



Osborne, Kathy: Files, 1981-1989

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

Office of the President

Specialization Heading

Personal Secretary to President Ronald Reagan

Disclaimer

This collection is available in whole for research use. Some folders may still have withdrawn material due to Freedom of Information Act restrictions. Most frequently withdrawn material is national security classified material, personal privacy, protection of the President, etc.

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Kathleen “Kathy” Osborne was born Kathleen Edwards in Sacramento on December 4, 1943. She attended Glendale Junior College in southern California, while working as a secretary. In 1965 she completed airline stewardess training in Dallas and moved to the northeastern United States to work as a stewardess for American Airlines. She left this job when she married William Osborne in 1966. The couple had two children before divorcing in early 1981.

Ms. Osborne moved back to Sacramento with her husband in 1967. She was hired as an assistant to Helene von Damm, Governor Reagan’s personal secretary. Osborne also served as Nancy’s Reagan’s secretary beginning in 1972. In 1973, she left the Governor’s Office to work for Californians for Lower Taxes, an organization formed to promote the tax-lowering initiative Proposition 1. In 1975 she co-founded Sacks Howe Avenue, a juniors’ apparel store in Sacramento. She remained involved with the store until it closed in 1984.

Osborne did volunteer work for the Reagan-Bush 1980 presidential campaign. In July 1981, she visited President Reagan at the White House. During the visit fellow Californian Michael Deaver, the White House Deputy Chief of Staff, approached her about becoming Reagan’s new personal secretary. He knew the job was available since Reagan's current secretary, Helene von Damm, was moving to head the Office of Presidential Personnel. Osborne started on October 1, 1981, and remained the President’s personal secretary until he left office in January 1989. She was named a Special Assistant to the President in 1985, a Deputy Assistant in 1987, and a full Assistant to the President in December 1988.

Osborne worked in Reagan’s post-presidential office in Los Angeles until 1990. She later served as Executive Assistant to Warren Christopher, while he was a senior partner with the Los Angeles law firm O’Melveny & Myers.

Scope and Content Note

Scope and Content

The Reagan Library has arranged the collection in a single series consisting of general subject file material, Eureka College material, material regarding Dixon, IL and the Reagan boyhood home, Presidential Library material, and personal

correspondence. The folders are filed alphabetically within this loose arrangement. Correspondents include: William “Bill” Thompson, who helped restore the Reagan boyhood home in Dixon; Doug Morrow, a friend from Reagan’s career as an actor; Bertha and Samuelion (Samueline/“Sam”) Sisco, two sisters who corresponded regularly with Reagan beginning in the 1970s; and longtime White House reporter Trude Feldman. Osborne handled the President’s personal mail with the help of Katherine “Charley” Shepherd of the White House Correspondence Office.

This collection originally consisted of a single oversize attachment found while arranging the “true” oversize attachments. In addition, we found three archives (Hollinger) boxes containing a personal papers collection for Kathy Osborne. Upon inspection, the material did not have a solicitation/acquisition file and it contained a note from Rod Soubers (Reagan Library Supervisory Archivist, 1989-1996). The note stated the material was “personal” and it apparently had been removed from presidential records and transferred. There is some indication that Osborne sent this material to the Ralph Bledsoe, the Director of the Library, 1991. No further documentation was found. It has now been integrated with the original Osborne material.

Much of this material would qualify as personal records of Ronald Reagan although handled routinely by Kathy Osborne. We have processed and opened it under the Reagan Deed of Gift.

Last Modified Date

2024-06-25

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Quotes for Ronald Reagan (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Quotes for Ronald Reagan (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Quotes for Ronald Reagan (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Quotes for Ronald Reagan (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	White House Background
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Young American Medal for Bravery; for Service]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Eureka College Printouts
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Eureka College Scholarship Fund (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Eureka College Scholarship Fund (2)

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Eureka College Scholarship Fund (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Eureka Printout (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Eureka Printout (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Dixon, Illinois Printouts (1)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Dixon, Illinois Printouts (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Dixon, Illinois Printouts (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Dixon, Illinois Printouts (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Ronald Reagan - 03/15/1984 - Thank-you Letter to Donors [Boyhood Home]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	William Thompson [Boyhood Home Letter]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	[Audio-Visual Information re: Presidential Library]
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Becket [Potential Architectural Firm - Presidential Library (1)]

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Becket [Potential Architectural Firm - Presidential Library] (2)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Becket [Potential Architectural Firm - Presidential Library] (3)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Becket [Potential Architectural Firm - Presidential Library] (4)
OPEN / DIGITIZED	Becket [Potential Architectural Firm - Presidential Library] (5)
OPEN	[Bill Thompson] (1)-(10)

Box 3

Status	Title
OPEN	[Bill Thompson] (11)-(19)
OPEN	Doug Morrow
OPEN	[Kathy Osborne Files - Presidential Years] (1)-(4)

Box 4

Status	Title
OPEN	[The President - Spinoff Project] (1)(2)
OPEN	[Sisco Sisters] (1)-(8)

Status**Title**

OPEN

[Trude B. Feldman] (1)-(6)