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July 1998

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WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

"Save America's Treasures Tour" with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

FOLLOW THE FIRST LADY

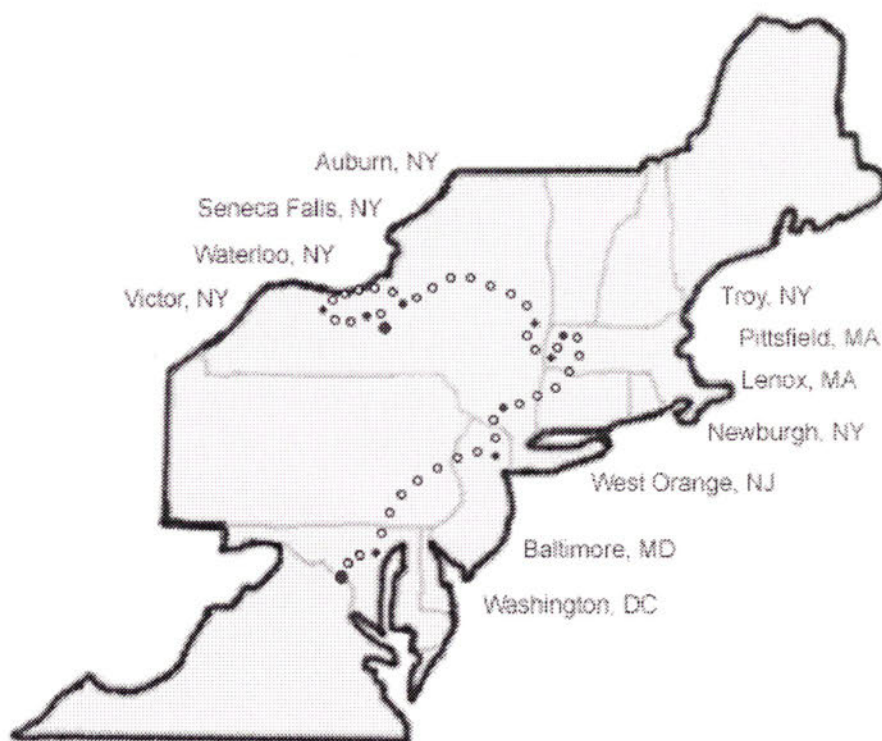
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is touring historic sites between Washington, D.C. and New York. Follow her trip through daily updates to this site.

July 13Washington, D.C.Baltimore, MD

(Francis Scott Key Monument)

Baltimore, MD

(Fort McHenry)

July 14West Orange, NJNewburgh, NYPittsfield, MALenox, MA**July 15**Troy, NYAuburn, NYVictor, NYWaterloo, NY**July 16**Seneca Falls, NY

Save America's Treasures Tour

related sitesphoto gallery

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JULY 98
TREASURES TOUR
VISITS

Smithsonian
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The Mount
Kate Mullany
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M'Clintock
Seneca Falls

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER EVENT AT
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY
MONDAY, JULY 13, 1998
(As Delivered - Draft)**

Thank you, Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you Dr. Spencer Crew for all of your work and leadership. I'm delighted to see so many gathered today for this significant announcement. I want to thank all of you for being here. I cannot think of a better place to kick off our tour to, "Save America's Treasures."

It took the skill of a flag maker in Baltimore, Mary Pickersgill, and her twelve year old daughter to weave this flag together. I remember reading about how her daughter later said that some nights they stayed up as late as midnight to try to get it done. It had been commissioned by the war department during the War of 1812. It took the courage of a young nation to ensure that when Francis Scott Key looked up, the Star Spangled Banner still waved proudly. It has taken the commitment of generations to ensure that today, as we heard from the young students, that pledge of allegiance to a flag still represents the best of America, as Denyce Graves reminded us. I want to thank our hosts, Spencer Crew and the entire staff of the museum. Dr. Crew's leadership resulted in a study of the flag's preservation needs and an innovative plan to restore it in full view of all who visit. I also want to express my appreciation to Secretary Michael Heyman, and the entire Smithsonian family, for providing an American classroom for people of all ages. Long after we graduate from school, it is often our cultural institutions such as our museums, and our libraries, that continue to teach us, and teach us especially about our history, about the artifacts and the art, and all that represents the best of our nation's past, present and future. And, I want to say a special word of thanks to Denyce Graves, who comes from this Capitol city, but is now not only a national but an international treasure at the Metropolitan Opera. There are many of you in this audience who have contributed to the preservation of the flag, individuals, foundations and groups, and we want to thank all of you for your contributions.

Now some of you may know that in 1813, it cost \$405 and nineteen cents to create this flag. Now all of us know that a few years have passed since then and it will cost quite a bit more to preserve it. Our entire nation owes a debt of gratitude to all of you who have stepped in fill this important need. I also want to thank Rebecca Rimel and the PEW Charitable Trusts, not only for the generous gift of which Dr. Crew talked about, but for her commitment and the Trusts' commitment, to save many of the treasures of our national legacy, from the Star Spangled Banner, to the Library of Congress, to Independence Hall in Philadelphia. And, I want to pay special tribute this morning to Ralph Lauren.

I first met him when he organized the fashion industry in support of breast cancer research. He has been a leader on so many fronts, and we are so grateful for his extraordinary generosity and commitment. You know, the phrase, "Ralph Lauren" has sort of become an

adjective. People say something is very, "Ralph Lauren" if it has a certain American style or design. Well, perhaps after today, it will also come to symbolize another aspect of the American way: good citizenship. When the President announced our "Save America's Treasures" project during the State of the Union, he talked about how chapters of our American history, our story as a nation -- like the Star Spangled Banner -- were literally deteriorating before our eyes. And, he called on all Americans to help. Well, the next day, Ralph picked up the phone and called. He, like most of us, hadn't known of the condition of the flag. But, once he heard, he did want to join in helping to save it. He said he'd been blessed by our nation and wanted to give something back. And, today he has. He's joined this morning by his family, his wife Rickie, and his children Andrew, David and Dillon. And, I want to thank the entire Lauren family, and the corporation, for this extraordinary commitment not just to America's past, but America's future as well. (Applause)

We've created a Millennium logo that some of you may see that people are wearing now. And, on that logo, you see this great symbol of our national heritage, the Stars and Stripes, the Red, White and Blue, all creating a pathway to tomorrow. Because, as much as things have changed since the War of 1812 -- when this flag proclaimed victory to all who could see -- we still have much to celebrate and much to work toward as we move to the future. We are connected to each other by shared values, shared experiences, and shared hopes, woven through our history and our flag. It is time, as we look toward the new century and the new millennium, to think about what these values mean to us. The flag, and the freedom it represents, belongs to all of us. How will we use that freedom? How will we take some time to study and save our past, not as a history lesson to be read about and put back on the shelf, but as a living reminder of what each of us can do to meet our own challenges in the country we are blessed to live in today.

That was the idea behind the White House Millennium Council. We knew, as we were talking about this in the White House, that the year 2000 will bring all kinds of celebrations, and markings of occasions. We know there will be room for lots of fun, and great New Year's Eve parties, and there may even be products like "Millennium Toothpaste", or "Millennium Potato Chips" or everything else you can imagine. But we hope that it would not just be a passing moment, but a time for reflection about what defines us as a nation. What does it mean to be an American, as we approach the Twenty-first Century? How do we, as Secretary Heyman so eloquently said, think about those shared values, that sense of justice and equality, and carry that forward together?

Today the President and I kick off our "Save America's Treasures" program, starting here at the Smithsonian, in front of the most valuable icon in our history. We're going to ask every American to help preserve the artifacts, the documents, the monuments, the sites that tell the American story. Now, some of them are well known, such as the Star Spangled Banner, or Ft. McHenry where I will be later this afternoon in Baltimore. Others are less well known, such as William Seward's home where I will visit, where he hid runaway slaves on the underground railroad. But all of them, in every community throughout our land are part of our nation's memory and should be part of our nation's future. I'll be visiting the homes of women who

changed the face of history, from Kate Mullany who started a women's labor union, to Edith Wharton who memorialized in her writing much of what was happening in our history at a certain time, to Harriet Tubman the former slave whose bravery was an example to all who cared about abolition. I'll visit Thomas Edison's laboratory tomorrow morning where boxes and boxes of his work have been sitting unopened for years, to draw attention to the creative genius, the scientific research, the others who have contributed in so many ways to make America what it is today.

The White House Millennium Council, under the leadership of Ellen Lovell who is here with us today, has formed a partnership. That partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, under the leadership of Dick Moe who is also with us, will take us on this first tour from place to place, through Maryland, and New Jersey, and to Massachusetts and New York. We'll be calling on Americans to think about what each of us can do. Perhaps there is a monument in your town square covered in graffiti or falling apart, maybe a cemetery overgrown with weeds, or a historic building threatened by development, a library lacking in resources, a piece of art tucked away, historic photographs yellowing in a county clerk's file cabinet. We have the chance to find and save "America's Treasures." And, we're hoping that every one of us, from the children we saw today to those who inhabit our corporate board rooms will think of what each can do to help save what we value from the past so that we can give our own gifts to the future.

There is a great tradition of preservation in this country. By 1850, we had already established George Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh as our first state historic site, which I will be visiting. What they knew then, and what we have continued to learn through successes -- and failures, such as the destruction of the beautiful Penn Station in New York -- is that we can never own our nation's past, but we're the caretakers of it. We have a responsibility to future generations to be good ancestors. I'm told that a group of young children walking through this museum one day took a look at the flag and spontaneously started singing the "Star Spangled Banner." I think about the lessons that generations of young children have learned here standing before this flag. I hope that generations to come, through the next millennium, will have the same opportunities.

When this flag was commissioned, the man who commissioned it, Lt. Col. George Armistead, did so because he imagined the future with confidence. Now, when you think about it there wasn't maybe much objective basis for that confidence. We were once again in a war with Great Britain, their great troops and fleets were on our shores, we'd lost a battle, the British had broken through the lines, they had taken Washington -- I see our mayor, Mayor Barry here today. They had marched into Washington, they had burned the White House. There wasn't much reason to think confidently about the future. And yet, Americans have always been confident and we have worked to make that confidence real. And, just as our former leaders such as that Lieutenant Colonel, and so many others, imagined the future with confidence, so must we. In this time of great blessings, it is not time to rest on our laurels. It is time to pass onto our children, grandchildren and all the children to come, the stories from individual families to the ones we

read in the history books, that made us who we are today. No one has worked harder or cared more about creating the kind of American future that will enable us to live with confidence than our next speaker. I know that because I see it at work every single day. Just ask him about American History and be prepared to hear a very long dissertation because he reads it, he studies it, he lives it, he makes it. And, because of his confidence in our future and what we should do as Americans to ensure the kind of hopes and dreams we take for granted, it is my great honor to introduce the President of the United States. (Applause)

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House Millennium Council's
Tour To
Save America's Treasures
Francis Scott Key Memorial
Baltimore, Maryland
July 13, 1998**

...And to be here in this beautiful setting with all of these trees, I'm always happy to be anywhere that the Morgan State University Choir appears, and I want to thank you once again. You know Dr. Carter brought the choir to the White House last month and they participated in a special production from the White House of gospel music that will be telecast in February and I'm going to give it an advance plug because I think if you are a lover of gospel or even curious about gospel this is an event you will not want to miss.

Thank you very much Governor. Thank you for your introduction and the work that you are doing. Thank you Mayor Shmoke for your being with us today and for the work that is being done in Baltimore. Thank you Senator Sarbaines for your leadership on behalf of issues that are important both to our past and to our future. I am delighted that Bill Ivey, the new head of the National Endowment for the Arts, could be here to help kick off this very exciting project that the NEA is funding. I also want to thank Ms. Eckemann and Mr. Sands for caring about preservation and Target stores for the partnership that they have formed with the NEA to save our outdoor sculptors. And again I want to welcome all of you; elected officials, local preservationists, community residents, Prince Hall Masons, all who are here today to celebrate this great moment.

Not only on behalf of the sculpture behind me, but on behalf of the ? of Baltimore, on behalf of the extraordinary rich history of Maryland, and on behalf of our effort to Save America's Treasures throughout our nation. It's always a pleasure to be back in Baltimore, as you've already heard, this is a city that is just seeped in American history. And as we begin our tour, it started at the Smithsonian, the first stop where we announced the rather significant gift to preserve the Star-Spangled Banner, and then came here as the next stop to announce the preservation of this sculpture.

We are attempting to make sure that every American understands how important the past is. Not just as a history lesson to be learned about and put away on a shelf somewhere, but as a living reminder of how we became the nation we are. The values that we bring from the past to the present and that will guide us as we move together, with confidence, into the future. The event this morning, where some of you were, was an extraordinary national commitment to preserve the Star-Spangled Banner. The secretary of the Smithsonian said that of all the one-hundred and forty million objects that the Smithsonian has custody over, the Star-Spangled Banner is the most important. It is truly one of America's treasures and a powerful symbol of

our nation's struggle for independence and freedom.

So, it is particularly fitting that we would come from that announcement to this beautiful monument-The Francis Scott Key, whose words in describing what he saw as that flag survived the bombardment, led to his penning the poem that became immortalized in our national anthem. And I guess following up on what Governor Glendenning said, it does give us some heart, those of us who happen to be lawyers, that the words were penned by a lawyer. I hope you don't hold that against ? Key.

But it is true that this is a city and a state that actually made much of the history that people will be celebrating for the next two and a half years. This city tells much of the story of our nation. The President, John Quincy Adams, gave a toast to "Baltimore, the monumental city," back in 1827. He was recognizing Baltimore as the first American city to build public monuments, including the first one dedicated to George Washington.

Since then, thanks to ?, Baltimore has reinforced that civic spirit, by adding public sculptures and monuments such as this one throughout this city in parks and public places. And by engaging citizens such as yourselves in their care and restoration. We heard from the Mayor about Baltimore's Bicentennial Celebrations last year, and from the Governor about Maryland's ambitious plans to celebrate the Millennium. Both of these efforts underscore this city and this state's deep appreciation for your heritage, and I applaud you for leading the way to demonstrating how important preserving the past is, to having places such as this, that speak to people in the present and inspire them for the future.

This new major effort by *Target* Stores and the NEA consists of a 1.4 million dollar commitment to save America's outdoor sculptures. I want to express my appreciation to the National Endowment for the Arts. You know the NEA comes in (?) for criticism by people who often do not know what the NEA does. They take out of context one or two examples and say, "that's what the NEA does" and they miss all of the work that the NEA has done for more than thirty-three years. The NEA (applause), the NEA's public arts program has created new monuments that speak to us of the new times all over the country. New sculptures which will become the famous landmarks of the future. Through grants, the NEA has supported communities to enhance urban design and to strengthen local, cultural organizations. I am pleased and delighted to be here today because it does represent an agency that has meant a lot to artists and schools and to sculptures on our streets and to all kinds of performances and cultural and artistic heritage.

I also want to thank Target for being such a model for corporate citizenship. Thanks to your generosity, this beautiful monument and significant outdoor sculpture ? of the city that referred today(?) will be preserved and restored for the benefit of us all. I know you also embarked on the Park Service.....

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House Millennium Council's
Tour to
Save America's Treasures
Edison National Historic Site
West Orange, New Jersey
July 14, 1998**

Thank you, thank you very much. I couldn't help but thinking as I sit here on the platform, watching all of you fan yourselves and seek some shade that this day gave entirely new meaning to one of Edison's famous comments that genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration. I think that it is especially applicable today as we celebrate all that Thomas Edison has meant to our country and to technology and to the future as well as the past. I want to thank Elizabeth Sloan (?) and Nancy Millerarn. (?) Who are descendants representing the Thomas Edison family. I want to thank Congressman William Pascrell (?) for being with us and for caring about historic preservation. Mayor John McKeen and the West Orange Town Council who sits here in the front row with their children. Um, I think what has already been said from this platform is true that not only is Thomas Edison being honored today but the hundreds and thousands of people who live right in this community who make such a difference to help America develop and what our possibilities became. I want to thank everyone associated with the Park Service, particularly Robert Stanton, the Park Service's Director, Marie Rust. Bob Stanton was the Park Service Supervisor in charge of the capital region for a number of years and was there when the President and I moved into the White House. And you may not know that the White House is dependant upon the Park Service because the grounds are cared for by the Park Service and we got to know Bob Stanton through that. And we are delighted that someone who started out as a ranger at Grand Teton National Park is now the director of the Park Service. I also want to acknowledge State Senator Richard Cody who is here with us today. And is see and old friend of my husband and I, former Governor Brendon Burn, and I thank you for being here, Governor Burn. We also have representatives from the National Park Foundation, including its board and President, John Maddy. Also I believe former Mayor of Newark Kent Gibson is here, and I'm delighted he could be here as well as former Mayor Sam Spurna. There're representatives from other business corperations: The Main Street Development Corperation. All of us are gathered here because of the significance of this announcement, and what it means, not only for this community, and even for this state, but for our entire country. And I would argue even for the rest of the world. Because as we went through this incredible invention factory that Thomas Edison built here, I became more and more excited about what the possibilities are of taking this particular park service site and making it more accessible to people, enabling students to come here and learn and be inspired by what happened here so many years ago. The creativity and scientific discovery, the application of the technology that were created here by Thomas Edison and his team of people really put America's business in technological development on the road to the future. And the future is created every day, the future is not something that is out there waiting to happen to us. The future is something that we make, every one of us in our private and public and professional capacities are always making the future.

And certainly it is imperative that we remember where we came from, and that we reflect upon those values and lessons in order for us to carry with us into the present and then to help make the future based on what has worked and what is the best of the past. And that is why we want to say a special word of appreciation today to General Electric, and particularly to its Chairman and CEO Jack Wells, because as you've already heard, Thomas Edison was one of the real creative geniuses, not only of America's history, but of the entire world's history. *Life* magazine is surveying the last one-thousand years, the millennium preceeding the one that will turn in just a few years, included that of all the people who influenced how we live today, Thomas Edison was the most important. Now just stop and think about that for a minute, think about all the men and women, the military leaders, the political leaders, artistic leaders, the religious leaders, the scientific and creative leaders who have lived and worked in the last thousand years. And yet based on a survey of experts from all fields, Thomas Edison was chosen as the most important person of the last thousand years. Now that to me is almost breathtaking because we take so much for granted about what he did here at this invention factory. The millions of documents and artifacts and machine pieces that fill this park service site have been endangered of deteriorating, being damaged beyond repair. Why?, because if you look around you there is so much that goes on here, there's ten buildings. I just went through one of them, into his library, and then up to one of the workshop areas, and yet I can see how much there is to be preserved, if we are to remember how this man, who some believe is the most important contributor to what we call modern civilization, lived and worked. From this place where genius was transformed into invention, we find that Thomas Edison never stopped thinking and working. And we can see all around us the results of that effort. Now when he died, his staff promptly sealed his death. They understood that they had worked with someone of great genius. They understood that, in this place, so much of what we now enjoy, in terms of progresses and advances, first took thought and then were put into action. When *Life* magazine names Thomas Edison as their person of the Millennium, they said that the dramatic changes in our political, social, and economic life, are in large part driven by changes in technology. Just think of that for a minute. Think about what the computer is doing to us today. And then think back to how so much of what Edison did literally changed the face of how we live. It's incredible to think that here with a few dozen other "muckers," as he called his colleagues, Edison created the model of the modern research and development lab that we see at GE and around the country. Today, all told, we spend more than 200 billion dollars a year on research and development. But in many respects, those investments today started with Thomas Edison. Because we benefit from the technological advances he made, we also might forget how really innovative he was in the way he used that technology. These weren't just inventions to sit on a shelf somewhere, they were inventions to be translated into the everyday lives of people. They became a part of how we lived in our homes and what our popular culture was meant like.

I just recently, an hour or so ago, made a wax recording, speaking into the large megaphone that Edison invented...And had to shout into the megaphone and this wax cylinder was turning and my voice was being recorded. And then the engineer and ranger who were supervising it, played it back for me. I must confess, I did not know about wax cylinder recordings. I knew about old-fashioned phonographs with big records..my grandfather had one of those. So I brought to show you, and particularly for the children, what is the precursor of the CD. Edison Gold Molded Records echoed all over the world and if you were, in about 1910 or 1912, interested in having music in your home and you were lucky enough to afford one of these wax cylinder

phonographs, and maybe you had a particular favorite. This one that I picked is song called, "When a Peach in Georgia Weds....etc," by Hart and James. You would go and you would buy this container with this wax cylinder and you would take it home and put it on your phonograph. Now we know this wax cylinder became a record. We know the record became a CD. We don't know exactly what comes next. But I think it's important for all of us to recognize that the technology that we live with today did not just happen, that there was a lot of hard work and inspiration behind every one of these inventions. That is one of the reasons why the President and I have chosen to focus on saving America's treasures and looking toward the past and encouraging Americans to share all the ideas we that have drawn from the past to carry with us into the future. We want to be sure that Americans in future generations are able to come here and appreciate what Thomas Edison did. We hope that young boys and girls will come here ...as I've heard stories from engineers in the last day who came here as children and were inspired by what they saw and learned here to think about what they could invent and add to the progress that human kind made.

So I want to thank all of you who have been apart of the announcement today. And I want to ask you to think with us about other ways we can give gifts to the future as we move towards the change of the century and the new millennium. Yesterday the President and I stood beneath the Star Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian to celebrate another wonderful gift from another American corporation and individual. And I thought then how lucky we were that brave people with confidence who had enough faith in our country in 1814 that when the great British empire was bombarding Baltimore, they were sure that we would last through the night. And indeed we did and Francis Scott Key immortalized that moment. Well today, I'm also feeling very fortunate to be one of those people among all of us as Americans who have benefitted from the work done here. Not holding off the bombardment on one night in September in 1814, but day after day and year after year thinking of new ways to improve lives for people. Giving people more opportunities to enjoy their luxuries and time with listening to music at home. And changing the way we live together. As I leave here, I'll be going on to other sites. Perhaps not as well known as Edison's invention factory or the Star Spangled Banner, but each which represents a contribution to America's history, and I argue, to America's present and future. Because if we keep in mind where we came from, as we move into this new century together, then I'm convinced we'll have the same confidence that the American troops did in Fort McHenry, holding off that bombardment. And we'll have the same energy, creativity, and know how that Edison and his team did... here, creating the kind of technology that has fueled America's drive to economic leadership throughout this century. So that is what Save America's Treasures is all about. It's not about just putting something on the shelf and admiring it. It's about taking it off the shelf, learning how it works and applying it day in and day out so that we can keep faith with those who came before us and contribute to an even stronger and more confident America in the future.

Thank you all for making that a reality. (Applause)

The future is created every day, the future is not something that is out there waiting to happen to us. The future is something that we make, every one of us in our private and public and professional capacities are always making the future. Certainly it is imperative that we remember where we came from, and that we reflect upon those values and lessons in order for us to carry with us into the present and then to help make the future based on what has worked and what is the best of the past. And that is why we want to say a special word of appreciation today to General Electric, and particularly to its Chairman and CEO Jack Welch, because as you've already heard, Thomas Edison was one of the real creative geniuses, not only of America's history, but of the entire world history. *Life* magazine is surveying the last one-thousand years, the millennium preceding the one that will turn in just a few years, included that of all the people who influenced how we live today, Thomas Edison was the most important.

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Thank you all for making that a reality.

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Washington's Headquarters
Newburgh, New York
July 14, 1998**

Thank you so much, Newburgh. I am absolutely delighted to be here and to see all of you. I know it's a hot afternoon and I appreciate your coming out because that says a lot about how much you value this community and the future you think you can build here for yourselves and your families and your children and your grandchildren. That's the best kind of treasure that any of us have -- how we build a better future for all of us. And as I have been here just for a short while, I have seen with my own eyes and heard from your elected officials that kind of progress you are making here.

I want to thank your Congressman Maurice Hinchey for not only that introduction but for what he said and how he has worked to make those words a reality on behalf of the people of this area. I want to thank your Mayor for introducing the program and for herself making history because I checked -- I guess I don't need to tell you that your mayor is the first African-American woman elected a mayor in New York State. Let me also thank your city council and your city manager, Harry Foor, and everyone who has worked together. I also want to thank your Superintendent and your school board who I had a chance to meet before I came out here for the work they're doing to build the next generation by improving education. I want to thank Mr. Aldridge for coming here and supporting these efforts and for the work that he does in New York State. I want to thank Arnold Moss and Nancy Abraham for what they've done here to revitalize on Landers Street housing in this city. Bob Benewise and Alison Lee and Peter Smith and everybody who has worked together to give Newburgh the reputation that it has had and that it does have -- a beautiful jewel of the Hudson River Valley. A well-deserved term. There are so many of you from the Palisades, interstates parks commission to the Kingston-Newburgh enterprise Community Commission.

All of you working together and I want to say a special word of appreciation to the woman Aisha Lindsay who sang the Star-Spangled Banner so beautifully. Every American everywhere because whenever we go anywhere, I see with my own eyes how much this country has given to all of us. There is no basis of comparison. We're a young country, we're still growing, we don't have anywhere near the history represented by our distinguished visitor -- the General Counsel from France. But we have the spirit that made America great and will continue to make America great as long as we do our part to ensure that it lives into the next century.

That's why when the President and I were talking about how we might mark the Millennium, because you know the century is going to change and the millennium is going to come whether we do anything or not. And we knew that there were lots of people planning New Year's Eve parties for the year 2000 and there'd be new products that would call themselves *Millennium Toothpaste*, or something. But we thought that maybe we could take some time out

and just think about what it is that we valued about our country and what values we wanted to take with us into this new millennium. And so we came up with a theme, to *Honor the Past and Imagine the Future*. And then I decided, after talking with my husband, that one of the best ways we could do that would be by going out in our country, as I am today, and looking at places that are treasures. Places that embody the history we value but also represent the future we are building together.

So we started this effort yesterday morning at the Smithsonian in front of the great Star-Spangled Banner that flew over Fort McHenry while the British were bombarding us during the War of 1812. It lasted through the night, that September night of 1814 and because it lasted, Francis Scott Key could see that Baltimore had not fallen and could write the words that we heard sung earlier. Then I went to that Fort and I went to a monument honoring Francis Scott Key, and this morning I started in New Jersey at the invention factory where Thomas Edison invented things like the light bulb and the motion picture camera and the phonograph. Things that changed our lives forever.

And here I am now in Newburgh. Each one of these stops reminds us of the treasures we have and the ones that we are in danger of losing if we do not take action together. Newburgh, as you know better than I, is home to some of the most renowned architectural masterpieces of America -- just look behind me and look around you as you walk down these streets. Within these city limits, we see so much of America's history over the past two, three centuries. A town settled long before our revolutionary war, built by the sweat and ingenuity of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Graced by the talent of leading architects it developed into a thriving economic and cultural center. But like many cities, particularly in the older part of our country, its fortunes fell during the depression only to rise and fall again. Today, while challenges still remain, this beautiful city is again on the verge of a rebirth that will make it possible once again to claim its rightful place in the life and history of America.

But some might ask, "Well, what does it really mean to save a building, what does it mean to honor George Washington's service as we do here at the very first historic site. You know there are a lot of other very important things that we should be worried about in our country. What difference does it make if we were finally able to restore this beautiful Dutch Reformed Church, for example? Well I answer that question in a couple of different ways. First there is a very practical answer, we know from all of our experience, that when a town like Newburgh, with the history that you have here, is able to revitalize that history, you become a beacon for economic development and tourism that creates jobs and opportunities for the people who live here day in and day out. And by virtue of investing in your past, you create a brighter future for your people. You also begin to tell yourselves and your children the story of what is special about Newburgh.

I mean it makes a difference if you are a school child in Newburgh that you know you just live maybe a few blocks from where George Washington lived after Yorketown. That makes America more real. There are children that have no idea of anything like that. And yet you can

walk down, you can bicycle by a place that is so significant in our history. And what does that tell you and tell us about what our obligations as citizens might be? What does it mean that you've had so many renowned Americans come to Newburgh, making their statements and leading their causes, black and white, and every kind of background there is in the great diversity of America? Well it means that here in Newburgh, you represent America. You're not just one kind of American, you're every kind of American. And that in itself, is a great gift to you and to the rest of the country.

Because it is key that when we talk about saving America's treasures, we include everybody. You're mayor and I were walking down the street and that's one of the points she made -- is that historic preservation today is inclusive. We're not leaving anybody's history out. When I leave here and go on tomorrow and the next day, I'll be visiting Harriet Tubman's home, I'll be visiting a stop on the underground railroad, I'll be visiting with people who were among the early labor leaders of our country, I'll be going to the women's rights convention commemoration in Seneca Falls. As grateful as we are to all the great leaders, the military leaders, political leaders, business leaders, who contributed so much in making Newburgh and America what it is today. We are all so grateful to our grandfather and our grandmothers who built this country brick by brick, family by family, job by job, year after year.

So when we're talking about saving America's treasures, we are talking about saving American history for everybody. It is not just for a small group of people who like old buildings and appreciate and appreciate the beauty of architecture, that is very significant, but what those buildings stand for and what people did in those buildings, standing for religious freedom, for example, like what they did in the building behind us, that is as relevant today as it was a hundred and fifty years ago. And one of the values that America must take into the next century is an appreciation for our freedoms and our liberties and our opportunities. And one of the ways we can do that is by reminding ourselves that it wasn't very long ago that many of us did not have access to those same liberties, freedoms, and opportunities.

So what I would hope is that out of all this energy that I feel out of the exciting plans I heard from your mayor and city manager out of the partnership with the state and the federal government that the congressman talked about, we can see the kind of commitment to rebuilding Newburgh that will enable it once again to take its rightful place. And that I will have the opportunity in a couple of years to come back here and to see families living in the Landers street development. To see more of the houses I drove by that were boarded up open once again, for residential and business purposes for people who are here. And that many of the significant pieces of architecture that have survived despite the ravages of neglect and weather will be renovated, and put to new use, and will be once again sending out their messages of why they were important and still are.

Now how does that happen? It doesn't happen by waving a magic wand, we know that. It happens by everybody rolling up their sleeves and getting to work, and contributing in whatever way is possible, it happens because people put aside trivial differences and work for the

common good for something bigger than any of us can possibly represent. It happens because we take care of the basics. You know the congressman referred to the President's program to put more police on the streets. Well you know you can't have preservation in a neighborhood if you can't go outside can you? You can't care very much about history, if you're worried about your safety. So preservation is not just about buildings, it is about the quality of life, it is about the possibilities of life, it is about individual choices every single day. So let me thank you for being such caretakers of one of America's treasures. Let me thank you for what you are doing to pull together to commit yourselves to giving all that you can to making Newburgh all that it can be because you know and the rest of the country will know that if you're able to fulfill your dreams for what Newburgh can be in the future, that you will see not only beautiful buildings, but jobs, economic opportunities, tourists, vital changes that will literally recast the future of the residents of this city. That is my hope, so that when we leave here, I want progress reports, I want the mayor to let me know how saving Newburgh treasures is proceeding and I want to return sometime in the 21st century to see for myself what the citizens of Newburgh have made. God Bless you and good luck.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The Colonial Theater
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
July 14, 1998

Thank you all so much. I'm so grateful to be here, and I cannot tell you how I felt as I was traveling down the road on my way to Pittsfield, and some of your friends and neighbors were out in their yards, or in front of service stations, and I think there was a place called Jimmy's on the side of the road. Some of them were waving flags, they were holding up their babies, and I thought, "Boy, have I come to the right place."

Now you might be interested in knowing how I ended up here today. Let me just give you a brief history of that. When we launched *Save America's Treasures* a few months ago, we knew that we wanted to make the first trip to this part of our country, that is so rich with our history going back before the Revolutionary War. That has seen so much of what made America great happen, right here. And we sent out people and asked all kinds of experts, "Where should we go?" We wanted to go from Washington D.C. and then end up in Seneca Falls, New York for the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention.

As you might guess, there were dozens and dozens of places that people suggested in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts, and we had to sort through all those, and we started sorting by looking at pictures and descriptions. Then we actually sent people out. I know the Mayor had to kind of keep it a secret because we didn't want the people from Washington coming to a community and having folks think that we would come, and not come. That would be very disappointing. So everybody was kind of sworn to secrecy. And your mayor, I like him he's really doing a good job and he understands how to get things done. And so our people who were representing the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the White House Millennium Council, they visited place after place after place and some were hard to get to and some couldn't accommodate buses and all kinds of logistical problems. But when they came back from seeing all these places, I want all of you to know, the place they could not stop talking about was Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

So Mayor Doyle, citizens of Pittsfield, citizens of Berkshire County, it is wonderful to be able to join you today, to be here at one of the great cultural centers of our country and to be standing in front of this rare jewel of architecture, the historic Colonial Theater. I want to thank everyone who has been working to preserve this theater and to revitalize Pittsfield and to understand that in today's world, one of the ways to attract economic development to attract tourism, to give people a sense of pride and a better quality of life is by taking the jewels of the past and making them shine again so that people all over the country and world know about Pittsfield and know the Colonial Theater. So all of you, from the Mayor to the Congressman, to

the Miller family, to Bob Boland who has done so much to remind us of the importance of the Colonial Theater, to the Friends of the Colonial Theater and the Colonial Theater Steering Committee and especially to the citizens of Pittsfield. I'm here to congratulate you for your interest in preserving, not this particular site, but for what it could be to the future of this community.

As Bill Ivey was explaining, we've seen all over our country -- he saw it first in his role at the Country Music Foundation, the work he did down in Nashville. He's seen it now as the head of the NEA, one of the best ways that communities can make an investment in the future is to think about what was special about its past and then to make that live again. I just had the rare privilege of hearing music from the stage once again. It hasn't happened since 1952, I was told, but I heard the Berkshire Fiddlers, a group of young middle school students. I was amazed by their talent and I was amazed by the quality of the sound. I have read, like perhaps some of you have read, that the Colonial Theater has ranked above many, many other more famous and well known theaters as having some of the best acoustics in the world. Based on what I have just heard, I understand why experts say that the acoustics in this theater are on a par with just a handful of theaters across the world. I could almost hear the echoes, as I listened to the young people play, of all the performers who appeared on that stage all those years ago. And as the small group of people who were gathered to hear them, including some very proud parents, applauded at the end of the performance, I could sense what it must have been like sitting in that theater years ago at the end of a performance. Imagine what it was like to sit there and hear John Delacusa or Rachmaninoff or think of hearing the improvisational jazz of Eubie Blake or John and Ethel Barrymore, Sarah Bernhardt, even some of my favorites, the Three Stooges.

Yet as unique a place as this theater holds in the history of American theater, there was no guarantee that the building we are in front of today would still be standing, because we see too often many of America's great theaters and other treasures erode away, be torn down, to make way for something else. A few, like the Federal Street Theater in Boston, burned down. Most fell into disrepair and were demolished. Yet here in Pittsfield, the tradition of preservation runs deep. When the original owners sold it, they didn't want it to see it destroyed and they put it up for bid, as I understand the story, and they made a decision to choose, not the highest bid, which was to buy the building and destroy it, but instead, to choose the lowest bid from George Miller, who guaranteed he would keep the building in tact because he had a dream that one day it would be a...(inaudible)

You know there are untold stories around our country of men like George Miller and his son, Steven Miller, and I want to applaud the late Mr. Miller and Steven Miller, because they understood, even though they didn't have the resources themselves, that they were the caretakers of a great treasure. I really appreciate that because by being the caretaker of a historic site, you are preserving it for a moment such as this, where hundreds of thousands of people of this community come together to hear about this great tradition. When you can have a plan by your mayor and others, to think of how that would fit in to revitalizing this city. When we talk about preserving national treasures, many of us envision the concrete examples like the Star-Spangled

Colonial Theater speech

Banner that the President and I stood before yesterday at the Smithsonian. I also saw today in Newburgh, New York, the headquarters of President Washington after Yorktown and before the Treaty of Paris. We think about the Gettysburg Address, we think about statues and monuments. Yet it is equally significant as to who we are as Americans to think about our cultural and artistic heritage. It is our dance, our music, our plays, our literature that define us as a people. They lift our spirits, they challenge our imaginations. You better than most understand this, living in the center of so much artistic, musical activity.

If we could think for a moment of what America would be like without our arts and culture, whether you are an country music fan like Bill Ivey or a Rachmaninoff fan, or a Jacob's Pillow fan. This is the rich variety of arts and culture here in the United States, It's not just a luxury for the few. We know that experiences with the arts are especially important to children. We understand how significant being exposed to music and artistic opportunities are to let each individual child develop their skills and talents. Every child should have that experience. Few children would have access to a theater such as this, whose state would permit more and more young people, adults as well, to perform and attend their own artistic experiences. If we were able to preserve a theater like this Colonial Theater, we would be keeping pace with our earliest founding generation.

The first American theater was built in Philadelphia in 1756, and Americans fell in love with the stage ever since. When I read history about the predecessors who lived in the White House, I'm always struck by how so many of them sought out the theater as a way to escape the pressures of the job. While so many of us have found that same solace and refuge. And here at Pittsfield, you have an example of a place that goes far beyond what other communities could even dream of. Think about how promoting the arts year round, not just during the summer when so many people from all over the world come to enjoy the Berkshires, but keeping it going all year long, what that could mean to the development of this community.

So in 1962 when President Kennedy asked Americans for public support of the arts, by creating the National Endowment for the Arts, he reminded us that during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln ordered work to go forward on the Capitol Dome. And that Franklin Roosevelt, in the midst of World War II, dedicated the National Gallery of Art. President Kennedy said "These leaders understood that the light of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction in the life of a nation, is very close to the center of a nation's purpose, and is a test of the quality of the nation's civilization."

Now we are facing that test ourselves today, which is why the President and I created the White House Millennium Council. We're going to have a change of century and change of millennium whether any of us do anything about it or not. We can plan a great New Year's Eve party, and I think all of us should, but I think we should spend a little bit of time reflecting about what are the values from the past and the lessons we want to take with us to the future. And so we created a theme -- to "Honor the Past and Imagine the Future." Just think what that means to a community like this. I believe that if we stop, as we approach the change of century and

millennium, and think how do we honor the past and how do we bring forward what we honor to the present and then build on it as we imagine our future, that's a pretty good description of what we need do in our own lives, in communities like Pittsfield and in our nation.

I'm an optimist by nature because I believe that when people put their minds to something, they can solve problems, they can make a difference, they can work together. And there certainly is no reason why this great city, which has certainly a glorious past, that's contributed so much to who we are as Americans, cannot take the lessons and the values of that past and move them forward into the future in a way that does honor to them, but is imaginative, is on the cutting edge, which leads people to say to one another, Pittsfield, the Berkshires, they're showing us how we should imagine the future.

So I ask all of you, not just today, but in the days and weeks and months ahead, to work together, to be creative, to think of ways of saving America's treasures. And you all are, in addition to the Miller family, you all are caretakers of a great American treasure. A treasure that meant so much to people in the past, but can once again mean so much to all of us in the future. I would like to come back in some early part of the 21st century and attend a performance here at the Colonial Theater. Now I learned the other day, that to be eligible for National Landmark status you have to be at least 50 years old, I'd qualify. I don't think I could wait a really long time, but I could wait a while to be able to return to Pittsfield, and with all of you, celebrate, not just the reopening and rehabilitation of a great American treasure, but the revitalization of a great American city.

Thank you all very much.

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Edith Wharton Restoration
Lenox, Massachusetts
July 14, 1998**

Thank you. Thank you so much. You're very gracious. Thank you Stephanie for those kind remarks and for the tour that was much too short. I will have to come back and have a more proper amount of time to spend here. I want to thank everyone who has labored so diligently and with such commitment to ensure that this house and the woman who built it and who it so embodies will be here for so many more years to come. I would like to thank Jonas and all who have served on the board of the Edith Wharton Restoration. I'd like to thank Scott Marshall and appreciate the gift of the history of the Mount, William Galvin, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Chairman of the Massachusetts Historic Commission.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We are working with the National Trust and with Dick Moe, its President, and Nancy Campbell, its Chair, who is here with us. And when the Trust designated the Mount as a "most endangered historic site" that enabled the restoration to purchase this property in 1980. I also want to thank Judy McDonough, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historic commission. There are a number of state and local officials, and I see your Congressmen here as well--many who have joined together in support of the cause of historic preservation, and in particular the cause of the Mount.

It's a wonderful feeling walking into the Mount -- those beautiful rooms that Edith Wharton designed, and especially going into her library. I can imagine the conversations and other activities that took place there. I am hopeful that some day the books that once graced those shelves will be returned to this library. I've heard that Edith Wharton called her father's library a "sea of wonder," and she wrote in The Decoration of Houses, "The general decoration of a library should be of such character as to form a background or setting to the books, rather than to detract attention from them." I know that one of your goals is to have those books that remain, twenty-four-hundred volumes, returned here to the Mount. You have a lot of work ahead of you, but I saw how the yellow windows are being filled in as the money is being raised to reach your goals. And that is what I have seen throughout the two days that I've been on this tour.

To highlight the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust's commitment to save America's Treasures, I've embarked on an old-fashioned bus, train, and motorcar tour of some of America's endangered treasures. Starting with the Star-Spangled Banner, including George Washington's Revolutionary War Headquarters, the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, I will go on to Harriet Tubman's House and the M'Clintock House in Seneca Falls.

The point is that we are not just highlighting the famous, already well-known icons, such as the Star-Spangled Banner, although it is telling that even that particular monument to our

nation needs so much help and support from both the public and the private sector in order to endure as it endured on that night in September of 1814.

It is not just famous icons or even famous military and political leaders or even business leaders like Thomas Edison or scientific and creative geniuses, as he was as well. We have to look at the full range of human experience and American contributions to understand how we have become the people we are. So it is the scientists, the writers, and other creators who have transformed our lives; and it is the way they lived and what they lived with that can speak to us today -- the places, the books even the kitchen utensils, the photographs, all of which form the heart of our cherished history.

When the President and I began to talk about how we could mark the millennium, there were many things that we could have thought about. Other countries are doing some fascinating efforts to try to mark their passage through the millennium. Great Britain is building a huge dome that will be in Greenwich and will be used for all kinds of activities. Iceland is reenacting the passage from Iceland to North America of their famous explorers like Leif Eriksson. But as we thought about it, we thought that maybe we should try to engender interest throughout our country in our history in ways that would reach every community that we possibly could touch.

So as we began to plan we thought of a theme -- Honor the Past and Imagine the Future -- because clearly by honoring our past, we think about the values, the lessons, the ideals, the experiences, that we want to bring forward into the present, to use to build this imagined future together.

It was important for me as I began to talk about and highlight so many of these treasures to be sure that it touched the entire human experience. And so for instance I am here.

As we've already heard, only five percent of our national historic sites are dedicated to women. The last time I looked, women have constituted about 50% of our population since our beginning. Now some of those women are well-known, like Edith Wharton -- a pioneer in so many regards, an observer of American life, a designer, a decorator, a gardener, a writer. She wrote to a friend that she was a decidedly better landscape gardener than a novelist, but I don't think you could convince the Pulitzer Prize committee or the many, many of us who studied her work in years after that to believe it. She might have been as good a landscape gardener as a writer but that just told us a little bit more about her genius and how far it reached. But because of her example, she was not the last. Young women growing up could look to her experience and dream, themselves, of becoming writers of landscape gardeners.

As we look at the full range of the American experience, we need to remember women like Harriet Tubman or Kate Mullany, a labor leader from the middle of the 19th century. The women who gathered at Seneca Falls, where I will be visiting on Thursday, had the radical idea that men and women should be able to fulfill their own destinies. Every woman should really be able to think that American History includes her. That she could, if she's talented enough, write her own House of Mirth or plant her own garden that would stand as a wonderful monument and bedazzle visitors like the Jameses.

So I thank all of you for being caretakers of Edith Wharton's gifts. Each of you has not only made the Mount an example of what caring, dedicated citizens can do, but you've made Lenox, Massachusetts a shining example of what every community and every citizen from kindergarten classrooms to corporate board rooms can do as well. This is an exciting venture for those of us involved in the White House Millennium Council, to come out into the country, to communities like Lenox, to sights like the Mount, and to really cheer all of you on. To try to lift up your work, to tell you that there are many, many people who support and applaud your efforts for what you are doing to preserve this treasure. And to draw more attention to those efforts so that you can enlist even more supporters in this worthy cause.

Just as I said in Pittsfield a few minutes ago, I do hope to return sometime to attend a performance in the Colonial Theater when it is totally rehabilitated and renovated, and I hope to return to the Mount at a time in the future when all of your dreams about the gardens and the house are realized as well. And to see those books that she lovingly had bound in Moroccan leather, once again, on the shelves where they belong.

This effort that we've undertaken is not just for a few Americans. There are some of you who have understood the importance of American History and have been preservationists and conservationists and historians for many years, and I applaud and thank you. But now I ask you, as we move toward the Millennium and the change of century, that will be upon us, to reach out and convince more of your fellow citizens why what you care about is important to them. Why preserving and restoring the Mount as a symbol of what a woman could do on her own -- designing a house, writing great literature, imagining a future -- is a lesson we want all of our children to learn and absorb. And as you reach out to your fellow citizens, telling them what has moved you to be part of this particular restoration effort, I know you will enlist even more supporters--people who understand that honoring the past and imagining the future is the American experience. We are constantly reinventing ourselves. We are constantly restoring the American Dream for a new generation, and I believe, the President believes, and you believe that we cannot imagine the future if we don't carry forward with us the ideas, the experiences, and all that was learned by those who came before.

So thank you for being pioneers, for caring deeply about Edith Wharton, about women's history, about the Mount, and thank you for making it possible for me to come here to highlight a very important treasure that needs all of us to help save it for the future.

Thank you all very much.

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Kate Mullany House
Troy, New York
July 15, 1998**

I just want to be sure that everyone can see this wonderful presentation. It is a detachable collar and a souvenir of Troy, New York -- a postcard -- and it's in this house probably before 1827, the shirt collars were first made and the collar industry originated by Hannah Lord Montague who lived between 1794 and 1878 -- the engender and manufacturer. So a woman invented the detachable collar as well.

I am so happy to be here and to see all of you this morning. It is a great pleasure. I want to thank you for gathering for this celebration, and Mayor thank you for being here. I understand that Mayor Pattison is the first elected mayor of Troy in over thirty years and I am proud to be here with him. I want to thank you for being part of the program this morning. I know that we all join together with our best wishes and prayers for Congressman McNulty who was taken to the hospital this morning, but I am sure that all will be well and I will be calling to check in on him after the program. I want to thank Laura Kasen, this young woman who just gave me this presentation. She claims Kate Mullany had rushed across the stage college play. I am delighted she could be here.

I also want to thank Mrs. Mary Lou McGuirk, the owner of the Kate Mullany house. I mean it is a little bit strange to have someone call and say would you mind if we had a few people over and right in front of your house, because we want to make sure that everyone knows the historic significance of it.

I want not only to thank her, but also all the residents of 8th and 9th who are out here and are being our host and hostesses. I, too, want to thank Paul Cole, the Secretary Treasurer of the New York State AFL-CIO, his staff and all the member unions. I know that there was a lot of work that went into this particular day and I am very grateful to all of you. I wasn't able to hear them play but I saw them as I came in and I want to thank the Albany Police pipes and drums, the Bethel Baptist Church Choir and the Troy Asian Order of Hibernian Pipe Band for their being part of the program. Let me especially thank Josephine Sano, the President of the Albany Central Labor Council. I was delighted when she took out that detachable cuff and collar to show us because it is an extraordinary story that we are here to celebrate today.

You know, when a newspaper claimed, many years ago, that there weren't enough women in New York to be labor organizers, Kate Mullany said confidently: "You show me the women and I'll turn them into organizers." And she did. Now we often don't think of women, a hundred or more years ago, having that kind of confidence, but there were many such women. Women who went out to work every day. You know, I am so surprised when I read stories, as I often do, about how surprising it is that so many women work. Women have always worked-

inside the home, outside the home, for as long as we have been around.

There have been very few women with the talents and vision of a Kate Mullany. Who was not only working hard for her own family -- as all of us have done at some point or another -- but she also worked hard to make it possible for other women to have better wages and better working conditions so that they too could contribute to the well-being of themselves and their own families. That is why it is such an honor to be here to participate in this National Historic Landmark ceremony at the home of someone literally transformed the lives of women in her time and for all times.

It is especially fitting that we would hold this celebration today, because tomorrow I will be in Seneca Falls to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention. And I'll talk tomorrow about how the women who gathered at Seneca Falls 150 years ago were like Kate Mullany and like so many of us here today; women who were wives and mothers; women who were supporting themselves; women who had nothing that their neighbors might point to as extraordinary except they believed that they were capable of having a dream and fulfilling it. And when they said these words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal," they proclaimed the truth, but they were considered radical. They were considered far ahead of their times.

That is an important chapter in American History. On this Save America's Treasures Tour, I wanted to be sure that we included the history of all Americans. Too often history is seen as just the stories of great military victories, or political leaders, and of course that's important. But as the Mayor said, it's not just the steps that are taken, the heroic measures that determine a nation's future; we can look to these people -- as I did yesterday when I visited George Washington's Revolutionary headquarters in Newburgh -- we can look to them with pride, and admiration, and awe, and even affection because of what they have done for us. But we can never forget that a great country is measured not just by its heroes, or well known people, but it is measured by what all of us do.

I would argue that the real difference between the United States of America and every nation that has ever existed, is not that we had great Generals because others have as well; not that we had great political leaders, because others have as well; not even that we had great business leaders or great creative geniuses, because you can find those in any society, in any country throughout time. It is because more than any other effort in the entire history of human civilization, we have empowered average men and women -- working men and women -- we've given them the reason to believe that they too can make something out of their lives; that they can walk and live and work with dignity and confidence. That is what has made America different; that is what has made America great.

A major part of that story is the history of the labor and women's movements in our story. Because both the women's movement and the labor movement reached out and included all Americans. Giving hope to people who were new immigrants; giving hope to people who

were former slaves and sons and grandsons and daughters of slaves. Telling people that if you organize, if you're part of a community, you can have a claim on the American dream.

When I think about someone like Kate Mullany, I am also just amazed. She was only nineteen years old when she organized 200 women workers to form the Collar Workers Union. She also understood that unless people join together and have some common goals we could never achieve our individual dreams. And so when she formed that union she knew she was taking a big risk. Because most of the women who went on strike were the sole supporters of their mothers, of their younger siblings or their children. Imagine the commitment to justice and the courage it took to go on strike when so many family members depended on them. But because of Kate Mullany's leadership, they succeeded. They succeeded in getting a 25% increase in wages, putting their wages on par with men's wages--an astonishing achievement for 1864.

In fact she used those increased wages to buy the house we're standing in front of. What an incredible feeling that must have been for this young women to be able to say to her mother, who was widowed, and her younger siblings, "We're going to be able to have our own house." Now that is part of the American dream, that is what gets so many of us up in the morning; going to work; worrying about our families; caring about our futures. She also did something else; she helped to improve the working conditions of women -- who were forced at that time to stand on their feet for eleven to fourteen hours a day, bending over washtubs and ironing tables in oppressive 100 degree heat for about, as Josephine said, two to three dollars a week.

Kate Mullany is an example to all of us. She's one of the women who comes from the Troy area that we've already heard about, who is really an example not just for the past but to the present and future. Think of all the people who have passed through this capital district who have not only changed history here, but changed American history as well. Harriet Tubman, the Moses of her people, helped bring the fugitive slave Charles Nalle to freedom here. Emma Willard founded the first school to give young women an education equal to that of young men. And I was also impressed to learn when I was doing my research for this stop that the city of Troy raised \$4,000 in taxes to make it possible for Emma Willard to have that school. Now that shows foresight even then that investing in education is the best investment that we can make for people.

We already heard about Hannah Lord Montague who invented the detachable collar. I can just imagine what was going through Mrs. Montague's mind, can't you those of you who have ever ironed a shirt, men and women. It was a lot harder in those days because you couldn't just plug in the iron, you had to heat it up and you had to keep heating it up. And I can just imagine Mrs. Montague standing there ironing those shirts because she had to wash her husband's entire shirt just to get the collar clean because lots of men's shirts don't get as dirty as their collars do, even today, and she thought there's got to be a better way. So she became an inventor, and a manufacturer, again when not many women were doing that. And others saw a business opportunity to go forward with that, and that's how we created this great industry that

stood on the banks of the river that brought so many people here.

I also heard that the first bakery, that still serves the people of Troy, was invented here because a man named Regional Friehofer saw a business opportunity because of the number of women who were working, they didn't have enough time to bake bread, so he created the opportunity for them to buy the bread. Now that's the sort of invention that all of us, who have ever been working women, really appreciate. So there's a lot that we have to be grateful for the people of Troy.

You know, we're not just celebrating the past; we are thinking about the lessons of the past and what they mean to us today and in the future. When the President and I started the White House Millennium Council, we did it because we knew that we were going to have a change of century and a change of millennium while Bill was still president. We thought what could we do to mark this time. Certainly they'll be room for a lot of great New Year's Eve parties and I'm positive they'll be products like Millennium toothpaste or millennium potato chips, but if that's all that happens I don't think we would make the best use of this opportunity. So in talking together, he and I thought maybe we could use this time for all of us to reflect about what it is that made us Americans, and why we're so grateful for the blessings and freedoms we have in our country. So we came up with a theme: to Honor the Past and Imagine the Future.

That is what this tour is really about. We are honoring the past--as we do here today in front of Kate Mullany's House -- but also imagining the future. Because the voice of Kate Mullany and all the women and men of Troy and this area continue to speak to us today. They fought for equal pay, for equal work and we do still today. They fought for better working conditions in the work place and we do still today. They fought for respect at work and at home and we do still today. And the women of Troy who worked with Kate Mullany struggled to balance the demands of work and family and we do still today. They fought for equal opportunity for women in places once reserved only for men as we do still today.

In 1869 another women labor leader, Augusta Lewis, president of the Women's Typographical Union, wrote about the Troy Collar Laundry Union as a model for working women through the ages. She wrote; "Others will be encouraged by their success and will be stimulated by their examples to elevate their own condition." Thanks to Kate Mullany and other brave women and men who led the labor movement and who took their rightful places in American history, we have examples to follow even today. All of us gathered here have many debts to those who came before; not only to our own families but to some many others who contributed to the improvements that we take for granted in America today.

I hope that all of us, as we move toward this new century and millennium, will think about ways we can honor the past and imagine the future. What gifts do we want to give to our children, our grandchildren and future generations. Well, there may be tangible gifts like Kate Mullany's house that we would want to pass on, that we hope that people will know and remember as a significant place because of the woman who lived here. But there will also be

intangible gifts; the intangible gifts of courage, a search for better opportunities and a commitment to our founding ideals: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and to form a more perfect union. And to that end, every single one of us has a role to play.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
HARRIET TUBMAN HOME
AUBURN, NEW YORK
JULY 15, 1998**

I want to thank all of you in the Thompson Memorial Youth Group for that wonderful performance. Clearly the life of Harriet Tubman is very real to all of you -- and I understand that some of you are the descendants of this remarkable woman. One of the reasons that I'm here is to bring more attention to her life and accomplishments, and to make sure that the sites and objects that link her to us are preserved for the future. I wish everyone could see your play -- and pass those stories down to their children, and their children's children.

Harriet Tubman's story is one of personal triumph and extraordinary courage, as you have shown us. As she once said: "I had reasoned this out in my mind. There was one of two things I had a right to; liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other.

It was that deep reservoir of faith in her God and in her own resilience that gave her the courage to be the Moses of her people. I've heard so many stories -- about how she would use the North Star -- and the moss on the side of a tree -- to point her in the right direction. How she sometimes had to put her fleeing slaves back on a train bound for the south -- just to elude her pursuers. How she once bought a couple of live chickens -- to use as decoys to save herself -- and her "passengers: -- from harm. How she loved to escape on the first leg of her journey in a horse and carriage -- knowing that most slave owners believed their slaves wouldn't dare to be so bold.

But we know her service to others didn't end with the end of the Civil War. Unable to read herself -- she raised money for black schools in the south. Childless herself -- she cared deeply for the plight of newly freed black children, and raised money for their clothing. Once torn from her own home -- she spent the last years of her life establishing this home for others -- the old and the poor. She spoke for all of them. And today -- she continues to speak for all of us.

Because above all, Harriet Tubman is the enduring story of this nation -- as we continue to struggle to lift up our citizens, and come together -- across the many barriers that divide us -- to form one America. No matter what our race or religion or background -- we are all tied by a common strand to this story of freedom. And when we can stand together -- we become greater than the sum of our many different parts.

Unfortunately, the documentation, and artifacts and other tangible evidence of Harriet Tubman's life and accomplishments don't in any way match the power of this legacy. That's why I am pleased to announce today a personal gift of \$10,000 to the National Trust for historic Preservation/Save America's Treasures Program -- for the restoration of this Harriet Tubman home [The donor is Bitsey Folger -- a longtime civil rights activist -- in honor of Marian Wright Edelman -- director of the Children's Defense Fund -- whose most revered heroine has always been Harriet Tubman.]

It is critical to preserve these historic sites and artifacts that make the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad come alive -- and I know that this community is coming together for that purpose. But I believe we have an even greater challenge: to preserve her spirit - and rekindle her passion for justice and freedom in every generation. At a time when we are trying to create a county where we respect each other's differences; but at the same time embrace the values that unite us -- we are fortunate to be able to draw on the strength and inspiration of those who have gone before us.

Harriet Tubman's motto was "Keep going." As she would lead slaves through the dark and often treacherous paths to freedom, she would say: "Children; if you are tired; keep going; if you are scared; keep going; if you are hungry; keep going; if you want to taste freedom; keep going." I can't think of a better message to spread throughout our communities, as we come together to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Her spirit -- like the North Star -- will guide us.

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Ganondagan State Historic Site
Victor, New York
July 15, 1998**

Thank you very much. I want to thank Peter and Jeanette for helping to arrange this visit and for serving as my host and hostess while I have been here. I want to thank the clan mothers for taking their time to talk and visit with me and share some information about their way of life and what they do to preserve that way of life. I would like to thank the spirit dancers. I enjoyed seeing you; it was too short, but on a hot day like this, as hard as you were dancing, it was probably long enough, and I am glad that you could be part of this, and the musicians as well. Thank you very much for making me feel so welcome at this important historic site.

I am delighted that, as we heard from the representative from the Park's Department here in the state, that this site -- started in 1987 -- is here to represent the many contributions and experiences of the native people of New York, particularly the Iroquois Nation. And to understand how significant that is, just think for a minute about what it means that I am here on a tour to Save America's Treasures that is part of the White House Millennium Council program.

A millennium ago, we only had the people represented here, in this country. The traditions, the way of life, the experiences of all who were part of the Iroquois Nation Federation show what it meant to be alive in the millennium, the first millennium here in this part of the world. And I think that's important for all of us who are Americans to stop for a minute and think about the way of life that is represented by the people whose dances and music we have just seen and heard. Because when we think about and as we work toward, the saving of America's treasures as part the White House Millennium Council's program, I think that one of our primary missions is to indicate to all American's how diverse and rich and deep our history is.

So, on this tour, we started at the Smithsonian and saw the Star-spangled Banner, we went on the see the Fort McHenry, over which that banner flew in the war of 1812 against the British. We have been in many places in the last three days. We have honored the work of different Americans. An African-American like Harriet Tubman, who fled slavery and led others to freedom; a young Irish-American woman named Kate Mullany who started the first women's labor union in Troy, New York; a beautiful theater, the Colonial Theater, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, which had on its stage at one time all kinds of performers representing the full range of the arts in our country. We visited the home of a famous American novelist, the first American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, Edith Wharton. We have been in many different parts of this region of our country, but it is especially fitting that we would come here on our tour, because how can we think about going into the next millennium without being respectful and honoring our past; which means respecting and honoring the contributions of all of you who represent the Iroquois Nation.

So it is a great pleasure for me to be here to learn more about the way of life that has lasted for so many generations. In speaking with the clan mothers, I learned a little bit about what the clan mothers do, and I was struck by how in keeping it is with the idea of the mother of the nation. And her admonitions about how people should think about the decisions they make, and her three pieces of advice that have stood the test of time are ones that we would all do well to take to heart. Is this decision one that will lead to peace, is it one that will honor Mother Nature, is it one that is good for seven generations?

As we live in this very fast-paced world of ours, and as we move very quickly from day-to-day and toward the new century and the new millennium, it is sometimes easy to lose track of what is really important. And one of the goals of our Millennium Project is to honor the past and imagine the future. We are here to do both, because I have seen and heard about both today. Yes, we are honoring the past and the traditions of the past, represented in the long house, represented in the generational traditions that the clan mothers bring forward, and in the dances we have seen. But we are also imagining the future, and we can see that in the faces of the young men and women. That is a challenge for every American, regardless of whatever background we might come from. How do we honor the past and bring forward the lessons and the values that are important into the present so we can use them to imagine a future that keeps faith with the past but gives our children the opportunities to fulfill the dreams we have for them and they have for themselves.

So, I am very honored to be here. I am honored to learn more about this way of life, and I commend you for all you are doing to keep alive the languages, the traditions that are such an important part of the experience and history of America. And I know that those of you who are directly involved in that effort have worked very hard to make it possible for these young men and women to understand how to honor their own past; and I have great confidence, based on what I have seen and heard today, that you are imagining and building a future that keeps faith with the past but moves forward into the new century and millennium. Thank you for honoring us by permitting us to visit with you here today.

Thank you all very much.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
M'Clintock House/Women's Rights National Historic Park
Waterloo, New York
July, 15, 1998

Thank you so much. Thank you all. I am just delighted to be here with all of you. And I apologize for how late we were. We've made a number of stops today and somehow got a little behind schedule so thank you so much for being so patient, I understand that you have had a bit of ice cream to help you pass the time and I am sorry I missed that.

I am delighted to be here. I would like to thank the Mayor for making me feel so welcome. And for being here with us here this evening. I see Robert Stanton who is the director of the National Park Service and Marie Russ, the Northeast regional director of the National Park Service, who are here with us. I am also delighted to be here with the superintendent of the Women's Rights National Park and that's Josie Fernandez. And I am especially pleased to be surrounded by all these Girls Scouts because, as it's already been said, I am deeply honored to be the National Honorary President of Girls Scouts of the USA.

Many years ago, more than I care to remember some days, I was a Girl Scout myself. Just like all of you who have come from around this region to be here with us this week. I can remember how special it felt and how much work was involved in adding each new badge to my sash. And I am delighted that you have this new badge to work toward. But I have to confess that after hearing Carey, you did an excellent job didn't she--I think we want to thank you again Carey. I looked at the back of Carey's vest and there is hardly any room left she has so many badges; but these badges represent real commitment to learning and service on behalf of the community and that's one of the reasons that I am so proud to be associated still, after all these years, with the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Because you are teaching and learning new lessons every day about what it means to be a citizen and I think that is one of the most important roles any of us possibly can fill.

That is, in fact, what motivated the women who came to the M'Clintock house. They wanted to be citizens, they wanted to feel that their contributions and opportunities would be considered equal to those of their husbands, and fathers and brothers and sons. And we're on this tour that ends here at Waterloo and Seneca Falls because we want to help all Americans honor the past and imagine the future. We want all Americans to think about how to protect the sites and monuments that really tell us the story of who we are and how we became the Americans we celebrate.

So for all of you who are Girl Scouts or Junior Rangers, who I know are here as well, you're helping to remember and perpetuate the ideas and values that make America such a great country. And at the center of that is the idea of being a citizen. Something that no one can ever take away from you.

I am delighted that we could come here to the M'Clintock home because I cannot not think of a better place to unveil the Girl Scout "millennium patch" than right here. It is because that many of us here, all of us who are girls and women, owe a debt of gratitude to those courageous women who met in this house. Imagine, if you will, how much courage it took to come together, to say loudly and clearly, to write out that Declaration of Sentiments, that we as women deserve to have equal rights as men. That was a very radical idea in 1848.

When this house is restored, everyone who passes through it will know more about two very exemplary Americans: Maryann and Thomas M'Clintock. They and their children were an activist Quaker family who, in addition to their efforts on behalf of women's rights, organized anti-slavery events, wrote and signed anti-slavery petitions and cared for African American children in this house, perhaps as part of the underground railroad. Everyone who passes through this house will see the parlor where Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Martha Right, Jane Hunt, and Maryann M'Clintock drafted the Declaration of Sentiments. Where they poured over speeches and reports and resolutions for inspiration and where they decided to model their efforts after the Declaration of Independence. Anyone who passes through this house will hear loudly and clearly what they did to make the Declaration of Independence apply to all of us. For ever more they will be able to imagine in their heads these voices that say, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal."

In order for that to happen a lot of work has to be undertaken and, yes, a lot of money has to be raised. In order to restore the M'Clintock house, nearly a million dollars has to be raised and yet I think that is a million dollars that is very well invested. Because just as Josie said it will draw people here, it will become a tourist attraction, and it will serve as a reminder for generations to come about those brave women and men who decided to take stand on behalf of the right of a woman to become a citizen of our country.

The National Park Service the Seven Lakes Girl Scouts Council and so many of you here today are part of the effort to restore the M'Clintock house. I'm also pleased to announce that Anne Bartley of San Francisco will be making a generous contribution to the restoration of the M'Clintock house that will move us toward meeting the goal we need to raise the money to restore this house, as it should be a tourist attraction and reminder of what happened here 150 years ago.

Part of the reason that I am on this tour and going from place to place is to remind all Americans that every community has a place that should be saved and remembered. If we think about our history, we want to see it as it truly was: a history that included the contributions of all kinds of people. And we want to be able to make sure that those contributions are memorialized and that the legacy of brave men and women of all races and backgrounds and experiences are remembered for generations to come.

So let's be sure that just as the Girl Scouts will be doing their part to earn their badges that those of us who are no longer Girl Scouts, or no longer eligible to be Girl Scouts, will do our

part to earn, if you will, our badge as a citizen who honors the past and imagines the future. Let us be good care takers, let us be good ancestors of those who come after. Let us be good citizens and honor the work of the women and men who met in Seneca Falls 150 years ago and let us also, along with these young girls and women, imagine the kind of future that we want for all our children.

Thank you all very much.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
150th Anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention
Seneca Falls, New York
July 16, 1998

Thank you for gathering here in such numbers for this important celebration. I want to thank Governor Pataki and Congresswoman Slaughter and all the elected officials who are here with us today. I want to thank Mary Anne and her committee for helping to organize such a great celebration. I want to thank Bob Stanton and the entire Park Service staff for doing such an excellent job with the historic site. I want to thank our choirs. I thought the choirs really added; I want to thank our singers whom we've already heard from and will hear from because this is a celebration and we need to think about it in such terms.

But for a moment, I would like you to take your minds back a hundred and fifty years. Imagine if you will that you are Charlotte Woodward, a nineteen-year-old glove maker working and living in Waterloo. Everyday you sit for hours sewing gloves together, working for small wages you cannot even keep, with no hope of going on in school or owning property, knowing that if you marry, your children and even the clothes on your body will belong to your husband.

But then one day in July, 1848, you hear about a women's rights convention to be held in nearby Seneca Falls. It's a convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious conditions and rights of women. You run from house to house and you find other women who have heard the same news. Some are excited, others are amused or even shocked, and a few agree to come with you, for at least the first day.

When that day comes, July 19, 1848, you leave early in the morning in your horse-drawn wagon. You fear that no one else will come; and at first, the road is empty, except for you and your neighbors. But suddenly, as you reach a crossroads, you see a few more wagons and carriages, then more and more all going towards Wesleyan Chapel. Eventually you join the others to form one long procession on the road to equality.

Who were the others traveling that road to equality, traveling to that convention? Frederick Douglass, the former slave and great abolitionist, was on his way there and he described the participants as "few in numbers, moderate in resources, and very little known in the world. The most we had to connect us was a firm commitment that we were in the right and a firm faith that the right must ultimately prevail." In the wagons and carriages, on foot or horseback, were women like Rhoda Palmer. Seventy years later in 1918, at the age of one-hundred and two, she would cast her first ballot in a New York state election.

Also traveling down that road to equality was Susan Quinn, who at fifteen will become the youngest signer of the Declaration of Sentiments. Catharine F. Stebbins, a veteran of activism starting when she was only twelve going door to door collecting anti-slavery petitions. She also, by the way, kept an anti-tobacco pledge on the parlor table and asked all her young

male friends to sign up. She was woman truly ahead of her time, as all the participants were.

I often wonder, when reflecting back on the Seneca Falls Convention, who of us--men and women-- would have left our homes, our families, our work to make that journey one hundred and fifty years ago. Think about the incredible courage it must have taken to join that procession. Ordinary men and women, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, husbands and wives, friends and neighbors. And just like those who have embarked on other journeys throughout American history, seeking freedom or escaping religious or political persecution, speaking out against slavery, working for labor rights. These men and women were motivated by dreams of better lives and more just societies.

At the end of the two-day convention, one hundred people, sixty- eight women and thirty-two men, signed the Declaration of Sentiments that you can now read on the wall at Wesleyan Chapel. Among the signers were some of the names we remember today: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, Martha Wright and Frederick Douglass and young Charlotte Woodward. The "Seneca Falls 100," as I like to call them, shared the radical idea that America fell far short of her ideals stated in our founding documents, denying citizenship to women and slaves.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who is frequently credited with originating the idea for the Convention, knew that women were not only denied legal citizenship, but that society's cultural values and social structures conspired to assign women only one occupation and role, that of wife and mother. Of course, the reality was always far different. Women have always worked, and worked both in the home and outside the home for as long as history can record. And even though Stanton herself had a comfortable life and valued deeply her husband and seven children, she knew that she and all other women were not truly free if they could not keep wages they earned, divorce an abusive husband, own property, or vote for the political leaders who governed them. Stanton was inspired, along with the others who met, to rewrite our Declaration of Independence, and they boldly asserted, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal."

"All men and all women." It was the shout heard around the world, and if we listen, we can still hear its echoes today. We can hear it in the voices of women demanding their full civil and political rights anywhere in the world. I've heard such voices and their echoes from women, around the world, from Belfast to Bosnia to Beijing, as they work to change the conditions for women and girls and improve their lives and the lives of their families. We can even hear those echoes today in Seneca Falls. We come together this time not by carriage, but by car or plane, by train or foot, and yes, in my case, by bus. We come together not to hold a convention, but to celebrate those who met here one hundred and fifty years ago, to commemorate how far we have traveled since then, and to challenge ourselves to persevere on the journey that was begun all those many years ago.

We are, as one can see looking around this great crowd, men and women, old and young, different races, different backgrounds. We come to honor the past and imagine the future. That is the theme the President and I have chosen for the White House Millennium Council's efforts

to remind and inspire Americans as we approach the year 2000. This is my last stop on the Millennium Council's tour to Save America's Treasures--those buildings, monuments, papers and sites--that define who we are as a nation. They include not only famous symbols like the Star Spangled Banner and not only great political leaders like George Washington's revolutionary headquarters, or creative inventors like Thomas Edison's invention factory, but they include also the women of America who wrote our nation's past and must write its future.

Women like the ones we honor here and, in fact, at the end of my tour yesterday, I learned that I was following literally in the footsteps of one of them, Lucretia Mott, who, on her way to Seneca Falls, stopped in Auburn to visit former slaves and went on to the Seneca Nations to meet with clan mothers, as I did.

Last evening, I visited the home of Mary Ann and Thomas M'Clintock in Waterloo, where the Declaration of Sentiments was drafted, and which the Park Service is planning to restore for visitors if the money needed can be raised. I certainly hope I can return here sometime in the next few years to visit that restoration.

Because we must tell and retell, learn and relearn, these women's stories, and we must make it our personal mission, in our everyday lives, to pass these stories on to our daughters and sons. Because we cannot--we must not--ever forget that the rights and opportunities that we enjoy as women today were not just bestowed upon us by some benevolent ruler. They were fought for, agonized over, marched for, jailed for and even died for by brave and persistent women and men who came before us.

Every time we buy or sell or inherit property in our own name--let us thank the pioneers who agitated to change the laws that made that possible.

Every time, every time we vote, let us thank the women and men of Seneca Falls, Susan B. Anthony and all the others, who tirelessly crossed our nation and withstood ridicule and the rest to bring about the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

Every time we enter an occupation--a profession of our own choosing and receive a paycheck that reflect earnings equal to a male colleague, let us thank the signers and women like Kate Mullaney, who's house I visited yesterday, in Troy, New York

Every time we elect a woman to office--let us thank ground breaking leaders like Jeannette Rankin and Margaret Chase Smith, Hattie Caraway, Louise Slaughter, Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm--all of whom proved that a woman's place is truly in the House, and in the Senate, and one day, in the White House, as well.

And every time we take another step forward for justice in this nation--let us thank extraordinary women like Harriet Tubman, who's home in Auburn I visited yesterday, and who escaped herself from slavery, and, then risked her life, time and again, to bring at least two hundred other slaves to freedom as well.

Harriet Tubman's rule for all of her underground railroad missions was to keep going. Once you started--no matter how scared you got, how dangerous it became--you were not allowed to turn back. That's a pretty good rule for life. It not only describes the women who gathered in Wesleyan Chapel in 1848, but it could serve as our own motto for today. We, too, cannot turn back. We, too, must keep going in our commitment to the dignity of every individual--to women's rights as human rights. We are on that road of the pioneers to Seneca Falls, they started down it 150 years ago. But now, we too, must keep going.

We may not face the criticism and derision they did. They understood that the Declaration of Sentiments would create no small amount of misconception, or misrepresentation and ridicule; they were called mannish women, old maids, fanatics, attacked personally by those who disagreed with them. One paper said, "These rights for women would bring a monstrous injury to all mankind." If it sounds familiar, it's the same thing that's always said when women keep going for true equality and justice.

Those who came here also understood that the convention and the Declaration were only first steps down that road. What matters most is what happens when everyone packs up and goes back to their families and communities. What matters is whether sentiment and resolutions, once made, are fulfilled or forgotten. The Seneca Falls one hundred pledged themselves to petition, and lit the pulpit and used every instrumentality within their power to affect their subjects. And they did. But they also knew they were not acting primarily for themselves. They knew they probably would not even see the changes they advocated in their own lifetime. In fact, only Charlotte Woodward lived long enough to see American women finally win the right to vote.

Those who signed that Declaration were doing it for the girls and women--for us--those of us in the twentieth century.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote a letter to her daughters later in life enclosing a special gift and explaining why. "Dear Maggie and Hattie, this is my first speech," she wrote, "it contains all I knew at that time; I give this manuscript to my precious daughters in the hopes that they will finish the work that I have begun." And they have. Her daughter, Harriot Blatch, was the chief strategist of the suffrage movement in New York. Harriot's daughter, Nora Barney, was one of the first women to be a civil engineer. Nora's daughter, Rhoda Jenkins, became an architect. Rhoda's daughter, Colleen Jenkins-Sahlin is an elected official in Greenwich, Connecticut. And her daughter, Elizabeth is a thirteen-year-old, who wrote about the six generations of Stantons in a book called, 33 Things Every Girl Should Know.

So, far into the twentieth century, the work is still being done; the journey goes on. Now, some might say that the only purpose of this celebration is to honor the past, that the work begun here is finished in America, that young women no longer face legal obstacles to whatever education or employment choices they choose to pursue. And I certainly believe and hope all of you agree that we should, everyday, count our blessings as American women.

I know how much change I have seen in my own life. When I was growing up back in the fifties and sixties, there were still barriers that Mrs. Stanton would have recognized--

scholarships I couldn't apply for, schools I couldn't go to, jobs I couldn't have-- just because of my sex. Thanks to federal laws like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title 9, and the Equal Pay Act, legal barriers to equality have fallen.

But if all we do is honor the past, then I believe we will miss the central point of the Declaration of Sentiments, which was, above all, a document about the future. The drafters of the Declaration imagined a different future for women and men, in a society based on equality and mutual respect. It falls to every generation to imagine the future, and it our task to do so now.

We know that, just as the women 150 years ago knew, that what we imagine will be principally for our daughters and sons in the 21st century. Because the work of the Seneca Falls Convention is, just like the work of the nation itself, it's never finished, so long as there remain gaps between our ideals and reality. That is one of the great joys and beauties of the American experiment. We are always striving to build and move toward a more perfect union, that we on every occasion keep faith with our founding ideals, and translate them into reality. So what kind of future can we imagine together.

If we are to finish the work begun here--then no American should ever again face discrimination on the basis of gender, race or sexual orientation anywhere in our country.

If we are to finish the work begun here--then \$0.76 in a woman's paycheck for every dollar in a man's is still not enough. Equal pay for equal work can once and for all be achieved.

If we are to finish the work begun here--then families need more help to balance their responsibilities at work and at home. In a letter to Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton writes, "Come here and I will do what I can to help you with your address, if you will hold the baby and make the pudding." Even then, women knew we had to have help with child care. All families should have access to safe, affordable, quality child care.

If we are to finish the work begun here--then women and children must be protected against what the Declaration called the "chastisement of women," namely domestic abuse and violence. We must take all steps necessary to end the scourge of violence against women and punish the perpetrator. And our country must join the rest of the world, as so eloquently Secretary Albright called for on Saturday night here in Seneca Falls, "Join the rest of the world and ratify the convention on the elimination of discrimination against women."

If we are to finish the work begun here--we must do more than talk about family values, we must adopt policies that truly value families-- policies like a universal system of health care insurance that guarantees every American's access to affordable, quality health care. Policies like taking all steps necessary to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. Policies like doing all that is necessary at all levels of our society to ensure high quality public education for every boy or girl no matter where that child lives.

If we are to finish the work begun here--we must ensure that women and men who work

full-time earn a wage that lifts them out of poverty and all workers who retire have financial security in their later years through guaranteed Social Security and pensions.

If we are to finish the work begun here--we must be vigilant against the messages of a media-driven consumer culture that convinces our sons and daughters that what brand of sneakers they wear or cosmetics they use is more important than what they think, feel, know, or do.

And if we are to finish the work begun here--we must, above all else, take seriously the power of the vote and use it to make our voices heard. What the champions of suffrage understood was that the vote is not just a symbol of our equality, but that it can be, if used, a guarantee of results. It is the way we express our political views. It is the way we hold our leaders and governments accountable. It is the way we bridge the gap between what we want our nation to be and what it is.

But when will the majority of women voters of our country exercise their most fundamental political right? Can you imagine what any of the Declaration signers would say if they learned how many women fail to vote in elections? They would be amazed and outraged. They would agree with a poster I saw in 1996. On it, there is a picture of a woman with a piece of tape covering her mouth and under it, it says, "Most politicians think women should be seen and not heard. In the last election, 54 million women agreed with them."

One hundred and fifty years ago, the women at Seneca Falls were silenced by someone else. Today, women, we silence ourselves. We have a choice. We have a voice. And if we are going to finish the work begun here we must exercise our right to vote in every election we are eligible to vote in.

Much of who women are and what women do today can be traced to the courage, vision, and dedication of the pioneers who came together at Seneca Falls. Now it is our responsibility to finish the work they began. Let's ask ourselves, at the 200th anniversary of Seneca Falls, will they say that today's gathering also was a catalyst for action? Will they say that businesses, labor, religious organizations, the media, foundations, educators, every citizen in our society came to see the unfinished struggle of today as their struggle?

Will they say that we joined across lines of race and class, that we raised up those too often pushed down, and ultimately found strength in each other's differences and resolved in our common cause? Will we, like the champions at Seneca Falls, recognize that men must play a central role in this fight? How can we ever forget the impassioned plea of Frederick Douglass, issued in our defense of the right to vote?

How can we ever forget that young legislator from Tennessee by the name of Harry Burns, who was the deciding vote in ratifying the 19th Amendment. He was planning on voting "no," but then he got a letter from his mother with a simple message. The letter said, "Be a good boy Harry and do the right thing." And he did! Tennessee became the last state to ratify, proving that you can never ever overestimate the power of one person to alter the course of

history, or the power of a little motherly advice.

Will we look back and see that we have finally joined the rest of the advanced economies by creating systems of education, employment, child care and health care that support and strengthen families and give all women real choices in their lives.

At the 200th anniversary celebration, will they say that women today supported each other in the choices we make? Will we admit once and for all there is no single cookie cutter model for being a successful and fulfilled woman today, that we have so many choices? We can choose full-time motherhood or no family at all or like most of us, seek to strike a balance between our family and our work, always trying to do what is right in our lives. Will we leave our children a world where it is self-evident that all men and women, boys and girls are created equal? These are some of the questions we can ask ourselves.

Help us imagine a future that keeps faith with the sentiments expressed here in 1848. The future, like the past and the present, will not and cannot be perfect. Our daughters and granddaughters will face new challenges which we today cannot even imagine. But each of us can help prepare for that future by doing what we can to speak out for justice and equality for women's rights and human rights, to be on the right side of history, no matter the risk or cost, knowing that eventually the sentiments we express and the causes we advocate will succeed because they are rooted in the conviction that all people are entitled by their creator and by the promise of America to the freedom, rights, responsibilities, and opportunity of full citizenship. That is what I imagine for the future. I invite you to imagine with me and then to work together to make that future a reality.

Thank you all very much.