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Gallant First Lady

To the Editor:

Of all the persons involved in the tragedy of Watergate, my heart goes out to Mrs. Nixon. As a one-time White House staff member, I have many fond remembrances of our former First Lady.

I have watched her these last months as she bravely carried out her duties under enormous pressure. When the end came, Mrs. Nixon still courageously maintained her outer calm. Only in her eyes could you see reflected a sorrow that sears the soul. Her stature may be fragile and her nature quiet, but there was nothing plastic about the woman who stood near her husband in the East Room last Friday as he bid his final good-bye as President.

Mrs. Nixon is a loyal wife, a good mother and was a gallant First Lady. Her contribution as First Lady should not be marred by Watergate. She has served her country well and has much to be proud of.

In years to come when historians recount the shining moments of the President's Administration, Mrs. Richard Nixon, will surely be among them.

TARA DONOHUE
New York, Aug. 14, 1974