMER FORD -- AND SEE ALL THE FRIENDS I HAVE MISSED FOR SO MANY YEARS.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF A MARVELOUS MARRIAGE. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HELPING JERRY IN MY OWN WAY TO SERVE OUR DISTRICT AS BEST I COULD. AND NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME, DUE TO THE 25TH AMENDMENT, AS YOUR GUEST OF HONOR.

NATURALLY, IT HAS MADE SOME DIFFERENCE IN OUR ROUTINE LIFE -- A LITTLE MORE HECTIC, A GOOD MANY DEMANDS -- AND MANY-A-DAY, I COULD USE 48 HOURS INSTEAD OF 24.

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BUT NONE OF US HAVE CHANGED. THE CHILDREN ARE THE SAME.  
WELL, MAYBE SHAN, OUR SIAMESE CAT, IS FEELING HER OATS SINCE  
APPEARING ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BUT GRAND RAPIDS IS STILL OUR HOME, AND YOU ARE STILL  
OUR DEAREST FRIENDS. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH IT MEANS TO ME  
TO BE HERE TO HELP CELEBRATE "JERRY FORD DAY."