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Claiborne Pell

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January 24, 1979

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President:

It is a distinct pleasure for me to write you on behalf of Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., who, I understand, has been recommended for an award of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This award would be a particularly fitting recognition of this distinguished citizen's tremendous contribution to the cultural life of our nation and the world.

In addition to his well-known achievements in film and the performing arts, Mr. Fairbanks has had an equally significant career in business and public service as well as a full tour of duty during the war as a Navy Commander. His has been a truly remarkable life of creativity and dedicated work.

He has served on boards and committees, and he has been decorated and honored. In everything he has done, he has been an inspiration to us all. The public spirit and philanthropy of Mr. Fairbanks complete a set of qualifications that, in my mind, more than justify his being honored with this distinguished award. I enthusiastically support this action.

With warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

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