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(Parvin)
February 26, 1982

MRS. REAGAN: USC TOWN AND GOWN SCHOLARSHIP
MARCH 2, 1982

-- Thank you for that warm welcome. It's nice to be home again. Although . . . I'm not sure my husband trusts me completely when I'm back in California. When I told him I was receiving a Town and Gown membership card, he looked concerned and said, "You can't charge anything on it, can you?"

-- And, of course, I want to thank you for giving this marvelous nursing scholarship in my name. I hope when I tell you something that once happened to me you won't rename the scholarship after someone else. But during the war so many nurses were off in the armed forces, the regular hospitals were terribly shorthanded. So doing my patriotic duty, I volunteered as a nurse's aid. My debut, however, was not exactly that of a Florence Nightingale. Because -- well, I don't know how to say this except right out -- but my very first patient died in the middle of my bed bath. So perhaps you understand one reason I have a special place in my heart for nurses.

-- I grew up the daughter of a surgeon and for this nursing scholarship to be given in my name is a great honor. My father by his very nature instilled in me a great respect for the world of medicine. By allowing me to select nursing students as the recipients of this scholarship, I feel that

you are allowing me, in a way, to honor my own father. And that means very much to me. Thank you again for this scholarship and thank you for what you are doing for young people at USC.

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(Parvin) ^{AB}
February 25, 1982
10:30 a.m.

MRS. REAGAN: USC TOWN AND GOWN SCHOLARSHIP
MARCH 2, 1982

- Thank you for that warm welcome. Let me say right off how much I admire your tradition of helping young people with their education. William Allen White, the newspaper editor, once advised women's clubs to raise more hell and fewer dahlias. Well, I think this group has found the perfect combination by raising scholarship money.
- I am very proud to have a nursing scholarship awarded in my name. Since my father is a doctor, I grew up respecting nurses. Over the years -- and over the past year especially -- my appreciation for what they do has grown even deeper. Nurses, dressed in their white uniforms, have been described as the angels of the emergency room. And after the events of last March, I agree with all my heart. To the nursing students here today, let me say how much I admire the career you have chosen.
- The thing I've always liked about nurses is that they are under no illusions about life. They understand the joys of the delivery room and the sorrows of the other wards. ~~And~~ I am genuinely honored to be associated with the nursing profession through this scholarship. Thank you.

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