

Julie Nixon Scores Portrait of Mother In 'The Final Days'

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Julie Nixon Eisenhower has taken strong exception to the portrayal of her mother, Pat Nixon, in the book "The Final Days" as a withdrawn and self-centered woman and a secret drinker. She said that this was "one distortion in particular" she could not live with.

Mrs. Eisenhower wrote her rebuttal for the "My Turn" section in the current issue of Newsweek magazine, which had also run excerpts from the book by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. She described the former President's wife as a strong woman of great self-control whose support enabled Mr. Nixon to cope with the drawn-out adversities created by Watergate and the Vietnam War.

Mrs. Nixon, in the view of her daughter, "was in August of 1974 a courageous and strong woman."

"The nebulous, weak figure of 'The Final Days' is not the same person," she said.

Mr. Nixon resigned on Aug. 9, 1974.

Citing her mother's heavy schedule of public events and travel in this country and abroad, Mrs. Eisenhower said that this was hardly the "schedule of a reclusive, heavy drinker" preoccupied with her own problems and oblivious to the needs of her family.

Mrs. Eisenhower said that she wanted to describe her mother as she knew her to counter the "gossipy history" of the book and several other "current characterizations that also missed the mark.

"Without doubt," she concluded, "one of the yet unwritten stories of the 'final days' is of the courage and love personified by Patricia Ryan Nixon."