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March 29, 1985

Dear Martha:

While these come belatedly, Nancy and I send 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.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

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

RR:AVH:PAG:pps
Dear Martha:
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 President 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
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,

RONALD REAGAN

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:SHR:RDC:AVH:plr PM18
cc: K.Osborne/J.Sweetland WW/C.Korte/S.Herring/ CF
EVENT: April 8
4/1 Georgia Gray
Dear Georgia:

It's certainly a pleasure to have this opportunity to congratulate you on being 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 success 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 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 achievement. God bless you.

RR

Ms. Georgia Neece Gray
C/o Christel E. Marquardt
Cosgrove, Webb & Oman
1180 First National Bank Tower
534 Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603

RR:SRH:

cc: K.Osborne/CFKorte/S.Herring/CF

Event: 4-8
MEMORANDUM

republican national committee

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
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
Republican Committeewoman)

CC: Senator Kassebaum
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)
Member -- Commission on Judicial Qualifications for the Supreme Court of Kansas, Topeka
Honorarv 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., 1968
Member White House Conference on Aging, Washington, D.C., 1981

* First woman installed, elected or appointed.

with Margaret Truman Daniel
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 appointment 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.
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 Meeninger, 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 1987 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 in the Midwest.

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 autographed 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 dignitaries, 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.
April 1, 1985

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 potential cost when they come to another's aid. This is a fitting description of your courage 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.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

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

SENT SPECIAL DELIVERY

RR:PAG:RDC:AVH:plr DM16
cc: K.Osborne/W.D.Thomas/C.Korte/
P.Gleason 98-eob/CF
WHcc:Congressman Edward P. Boland
4/1 Richard Eisold
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 potential cost when they come to another's aid. This is a fitting description of your bravery and quick 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

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 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

EP:B:lds
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 Tuesday night, bruised but satisfied.

"I wouldn't want somebody to kill my kids," declared Richard Eisold, 42, of Nashua, N.H., 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 State.

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

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 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, Shelly, and his 14-year-old daughter, Deseree. His other children are grown, he said.

Eisold works for Beverage Trucking Inc. of Bloomfield, Conn.
Dear Mr. President:

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
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

EVENT: April 2
DUE: ASAP
3/29 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.

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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
March 25, 1985

Claudia Korte
Presidential Messages
Room 18
The White House

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 draft provided
2 - Previous RRs to Graham attached FYI.
3 - Could mention 3/21/85 nomination for membership on National Council on the Arts - see release
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.

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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
For Immediate Release

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.

# # #