

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Nevelson Sculpture Unveiling, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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REMARKS BY MRS. BETTY FORD

AT THE

UNVEILING OF LOUISE NEVELSON SCULPTURE  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1976

*Pullen 3*

It is time for Americans to celebrate the greatness of our ideals, to take pride in the achievements of the past two hundred years and to reflect with promise on our future.

Sometimes we are so close to our troubles we fail to see our triumphs. I hope the Bicentennial will help us reflect on how good and strong our country is.

Many nations have made plans to honor this special anniversary, because they see how hard America works to put ideals into action.

Rejoice is an old-fashioned word, but it captures the spirit I hope America feels this year. We should rejoice in our individual freedoms, in our free enterprise system and in our representative government.

Philadelphia is the right place to begin this celebration of the heart, because here ideals were translated into action.

We are still striving to achieve those ideals, and our ability to change and grow is also a cause for celebration. The past two hundred years prove a government of free people can prevail over conflicts.

This magnificent creation by Louise Nevelson symbolizes both the past and the future. "Bicentennial Dawn" celebrates what we have done and what we have yet to do.

If our hearts are moved by our successes and challenged by our failures, future Americans will look back to 1976 with pride just as we now look back to 1776.

We can know no more of the future than those Philadelphia dreamers, but our history gives us even greater faith in our ideals, our institutions and our people.

It is 1976. Our Nation is two hundred years young, and the ideal of freedom and equality for every American remains a fresh challenge.

I light this artistic creation tonight with this thought: "Let us rejoice in liberty."

UNVEILING OF LOUISE NEVELSON SCULPTURE

"BICENTENNIAL DAWN"

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1976

IT IS TIME FOR AMERICANS  
TO CELEBRATE THE GREATNESS OF OUR IDEALS,  
TO TAKE PRIDE IN THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS,  
AND TO REFLECT WITH PROMISE  
ON OUR FUTURE.

SOMETIMES WE ARE SO CLOSE TO OUR TROUBLES

WE FAIL TO SEE OUR TRIUMPHS●

I HOPE THE BICENTENNIAL

WILL HELP US REFLECT

ON HOW GOOD AND STRONG OUR COUNTRY IS●

MANY NATIONS HAVE MADE PLANS  
TO HONOR THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY,  
BECAUSE THEY SEE HOW HARD AMERICA WORKS  
TO PUT IDEALS INTO ACTION.

REJOICE IS AN OLD-FASHIONED WORD,

BUT IT CAPTURES THE SPIRIT

I HOPE AMERICA FEELS THIS YEAR.

WE SHOULD REJOICE

IN OUR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS,

IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM,

AND IN OUR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

PHILADELPHIA IS THE RIGHT PLACE  
TO BEGIN THIS CELEBRATION OF THE HEART,  
BECAUSE HERE  
IDEALS WERE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION.



WE ARE STILL STRIVING  
TO ACHIEVE THOSE IDEALS,  
AND OUR ABILITY TO CHANGE AND GROW  
IS ALSO A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.  
THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS  
PROVE A GOVERNMENT OF FREE PEOPLE  
CAN PREVAIL OVER CONFLICTS.

THIS MAGNIFICENT CREATION

BY LOUISE NEVELSON

SYMBOLIZES BOTH THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

"BICENTENNIAL DAWN"

CELEBRATES WHAT WE HAVE DONE

AND WHAT WE HAVE YET TO DO.

IF OUR HEARTS

ARE MOVED BY OUR SUCCESSES

AND CHALLENGED BY OUR FAILURES,

FUTURE AMERICANS

WILL LOOK BACK TO 1976 WITH PRIDE

JUST AS WE NOW LOOK BACK TO 1776.

WE CAN KNOW NO MORE OF THE FUTURE  
THAN THOSE PHILADELPHIA DREAMERS,  
BUT OUR HISTORY GIVES US  
EVEN GREATER FAITH IN OUR IDEALS,  
OUR INSTITUTIONS AND OUR PEOPLE.

IT IS 1976.

OUR NATION IS TWO HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG,

AND THE IDEAL

OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

FOR EVERY AMERICAN

REMAINS A FRESH CHALLENGE.

I LIGHT THIS ARTISTIC CREATION TONIGHT

WITH THIS THOUGHT:

"LET US REJOICE IN LIBERTY."

Louise, will you please join me,

# # #