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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**  
**REMARKS AT THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**  
**75th ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND JUBILEE GALA**  
**JUNE 10, 1998 (TRANSCRIPT)**

Thank you so much, I am just delighted and honored to be part of this evening. I have enjoyed myself immensely. Tim Morris came to me after the entertainment and said, "How many of these dinners in Washington have you attended?" I said, "Hundreds." He said, "Wasn't that the best entertainment you ever saw?" And I said, "Yes it was,"--truly capturing the energy and enthusiasm of what we are celebrating tonight.

Thank you, Eleanor Seagraves, for your kind words and for all that you do to carry on your family's proud legacy. As I was looking at that wonderful sculpture that is a smaller version of the large sculpture that we dedicated together in New York City, I was thinking about all that your family has meant to our country. In fact I was talking to Eleanor about that just the other night and..she was very sorry she missed this evening. But she is here in spirit.

We have celebrated that spirit and that legacy this evening. What a group of honorees that have been honored tonight and what an extraordinary group of presenters. I want to thank all of you for being part of making this 75th anniversary such a special occasion. I especially want to thank the people who really put in the work to make this happen: Anne Goodrich, and Barbara Zelenko, and Marilyn Tank, and the entire Women's National Democratic Club for organizing this Gala.

As honored as I am by this award, I must say to all members of the club that I am honored every single day by so many of you. You volunteer at the White House on such a regular basis. You come in to my office, to the President's office, elsewhere in the White House. You open letters, you answer calls from people who desperately need a good ear to listen to their problems and help take care of them. The White House literally could not run without you. And the President and I are very grateful to each and every one of you. I am also very pleased that I have been able to host members of the club in the last several years, because it has

meant a great deal to me to have all of you coming into the White House. Because, I know that we would not have a Democratic President, including my husband, without the hard work of literally thousands and thousands of women like the women who are the members of this club. Who, year in and year out have stood up on behalf of the causes and values that the Democratic Party represents. So, I am very grateful, and I think we should have another big reception before the year 2000.

I also want to report to you that the dogwoods that we planted together, the three trees near the Southwest gate, are doing very well. They also happen to be one of Buddy's favorite stopping places on the grounds. I was thinking about those trees when I took a walk the other night, and remembering that day when some of you came with me to plant them, it was a wonderful gift because, in a way it represented what this club means. Because like this club, those trees have strong roots and--with a clear white bloom--they renew themselves and their promise every single year. And, that is what you have been doing for the last 75 years. You have been standing up when times were good and when they were not so good, on behalf of the Democratic party.

It is no accident that in the last two elections there has been a gender gap and it is because, to a large degree, politics has changed in our country. It has changed, I believe, for the better because it is much more involved in looking at what matters in people's lives. I've said on many occasions that, during the 1996 election, when there were some who were concerned about the kind of issues that the President and I, and others supporting the President, were promoting. Issues like family leave, issues like improved education and health care, issues like child care, issues like the Brady Bill and the ban on assault weapons, and that there was this extraordinary response from women that, in the words of one political commentator, the President was moving our politics toward the "feminization" of politics. Now, I personally wouldn't have objected to that if that were the case, but I thought it was completely missing the point, because what we have tried to do, what you have tried to do, what this Administration has tried to do, is to bring about the "humanization" of politics. To make it possible for Americans of all walks of life throughout our country to feel again that politics means something, that their government can take a role in their lives, that together there is something

we call the common good. Certainly the biggest difference between us and the other party is that we do believe in community. We believe that we are better when we help others succeed. That when we care about the barriers of discrimination and prejudice and stereotype we lift ourselves and others up.

That's what this club has stood for, as you opened your doors, as you welcomed speakers, as you debated issues, you have really stood for what is best about the Democratic Party. I believe that the message of the Democratic Party--the message of the humanization of politics, where we reach out to women and men, young and old, and create a community in America, freeing one nation in America, to face the challenges of the twenty-first century--is what we all must be devoted to. And I am grateful that I know that here in this town, at this club there are women of all ages with many different experiences who are veterans to politics and new to politics who believe in the same values that I do and the President does and that we will continue to promote together.

I am hoping that when we meet at the one hundredth anniversary of this club--and I expect everyone in this room to be here along with many, many others--we will look back and we will say that we kept faith with Eleanor Roosevelt. We kept faith with so many of the other great leaders of our Party and our country who believe that America was greater than the sum of its parts, who believed that our best days were ahead of us, and who worked to bring that about. And as we look back, we will think together and laugh a little bit about this evening tonight and then we will celebrate all of the victories that we will have in the next twenty-five years because we will keep faith with what is best about our past as we move together into the future. Thank you all very, very much.