

WHCF Name File

Box 1190

Jackie Gleason

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 26, 1975

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

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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.)



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

bc: Bill Nicholson

GRF:MAF:blh

Declassified  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

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  
Willow Wood Road  
Lauderhill, Florida 33319

GRF:BAN:blh

Declassified  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

EXECUTIVE

January 27, 1976

IV/1976/ST9/FT. LAUDERDALE

RE 11

Dear Glenn:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of January 16 offering to caddy for him again this year at the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic.

Regrettably, the President is not going to be able to attend the tournament this year. He did want you to know, though, how pleased he was to hear from you and that he sends you his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Director  
Scheduling Office

Mr. Glenn Zakany  
6520 20th Street, SW.  
Plantation, Florida 33317

cc: 2 cys nancy gemmell

WWN:MHR:jem

JAN 28 1976  
CENTRAL FILES

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

IV/1976/ST9/F\*

January 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Gleason:

This is with further reference to the President's letter to you regarding your invitation to him to participate again this year in the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic to be held in Fort Lauderdale on February 25.

This invitation has been carried forward in our files for consideration as the schedule for February was finalized since the President was hopeful that he could join you for this enjoyable occasion but, regrettably, as the February schedule has developed it is now clear he will not be able to do so.

The President has asked that I express his great appreciation for your thoughtfulness in including him in your plans for the Jackie Gleason Classic and he sends warm good wishes for a most successful event.

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Director o  
Scheduling Office

Mr. Jackie Gleason  
Willow Wood Road  
Lauderhill, Florida 33319

WWN:rgv

cc: 2 copies to Nancy Gemmell

Declassified  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

January 19, 1976

Dear Ms. Buddin:

The President has received your letter of December 31 about your wish to meet with him should be attend the Jackie Gleason Classic in Fort Lauderdale in February.

I know the President would be pleased to have the opportunity of meeting with you, if circumstances permitted, but he does not plan to attend the Jackie Gleason Classic in view of existing schedule commitments. He does want you to know he appreciates your writing and he sends very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Director  
Scheduling Office

Ms. Thelma A. <sup>B</sup>Buddin  
3071 Northwest 47th Terrace  
Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33313

cc: 2 cys Nancy Gemmell

WWN:rg

Declassified  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

X

~~EXECUTIVE~~  
MEIG\*

December 15, 1975

STRAIGHT WIRE

★  
Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Gleason  
c/o Hank Meyer  
2990 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

Congratulations. Our hearts are with you on your wedding day and Betty and I join your many friends in wishing you both a joyful and a happy life together.

GERALD R. FORD

GRF:RLE:AVH:RLE:aby

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

Gleason, Jackie

EXECUTIVE

IV/1976/ST9/FT LAUderdal.

September 18, 1975

Dear Jackie:

Thank you so much for your most gracious letter, reminding me of my promise to be present at your golf tournament next year provided you invited me!

I anticipate that my schedule during February, 1976 will be extremely heavy; but you may be sure that if it can possibly be arranged I definitely want to accept your very cordial invitation to participate in the Jackie Gleason Golf Classic on February 25th. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity last year and hope and trust I can be with you again.

I am sending your letter and a copy of this reply to my scheduling office and asking that every effort be made to keep it on my calendar. You should be hearing definitely from my scheduling director as the date draws nearer.

Thank you again for your kindness and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jackie Gleason  
Willow Wood Road  
Lauderhill, Florida 33319

GRF:ml

cc: Bill Nicholson with cy of incoming

Declassified  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

August 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Harbaugh:

Thank you, on behalf of the President, for your generous offer to present him with a push-type golf cart, in appropriate Bicentennial motif, at the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic which will be held February 22-25 in Florida.

A final determination of the President's participation in the Inverrary Classic has not been made at this time. We will carry your offer forward, though, pending a decision on the Inverrary.

The President has asked that I express his appreciation for your thoughtfulness and sends best wishes.

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson  
Deputy Director  
Scheduling Office

Mr. Paul R. Harbaugh  
Public Relations Director  
Norman Malone Associates, Inc.  
209 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308

WWN:JLM

✓cc? Mary Widner w/incoming

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

RECEIVED

CLERK

July 16, 1975

Dear Jackie:

It was indeed kind of you to remember my birthday with the magnificent red carnations in their cut glass container. The festive atmosphere in our living quarters created by the blooms reminded me of your birthday celebration at the Golf Classic last February which I still recall with much pleasure.

Your gift made the day a very happy one for me, and I am most grateful for your thoughtfulness.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Mr. Jackie Gleason  
~~Willow Wood Road~~  
Lauderhill, Florida 33313

GRF:MFW:OOG:jah

GIFT



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*To Jim Connor*  
*7.9.75*  
*RJR*  
*Pres FYI Bee*

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PMS PRESIDENT FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

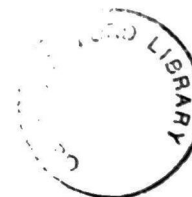
MR PRESIDENT HOW SWEET IT IS KNOWING ITS GOING TO CONTINUE THAT WAY  
YOUR FRIEND

JACKIE GLEASON

7215 WEST 20 AVE

HIALEAH FL 33014

NNNN



EXECUTIVE

*PT/Ford, Gerald*

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 70th Avenue  
Hialeah, Florida 33014

GRF:BAN:PLE:blh

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library



May 22, 1975

EXECUTIVE

ND18/CO 26

Dear Jackie:

Thank you for your message concerning the SS MAYAGUEZ. We are all grateful that the vessel and its entire crew have been rescued, and we can take pride in our military men whose valor and sacrifice made this mission a success. By their actions, America has demonstrated its resolve to protect its shipping against such hostile and illegal acts wherever they may occur.

I deeply appreciate your taking the time to let me know of your support.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

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

GRF:RLE:PAT: (Cleared with NSC):kar  
P-62  
60

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library



March 11, 1975

Dear Jackie:

I want to tell you once again how much I enjoyed participating in the Gleason Golf Classic. It was indeed a pleasure to play with such pros as yourself, Bob Hope, Elliott Kahn, and that other fellow, Jack Nicklaus, wasn't bad either.

You were so generous in presenting me with gifts commemorating the tournament that I scarcely know how to begin thanking you. The set of gold-plated irons, the shoes, and the pewter cups are all deeply appreciated and will be put to good use I assure you.

February 26 was also special because it was your birthday, and I am delighted that we were able to join with you in celebrating this event. Again, many happy returns of the day!

With my gratitude for your gracious hospitality, and with warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jackie Gleason  
407 Lincoln Road  
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

cc: Mary Fenton

GRF:MFW:MH:mh

Returned marked  
"Undeliverable as  
addressed, Unable  
to Forward"

Re-addressed to:  
Mr Jackie Gleason  
Willow Wood Road  
Lauderhill, Florida  
GIFT 33313

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library



*You are Cordially invited to attend a  
Birthday Dinner honoring Jackie Gleason  
at the Inverrary Country Club.  
Lauderhill, Florida.*

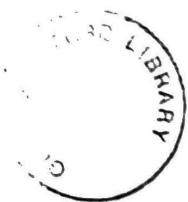
*Date: Wednesday, February 26, 1975*

*Time: 7:30 Cocktails - 8:30 Dinner*

*Place: Grand Dining Room*

*R.S.V.P.: Dottie Lewis - 755-7400*

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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)

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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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 26, 1975

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

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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS  
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT  
AND

JACKIE GLEASON

INVERRARY COUNTRY CLUB

8:00 P.M. EDT

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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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6/6/75

2/26/75

EXECUTIVE  
FR 19 ①



The Clubs of Inverrary



Dear Mr. President

Thank you for your  
thoughtfulness.

You made thousands of  
friends while you were  
here.

And, certainly, I am  
not only a friend but a  
fan of yours.

Thanks Again  
Jackie Gleason  
GLEASON



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EXECUTIVE

7/19

10

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

WARREN RUSTAND

FROM:

RON NESSEN JHN

Further as regards the President's Miami trip:

As for the Jackie <sup>x</sup>Gleason's reception and dinner, I would hope that the President and Mrs. Ford would attend only the reception briefly and then head back to Washington and not stay for the dinner and entertainment. I am told the dinner and entertainment get very boozey and raunchy and go on until 4:00 or 5:00 a.m.

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January 7, 1975

Dear Mr. Kirchhoff:

This is in response to your letter requesting credentials to cover the President's participation in the Jackie Gleason-Inverray Golf Tournament in Fort Lauderdale in February.

As you indicated in your letter, the President has tentatively accepted the invitation, and as of this date, his acceptance has not been definitely decided.

If the President decides to attend the Tournament, we will have a contact in Fort Lauderdale who will handle credentials for the local press. Please contact my office about a week before the tournament and we will give you the contact's name and telephone number so that you can make arrangements for credentials.

Sincerely,

John W. Hushen  
Deputy Press Secretary  
to the President

Mr. Glenn Kirchhoff  
Assistant Managing Editor  
Fort Lauderdale News  
101 North New River Drive East  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33302

JWH:jco

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JAN 9 1975  
CENTRAL FILES

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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE FILE

EXECUTIVE

DATE 12/20/74

TR 19

RE 11

PR 5-2

Gleason, Jackie

Zakany, Glenn

~~LETTER, MEMO, ETC.~~

TO: BILL WALKER

FROM: JERRY JONES

SUBJECT: Golf caddy

CORRESPONDENCE FILED CENTRAL FILES - CONFIDENTIAL FILE

SPECIAL FILES



Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

09

EXECUTIVE  
TAP  
10/25/75 ST. Louis  
6:54

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1974

Dear Jackie,

Thank you most sincerely for your wonderfully warm letter. I am truly grateful to have your support and encouragement and will do my very best to continue to merit your high regard.

I am looking forward to participating in the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Golf Classic on Wednesday, February 26th, 1975. I know it will be a fun day for me and want to commend you for your efforts in behalf of the Boys Clubs of America. These young people are the adults of tomorrow and the hope of the future of our great country.

I am certain that General Haig advised you that some event, unforeseen at present, may necessitate a change in my plans. Let's hope it doesn't happen and that I will be able to honor my commitment for that day.

With warm personal regards and appreciation for your prayers in my behalf.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]* *71*

Mr. Jackie Gleason  
Willow Wood Road  
Lauderhill, Florida 33313

Declassified  
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

