Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code:ME001

(Messages: Messages, Presidential)

Case file Number(s): 308363-308380

To see more digitized collections visit: https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide

National Archives Catalogue: https://catalog.archives.gov/

March 29, 1985

308363

VI 4680

mEDO1-02

Dear Martha:

While these come belatedly, Nancy and I send Mestage our heartfelt thanks for your hard work and support. Most of all, we thank you for your faith in what we long ago set out to accomplish.

> I was very sorry to receive word of your illness during the campaign and I hope that you are fully recovered. Because of your loyalty and efforts, and the efforts of so many throughout the nation, we look forward to completing our New Beginning, demonstrating that America's best days are yet to come.

Thank you and God bless you.

Ms. Martha L. Baca Apartment #2 453 North Air Depot Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110

RR: AVH: PAG: pps

Dr. a. C. Vyas

DRAFT/19916 3/27/85	at l
RR/ PAG (Rev. I)	(Rev. II)
NYN	1.44
AVH//	SIM
Dear Martha:	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosures:

Other:

A.C. VYAS, M.D. DIPLOMATE - AMERICAN BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

HERITAGE PARK MEDICAL CENTER 6908 East Reno Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110 Office: 405-737-6871 Res: 405-769-6400

Chy lift

February 15, 1985

President Ronald Reagan White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Martha L. Baca

453 North Air Depot #2 Midwest City, OK 73110

Dear Mr. President:

Once again, congratulations on your landslide victory! You are my most favorite president.

I am addressing this letter to let you know that behind your victory there are thousands of people who have worked day and night, and have put their best efforts forward to see your victory come true. Martha Baca, a very fine lady in Midwest City where I practice, has worked day and night to the extent that she became extremely sick. Inspite of her medical problems she continued to campaign for you and wanted to come and join you in the inaugural ceremony. In Washington she became deathly ill and had to come back for medical help. By the time she returned home she had pneumonia and congestive heart failure. Now she has recovered and enthusiastically wants to go back and work for the Président and the Republican party.

Once again, this letter is to bring to your attention the many people like Martha Baca who have worked endlessly to see your victory come true. I feel privileged to care for this young woman who worked so hard to see my own favorite person - Ronald Reagan - being elected as President of the United States.

With very best wishes & regards, Sincerely,

A. C. Vyas, M.D.

Diplomate - American Board of Internal Medicine

. 11

April 1, 1985

Dear Georgia:

It's certainly a pleasure to have this opportunity to congratulate you as you are honored by the American Business Women's Association at a luncheon in Topeka, Kansas. I can think of no more worthy recipient of such a tribute.

Yours has been a lifetime of unsurpassed achievement in every position and project you have undertaken. From earliest childhood you were encouraged by your family, particularly your father, to rely on your individual potential and judgment. This view of the world helped you to strive for the successes you wanted and ultimately attained in acting, banking and politics. Our 33rd President, Harry S. Truman, demonstrated what so many others knew about you and your outstanding abilities when he named you as the first woman Treasurer of the United States in 1949.

But that was not the end of your accomplishments and successes. You have continued to be a major force in your chosen profession and in your efforts to assist other women in the business and public arenas. America and Kansas have indeed been fortunate to have had the benefit of your talents and expertise. Nancy and I are proud to join the American Business Women's Association, Alf Landon, Nancy Kassebaum and so many others in paying homage to you and your distinguished record of service. God bless you.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Georgia Neese Gray

Topeka, Kansas
SENT SPECIAL DELIVERY TO:
The Honorable Georgia Neese Gray
c/o Miss Christel E. Marquardt
Cosgrove, Webb & Oman
1100 First National Bank Tower
534 Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603
RR:SRH:RDC:AVH:plr PM18

cc: K.Osborne/J.Sweetland WW/C.Korte/S.Herring/ CF

EVENT: April 8 4/1 Georgia Gray 15 1/31 4200 ME 001 BE003 HU016 MA059 FED0732 L6 Kansa

DRAFT	/Date	March	28,	1985	SPECIAL DEADLINE
	SRH	1.		ad	[printing, e.g.) April 8
RR/		hoc		, my	DATE OF EVENT
	(draft	er)		[Rev.]	[Straight Wire/Telegram) [Special Delivery/Express Mail)

Dear Georgia:

It's certainly a pleasure to have this opportunity to congratulate $35\,^{40}$ you are honored by the American Business Women's Association at a luncheon in Topeka, Kansas. I can think of no more worthy resipient of such a tribute.

Yours has been a lifetime of unsurpassed achievement in every position and project you have undertaken. From earliest childhood you were encouraged by your family, particularly your father, to rely on your individual potential and judgment. This view of the world helped you to strive for the success you wanted and utlimately attained in acting, banking and politics. Our 33rd President, Harry S. Truman, demonstrated what so many others knew about you and your abilities when he named you as the first woman Treasurer of the United States in 1949.

But that was not the end of you accomplishments and successes. You have continued to be a major force in your chosen profession and in your efforts to assist other women in the business and public arenas. America and Kansas have indeed been fortunate to have had the benefit of your talents and expertise. Nancy and I are proud to join the American Business Women's Association, Alf Landon, Nancy Kassebaum and so many others in paying homage to you and your distinguished record of achievement. God bless you.

RR

Ms. Georgia Neese Gray c/o Christel E. Marquardt Cosgrove, Webb & Oman 1100 First National Bank Tower 534 Kansas Avenue Topeka, Ks 66603

RR:SRH

cc:K.OSborne/C.ROrte/S.Herring/CF

Event: 4-8

MEMORANDUN

republican national committee

I andea

TO:

JOAN DECAIN

FROM:

FRANK J. FAHRENKOPF, JR

DATE:

MARCH 22, 1985

RE:

CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

My office recently received a request for a special message to be sent by the President to Georgia Neese Gray, who is being honored by the American Business Women's Association for her contributions to and for women in her lifetime. This event will take place on April 8, 1985. Additional information on Ms. Gray is attached for your information.

The message should be addressed and mailed to:

Ms. Georgia Neese Gray c/o Christel E. Marquardt Cosgrove, Webb & Oman 1100 First National Bank Tower 534 Kansas Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66603

Your appropriate consideration of this request is most appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Tierney of my staff at 863-8726.

FJF:pt

Copy Sweetland

COSGROVE, WEBB & OMAN

LAWYERS

1100 FIRST NATIONAL BANK TOWER JAMES D. WAUGH 534 KANSAS AVENUE JAMES L. GRIMES, JR. TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603 DONALD J HORTTOR EDWARD L. BAILEY

1913) 235-9511

March 21, 1985

M. F. COSGROVE (1961) PHILIP E. BUZICK (1970) ROBERT L. WEBS (1975) WILLIAM B. MELHENNY (1976) RALPH W. OMAN (1984)

ROBERT L. BAER BRUCE J. WONER J. CRAIG ANDERSON

MICHAEL J. GRADY CHRISTEL E. MARQUARDT

ELDON L. FORD

GRANT M. GLENN

Ms. Pat Tierney Office of Government Realtions Republican National Committee 310 First Street S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Tierney:

The American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is a national association of approximately 110,000 women dedicated to aiding in the professional, educational, cultural, and social advancement of business women. Our Career Chapter is one of more than 2,000 chapters nationwide. Each year we honor an individual of outstanding achievement at a luncheon and all the proceeds from the luncheon are used for scholarships for women at Washburn University of Topeka. Last year our chapter awarded four \$1,000.00 scholarships to area women.

This year we will honor Georgia Neese Gray at a luncheon on April 8, 1985. Georgia's tenure as Treasurer of the United States at a time when women in high government positions was indeed rare, and the contributions she has made to and for women in her lifetime, make her one of Topeka's most distinguished and beloved citizens.

Because of Georgia's affection for Governor Landon and Senator Kassebaum, Senator Kassebaum has agreed to be our speaker for the luncheon. Our Governor is proclaiming April 8, 1985, as Georgia Neese Gray Day and Secretary of State Jack Brier will fly a Kansas flag over our capitol in her honor that day.

I know Georgia would be especially honored if President Reagan were to issue a congratulatory message that could be read at the luncheon. Enclosed is some hastily gathered biographical information on Georgia.

Your assistance with the White House in our behalf will be personally appreciated.

Most sincerely,

Christel E. Marquardt,

(Kansas State Republican Assistant Treasurer, Second District Republican Secretary

hunted & Marquart

Republican Committeewoman)

CC. Senator Kaccahaum

GEORGIA NEESE CLARK GRAY

Honors, Awards and Memberships

- * President and Board member, Richland State Bank, Richland, Kansas, 1937-1964
- * President and Vice Chairman of the Board of Capital City State Bank & Trust Company, 1964-1976

 Board Member of Capital City State Bank & Trust Company, Topeka, 1981
- * Former Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D.C., 1949-1953
- * Director and Treasurer of Kansas State Board of the American Automobile Association, Topeka, since 1950

Graduate of Washburn University, Recipient Distinguished Alumni Award, Topeka, 1950

Honorary Doctorate (L.L.D.) from Russell Sage College, N.Y., 1950

Honorary Doctorate (B.A.D.) from Washburn University of Topeka, June 6, 1966

Board Member of the Womens Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Former Chairman of American Cancer Society, Kansas Division

Member of Alpha Phi Fraternity, Washburn University

Metropolitan Business and Professionals Womens Club, Topeka

Member American Business Women's Association, Topeka

National Association of Bank Women, Inc., Topeka

Zonta Club, Topeka

Kansas and Topeka Chambers of Commerce

Topeka Country Club, Topeka and Town Clubs, Topeka

Honorary Life Member Soroptimist Club, Topeka

* Board of Regents, Washburn University

Executive Committee of The Villages, Inc., Topeka

Honorary Member of NONOSO Society, Washburn University

★ Board Member -- Harry S. Truman Library Institute, Independence, MO

(OVER)

- Honorary Member Alpha Delta Kappa, National Education Society

 Distinguished Kansan Award, 1982, Kansas Native Sons & Daughters

 Democratic National Committee, Washington, 1936-1969 (record)
- * Chairman National Small Business Administration Advisory Council, Washington, D.C., 1958
 Member White House Conference on Aging, Washington, D.C., 1981

* First woman installed, elected or appointed.

** First woman installed, elected or appointed.

** TRUMAN PANIEL

In present times, when the position of women in American life is being examined, reviewed, and changed; Georgia Neese Gray is an example of a woman who has achieved. She is not an example or proponent of women's liberation, she professes little knowledge or interest in radical feminist movements. Without articulating any theories or supporting them, Georgia is still an example of the best principles of these theories. To quote Jane Howard, "she has never confused strength with gender, nor used sex as an excuse to avoid responsibility."

Georgia was originally from the small town of Richland, Kansas, where her father owned the bank. The family moved into Topeka while she was in grade school. She attended Clay elementary school and a private high school, College of Sisters of Bethany, which is no longer in existence.

After high school, she attended Washburn University, majoring in economics. Her real interest was in the theatre. Summers she went to Helen St.

Dennis school of dancing in California.

The strongest influences on Georgia's personality as she grew up were her father, and her elder sister. Her father had wanted a son, so Georgia learned to ride, shoot, and play baseball. She gives her father chief credit for always encouraging her to be an individual, to try for what she wanted.

In 1921, with a degree in economics from Washburn, she left Topeka and attended dramatic school in New York for two years. She became a successful actress working for eleven years in theatre guilds.

After the depression hit, acting jobs became scarce and Georgia's acting career came to an end. Georgia returned to Kansas in 1932 and began working in her father's bank. She soon became active in politics.

The high point in Georgia's political career was her apointment as

Treasurer of the United States by President Truman. Her selection was the

result of her work as national committeewoman and a combination of other

qualifications. She was confirmed as the first woman Treasurer of the

United States on June 10, 1949, where she served until 1953.

Since 1964 Georgia has made her home in Topeka. She feels strongly that women should be active in politics, that often women waste their abilities. It is a tenent of Georgia's that women can compete with men if they do it honestly, counting on their abilities and not expecting special treatment because they are women.

Lagter Captail Janes

California Inc. n

wife and the lind

Portrait to be unveiled

A new portrait of Georgia Neese Clark Gray, the first woman Treasurer of the United States, will be previewed publicly Friday through Sunday at the Kansas Gallery of Fine Arts.

An unveiling is scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Friday with Gov. John Carlin and Dr. Karl Menninger, founder of The Villages, in attendance.

The portrait, painted by Topeka artist David Zlotky, is being shown prior to presentation to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Independence, Mo., as part of the library's permanent exhibit.

Gray served as U.S. Treasurer from 1949 to 1953 under the Truman administration. In 1982 she received the Distinguished Kansan Award. She is a graduate of Washburn University with honorary doctorate degrees from Russell Sage College, New York, and Washburn University.

She is a prominent Topekan, nationally recognized, who appears in Who's Who in America and Who's Who Midw-est.

In addition, she is vice-president of the Washburn University Board of Regents, a board member of the Harry Truman Library Institute and a board member of The Villages of Topeka, which is sponsoring the exhibit.

Gray will autograph full-color reproductions of the painting for the benefit of The Villages, a Topeka organization for the care of unwanted and homeless children.

A \$10 contribution for each auto-

graphed print will aid The Villages in its fund-raising drive. A donation is not required to view the portrait.

Zlotky will join Gray, and state and local dignituries, in greeting the public during the preview.

The artist is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in general studies. In addition to formal portraiture he works in commercial illustration, for which he has won several prestigious awards.

The exhibit will be open to the public from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday and 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Those who wish to obtain an autographed copy of the portrait but who are unable to attend the exhibit may write The Villages, care of the Kansas Gallery of Fine Arts. Copy to anta Om 18 ED 5-1485 Omwatson 3 2087

YI

VE

April 1, 1985

Dear Mr. Eisold:

Message Through the courtesy of Congressman Edward
Boland, I have received word of your heroism.

The best among us, those who instinctively choose the selfless and noble course, do not stop to weigh the potential cost when they come to another's aid. This is a fitting description of your coursge in preventing a tragic accident during a snew storm in March. I am proud to commend your fine deed.

Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely.

MONALO REAGAN A

Mr. Richard Eisold 1254 Riverdale Street West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090

SENT SPECIAL DELIVERY

RR:PAG:RDE:AVH:plr PM16

cc: K.Osborne/W.D.Thomas/C.Korte/

P. Glesson 98-eob/CF

WHcc: Congressman Edward P. Boland

4/1 Richard Eisold

DRAF	T/Date 3/29/	85		SPECIAL DEADLINE	
		1	ml	[printing, e.g.)	
RR/	PAG	ROC	, , , ,	DATE OF EVENT	
	[drafter)		[Rev.]		Thomas
					ward Boland

Dear Mr. Eisold:

Through the courtesy of Congressman Edward Boland,
I have received word of your heroism.

The best among us, those who instinctively choose the selfless and noble course, do not stop to weigh the poential cost when they come to another's aid. This is a fitting description of your prayer and purch thinking in preventing a tragic accident during a snow storm in March. I am proud to commend your fine deed.

Thank you and God bless you.

S/RR

Mr. Richard Eisold 1254 Riverdale Street West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090 THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 13, 1985

GASSION TO

PAT GLEASON

MEMORANDUM FOR ANNE HIGGINS

FROM:

W. DENNIS THOMAS

SUBJECT:

Request from Rep. Edward Boland (D-MA)

Attached is a letter from Congressman Edward Boland (D-MA)

requesting a Presidential letter of congratulations for Mr.

Richard Bisold. Mr. Eisold courageously risked his own life to

Attached is a letter from Congressman Edward Boland (D-MA) requesting a Presidential letter of congratulations for Mr. Richard Eisold. Mr. Eisold courageously risked his own life to possibly save the lives of others when he swerved his truck and went down a steep embankment to avoid crashing into the back of several cars which had been forced to stop due to an accident. Also attached is a copy of a newspaper article which was written concerning the event and Mr. Eisold's bravery.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Lynn Harding Thomson at X7092. I would also request that a copy of any message sent be forwarded to my office.



Honorable W. Dennis Thomas Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I would appreciate your assistance in arranging to have a congratulatory message sent from the President to the following:

Mr. Richard Eisold 1254 Riverdale Street West Springfield, MA 01090

I am enclosing a copy of an article which was printed in the March 6, 1985 Springfield, Massachusetts, Morning Union newspaper. It details how Mr. Eisold courageously risked his own life so that others might not be injured. I believe this action certainly merits commendation and I know that Mr. Eisold would be honored to hear from the President.

Thank you for your assistance.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

EDWARD P. BOLAND Member of Congress

EPB:lds

Trucker

save lives

....

.

By SUZANNE McLAUGHLIN Union staff

A heroic driver who swung his tractor-trailer down an 80-foot embankment rather than hit motorists halted on a New Hampshire highway was back home uesday hight, bruised but itisfied. "I wouldn't want somebody to kill Tuesday satisfied.

my kids," declared Richard Eisold, 42, of Tuesday afternoon from his hospital bed in

Nashua, N.H.
Police in Nashua said Eisold veered off the northbound lane of the Everett Turnpike during a snow storm Monday afternoon to avoid several cars that had stopped for an accident. Eisold's truck rolled through a guardrail, down an

embankment, and flipped over.

Meanwhile, Eisold was being hailed as a hero in the Granite

"He saved some lives," reported Nashua Police Lt. Richard George. "Hats off to this man for sure."

000

Eisold, who has seven children, said he received a telephone call Tuesday afternoon from a woman who thanked him for saving the life of her 5-year-old son.

He said that in his 20 years as a trucker he has frequently "come up on a car with young kids in the back seat" and thought, "I wouldn't want somebody to kill my kids."

He said Monday was the first time he had to make a decision to risk his own life to save others.

"I'm kind of glad I made that decision," he said.

Eisold said he was "bruised from the waist up."

He was released from Memorial Hospital in Nashua Tuesday afternoon, and arrived home that night.

"I acted the way I thought was right," he explained.

"I didn't want to hit anybody," he said. "I didn't want to kill anybody. I was afraid that if I slid into those cars, somebody would have gotten badly hurt."

He said he applied the brakes, but knew he would not be able to stop in time. So he decided to run off the road.

"I thought I could ride the guardrail," he said. "I swerved to the left, and the truck just took off and



Nashua, N.H., rescue workers carry West Springfield trucker Richard Eisold from his tractor-trailer Monday after he swerved to avoid halted cars.

GG-

I didn't want to kill anybody. I was afraid that if I slid into those cars, somebody would gotten have badly hurt.

Richard Eisold Truck driver

went down the embankment."

Eisold, who has lived in West Springfield for two months, said he was born and raised in Ludlow.

He lives with his wife, Sheila, and his 11/4-year-old daughter, Dezeree. His other children are grown, he

Eisold works for Beverage Trucking Inc. of Bloomfield, Conn.



RICHARD EISOLD

The	President	has	seen
-----	-----------	-----	------

MARTHA GRAHAM CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE INC

Nancy Reagan Honorary Chairman Tribute

C. Edward Acker ampaign Chairman Endowment President Ronald Reagan The Whitehouse Washington, D.C. MEDDI PRO0502 50003

Dear Mr. President:

Board of Trustees

Francis S. Mason, Jr.
Evelyn Sharp
Chairmen Emeriti
Mrs. Marvin Traub
Chairman
Milton Goldman
President
Edward H. Michaelsen
Irs. Herbert S. Schlosser
Alexander Racolin
Peter H. Morrison
Vice-Chairmen

Edward T. Anderson Roger E. Anderson Walis Annenberg olly Bergen Endervelt Mrs. Gerald R. Ford Robert L. Gill, III Martha Graham Halston Neel R. Halpern Ray Kassar James Marshall Dr. Jost Michelsen Gregory Peck Ron Protas Dethsabee de Rothschild Marvin Sloves Elizabeth Taylor It was a glorious luncheon afternoon and another one of your many "acts of light" to me and to many artists, and to us all.

The thought of a medal like this one is something that I have long wished for for all people who support the arts as well as the artists themselves; it is a distinguished and heartfelt recognition of these individuals value to the world in general. It acts as an example to the world when a great nation backed by a discerning President establishes such a symbol of recognition.

I was so moved by the letter that you sent to me which was read by Frank Hodsoll during the opening night gala of my Company's New York Season this April. To think of the many things pressing upon you and that you would find the time for such a gesture, such an act of faith.

I know that the pressures upon you now are great and I can only send you my love and blessings and the hope that the situations confronting you may be resolved in a manner that you would wish.

Sincerely,

Martha Graham New York City May 2, 1985

516 EAST 63 STREET • NEW YORK NY 10021 • TE 2-9166

March 29, 1985

Dear Martha:

Nancy and I send our congratulations to you, the dance company and your guests as you celebrate your gala opening with a program which includes the world premiere of "Song." It is exciting to hear about your successful endowment campaign. We are disappointed that we cannot be with you tonight, but it has been an honor and privilege for Nancy to serve as Honorary Chairman for your tribute year.

Your artistry is internationally renowned, and we are fortunate to claim your works as masterpieces of America's cultural heritage. The world of modern dance has been revolutionized by your singular vision and dedication to that art form. In prospect, your career seemed a challenge and experiment; in retrospect, your art is a touchstone against which we measure modern dance. We look forward to your creation of many more brilliant performances.

Sincerely,
RONALD REAGAN

Miss Martha Graham
Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc.
316 East 63rd Street
New York, New York 10021

KEITH - NEA WIll Dick up

SUNT EXPRESS MAIL

BR:SRH:RDC:AVH:plr PM16

c: K.Osborne/C.Korte/S.Herring/ CF

EVENT: April 2 DUE: ASAP

3/29 Martha Graham

5300 4690 4710 MEDOI MEDOI MEDOI PRO14-12 FE 203-02

Dear Martha:

Nancy and I send our congratulations to you, the dance company and your guests as you celebrate your gala opening with a program which includes the world premiere of "Song." It is exciting to hear about your successful endowment campaign. We are disappointed that we cannot be with you tonight, but it has been an honor and privilege for Nancy to serve as Honorary Chairman for your tribute year.

Your artistry is internationally renowned, and we are fortunate to claim your works as masterpieces of Americas cultural heritage. The world of modern dance has been revolutionized by your singular vision and dedication to that art form. In prospect, your career seemed a challenge and experiment; in retrospect, your art is a touchstone against which we measure modern dance. We look forward to your creation of many more brilliant performances.

Nancy and I are among those who have witnessed your growth and exploration as an extraordinary dancer and choreographer. At though we are not present this evening we join in spirit with your legion of admirers in saluting your achievement and promise for the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Miss Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc. 316 East 63rd Street New York, New York 10021

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

WASHINGTON D.C. 20506

A Federal agency advised by the National Council on the Arts

March 25, 1985

Claudia Korte Presidential Messages Room 18 The White House assign To SRH

Dear Claudia:

Attached is a draft message to Martha Graham on the occasion of the opening of her dance company's season on April 2. The Chairman, Frank Hodsoll, wishes to hand-carry the message and read it to her in New York, so will you please return it to us as soon as possible.

By the way, look for Frank Hodsoll to receive an Academy Award for the National Endowment for the Arts tonight on television.

Thanks.

Keith Donohue

Correspondence Assistant Office of the Chairman

1- NEA droft provided

2- Previous RRs to Mraham

attached FY1.

3- Could mention 3/21/85

ship on notil Council
on the Arts - see release



WASHINGTON D.C. 20506



A Federal agency advised by the National Council on the Arts

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO MARTHA GRAHAM

Dear Martha:

Nancy and I send our congratulations to you, the dance company and your guests as you celebrate your gala opening with a program which includes the world premiere of "Song." It is exciting to hear about your successful endowment campaign. We are disappointed that we cannot be with you tonight, but it has been an honor and privilege for Nancy to serve as Honorary Chairman for your tribute year.

Your artistry is internationally renowned, and we are fortunate to claim your works as masterpieces of American cultural heritage. The world of modern dance has been revolutionized by your singular vision and dedication to that art form. In prospect, your career seemed a challenge and experiment; in retrospect, your art is a touchstone against which we measure modern dance. We look forward to your creation of many more brilliant performances.

Nancy and I are among those who have witnessed your growth and exploration as an extraordinary dancer and choreographer. Although we are not present this evening, we join in spirit with your legion of admirers in saluting your achievement and promise for the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Miss Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc. 316 East 63rd Street New York, New York 10021

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 21, 1985

The President today announced his intention to nominate Martha Graham to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for the remainder of the term expiring September 3, 1986. She would succeed Erich Leinsdorf.

She is founder and director of the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York, New York. She is the recipient of many awards for her contributions to the arts including the Distinguished Service to the Arts Award of the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1970; the New York State Council on the Arts Award in 1973; the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1976; and the Kennedy Center Achievement Honor in 1979.

She was born May 11, 1894 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and now resides in New York, New York.

#