

Support for B46

EXECUTIVE

PL/Ford, Gerald

PL/ST9

July 11, 1975

Dear Jackie:

Thanks so much for your very thoughtful message following my candidacy announcement. It is indeed heartening to know that I can continue to count on your support and friendship in the time ahead.

Again, thank you for your most welcome and encouraging message.

Best personal regards,

JERRY FORD

**Mr. Jackie Gleason
7215 West 20th Avenue
Hialeah, Florida 33014**

¹³
GRF: BAN: RLE: blh

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JUL 16 1975

CENTRAL FILES

32 - Support for B46

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 10, 1975

Bob Linder -

Please arrange for
a "nice thank you" to Jackie Gleason.

Jim Connor

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The White House
Washington

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PMS PRESIDENT FORD

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WHITE HOUSE DC

MR PRESIDENT HOW SWEET IT IS KNOWING ITS GOING TO CONTINUE THAT WAY
YOUR FRIEND

JACKIE GLEASON

7215 WEST 20 AVE

WIALEAH FL 33014

NNNN

FORM 0808 PA-1122-AT THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U.S.A.

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EXECUTIVE

PP10-3

November 29, 1976

Dear Marilyn and Jackie:

Your kind message meant a very great deal to Betty and me.

Naturally, the election outcome was a disappointment. But it's deeply encouraging to know that we still have the loyalty and good wishes of so many wonderful friends like you.

Warmest personal regards and appreciation.

JERRY FORD

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Gleason^x
Willow Wood Road
Lauderhill, Florida 33319

GRF:BAN:blh

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DEC 2 1976

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RMS PRESIDENT AND MRS GERALD FORD
WHITE HOUSE DC
SOMETIMES EVEN ACTORS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ADEQUATELY EXPRESS THEIR
FEELINGS YOU HAVE OUR ADMIRATION RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP ALWAYS
JACKIE AND MARILYN GLEASON
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

The White House
Washington

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13 JACKIE AND MARILYN GLEASON

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EXECUTIVE

PP14

December 10, 1976

Dear Jackie:

Many thanks for your thoughtful letter of November 18, inviting me to participate in the 1977 Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic, which is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 1977.

Because I so thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the 1975 Classic, it will be a great pleasure to take part in next year's event, and I am most happy to accept your cordial invitation.

I look forward to seeing you in February. Meanwhile, you and Marilyn have the warmest good wishes of the entire Ford family for a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jackie Gleason
Willow Wood Road
Lauderhill, Florida 33319

cc: Bill Nicholson

GRF:MAF:blh

RECEIVED

DEC 11 1976

FILES

60 accepted invitation to golf in Feb. 1977

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Jackie Gleason

#102

re: Jackie Gleason Anniversary Golf Clinic
on Feb. 23.

Rec'd from Bill Nicholson 11/23/76.

11/30/76 - I will call Jackie Gleason. We should
have POWS ~~prepare~~ sign response
saying y/s. RB

jackie gleason

November 18, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

When you accepted our invitation to participate in the 1975 Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic, it was a great thrill for me personally and a tremendous boost to the many charitable organizations which benefit from the Classic each year.

During your visit to Inverrary you expressed interest in returning to play here again. The invitation which I extended then, still stands, and I would like to reaffirm our desire to have you and your family as our special guests at the 1977 classic.

I would be most honored if you would join us on Wednesday, February 23, 1977 for a round of golf at Inverrary. Bob Hope and one of the top professional golfers on the tour will be invited to complete the foursome.

I hope in this small way I can offer my personal thanks for the many years of public service you have given this nation and for the strong leadership you displayed during a most difficult time in history.

Best personal regards.

Most cordially,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Jackie Gleason in dark ink, featuring a prominent loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Jackie Gleason

JG:SS

(Orben) PT

SP 3-74.

FL 2/26/75

February 24, 1975
Final Draft

JACKIE GLEASON GOLF RECEPTION, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1975
MIAMI, FLORIDA

As an office holder who carries a lot of weight in Washington,
it gives me great pleasure tonight to say "Happy Birthday" to a man who
carries a lot of weight anywhere -- Jackie Gleason!

I do appreciate these few hours of relaxation today -- although
I find I can never quite put the problems of Washington out of my mind --
even on the golf course. For instance, going to the first tee, Jackie
asked me what my handicap is. I said, "Congress!"

But it was really a great afternoon playing with Jackie, Bob
Hope, Jack Nicklaus and Elliott Kahn. They're all much better golfers
than I am -- but I want you to know that last Saturday afternoon in Washington,
I shot a 72! (Pause) Actually, it was a 95 but they gave me a rebate.

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Let me just say that Florida's reputation for sunshine is not restricted to its weather alone. You have given Betty and me two memorable and glowing days. We have basked in the warmth of the sun -- but even more important -- in the warmth of your friendship.

Thank you, most sincerely, for allowing two more snow birds to roost here today at Inverrary. Until we meet again -- bless you all . . .

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 26, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Lauderhill, Florida)

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
JACKIE GLEASON

INVERRARY COUNTRY CLUB

8:00 P.M. EDT

MR. GLEASON: Gentlemen, as you all know, we are honored with the President of the United States, and he would like to say a few words.

Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Jackie.

I don't know a day, since last August, where I have had a more enjoyable, a more wonderful time than today in this great tournament with you and Bob Hope and Elliott Kahn and Jack Nicklaus. You know, this is just one of those things that I will always remember, and I thank you and the others who participated.

I -- going a long time back -- have great respect for excellence, and I was playing with some people today who epitomize that, you and Bob, in the field of entertainments -- the unquestioned excellence in the field that you excel so beautifully in -- Elliott Kahn, a young man who has done superbly in the business world, and the one I envy the most, (Laughter) -- it is not you.

MR. GLEASON: I know.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not Hope.

MR. GLEASON: I know.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not Elliott. If I could just be half as good as Jack Nicklaus...(Laughter.)

A long time ago, back when the ball was round in football, I played a little football against another school in the Big Ten, and I loved the competition because Ohio State always represented a great skill, great competence, tremendous competitive urge and so forth. And as much as I hate to lose to them, I think they represent the best, and of course, Jack Nicklaus in golf represents the finest. And Jack, to play with you today and have you break the course record was a great thrill for me.

MORE

(OVER)

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You and I didn't contribute one thing to our score.

MR. GLEASON: Yes we did; you broke a record today.

THE PRESIDENT: What did I do?

MR. GLEASON: We went around the entire course, and there was not one dissident voice or sign throughout the entire area. And that is a record.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I just want to thank you and everybody that was related, Mr. Fuqua and all of the others, who made a significant contribution to this.

I have a couple of serious comments to make. You know, as an office holder in the Federal Government, who carries a lot of weight in Washington -- in only Washington -- it gives me a great deal of pleasure tonight to say that I want to extend to you happy birthday, to a man who carries a lot of weight, anywhere, anywhere, Jackie Gleason. (Laughter.)

I did appreciate, as Jack Nicklaus and you and Bob and Elliott Kahn and the others know -- after a couple of hard weeks and a few more coming down the road, it was great to be here and participate. Still, I can't quite get all of the problems out of my mind, even on a delightful day like this.

You know, on the first tee, Jackie Gleason asked me this question: what was my greatest problem? I think he was referring to golf. (Laughter.) But I had what was really on my mind, and I said, "Congress." (Laughter.)

But I enjoyed playing with others in our fivesome; it was a great treat. All of them are far better, infinitely more competent than myself, but I am going to work at it. And if you are kind enough to invite Betty and me down next year -- that is a subtle way of asking for an invitation.

MR. GLEASON: You are not only invited next year, but if you follow me, I know where a martini is. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, somebody asked me, out on the golf course, how I shot today, and I said I shot a 72. The truth was, that is before I asked for a rebate. (Laughter.)

But, let me say, I appreciate very much, Jackie, the opportunity to be with all of you, to be with Jack Nicklaus and to meet Barbara Nicklaus and their son, Steve, and daughter, Nancy, and to meet the others, who are here, and to be with people who are superb, the best. It is the kind of challenge that I think we in American have to seek and work to achieve. So, thank you very much on behalf of Betty and myself.

MORE

Page 3

You know, we have had more pickets outside of Washington concerning her than concerning me, but that is an indication of her character. And I am very proud to introduce to all of you the First Lady, my dear wife, Betty Ford.

END

(AT 8:05 P.M. EDT)