

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute this Federal Government under the auspices of the Constitution for the United States.



THELMA CATHERINE RYAN NIXON

First Lady (1969–1974)

Thelma (Pat) was born on March 16, 1912 in Ely, Nevada, the daughter of William Ryan and Katherine Halberstadt.

Thelma changed her name to Pat after her father's death when she was only 18. She worked her way through college and received a B.S. in merchandising from the University of Southern California and a teaching certificate equating to a graduate degree. Pat was the first First Lady to earn a graduate degree. During her college years, she performed in a variety of plays as a member of the drama club.

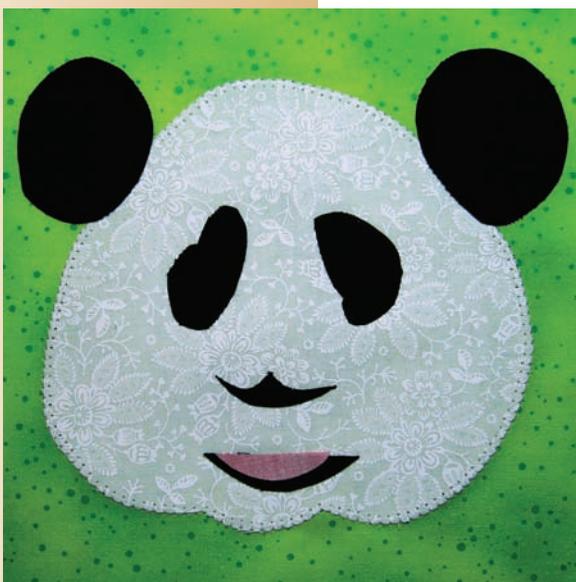
She was teaching commercial classes at Whittier High school and directing the school plays when she met Richard Nixon when they were both cast in "The Dark Tower," staged by a local theatre group. Pat and Richard married on June 21, 1940 at Mission Inn in Riverside, California. They had two daughters: Patricia and Julie.

As First Lady, Pat was unique in endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment. She was also the first to react to the Roe v. Wade decision and publicly support pro-choice. She lobbied her husband publicly and privately to nominate a woman for the Supreme Court. She also was the first First Lady to appear publicly in pants.

Pat died on June 22, 1993 in Park Ridge, New Jersey at the age of 81.

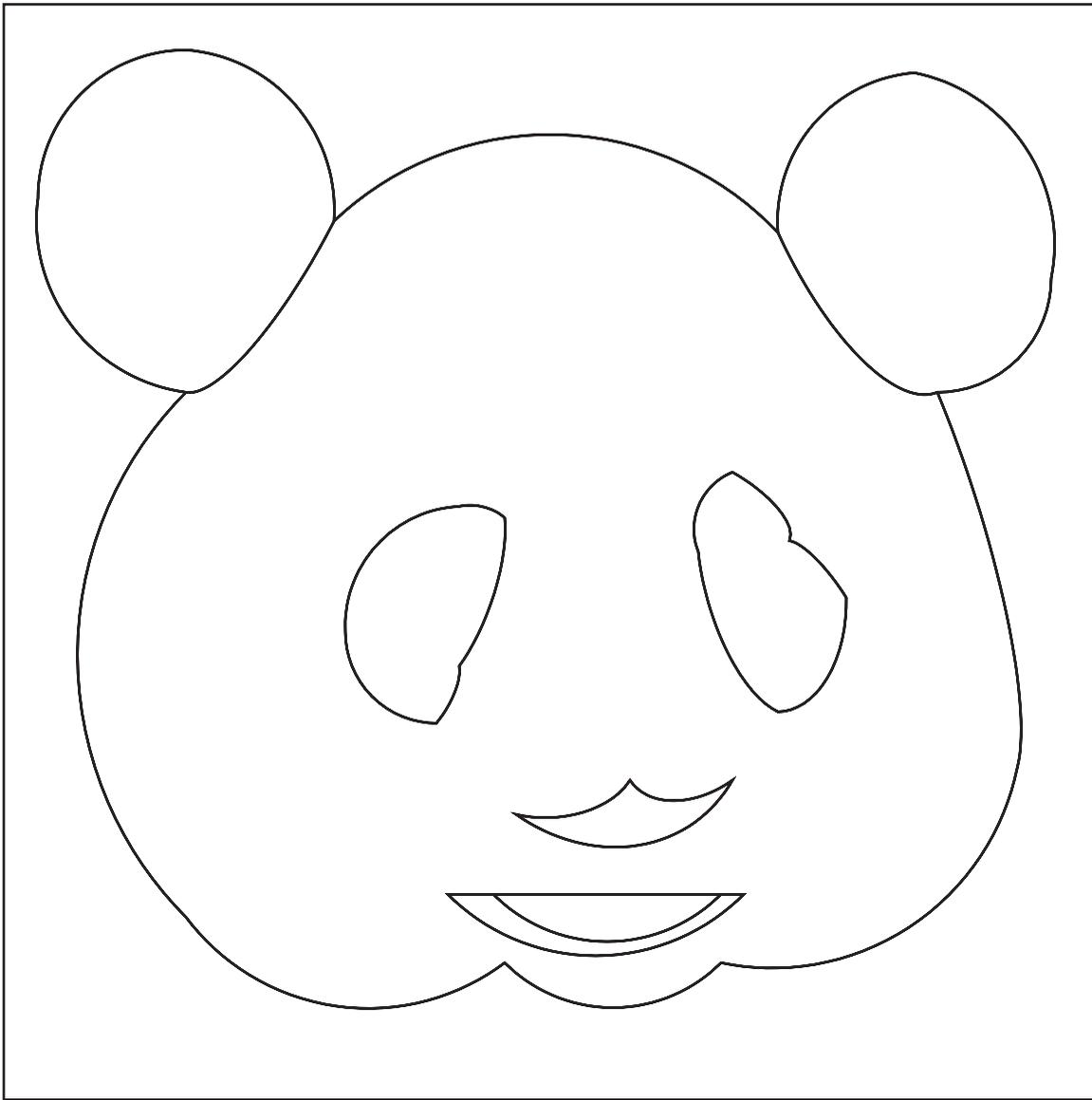
"I just want to go down in history as the wife of the President."

~Pat Nixon



Pat's Panda

Pat's block acknowledges that during an historic visit to China, Pat asked Premier Chou En-lai to send two giant pandas to Washington's National Zoo. These were the first pandas to live in America.



Pat's Panda
Making the Block

Using the diagram above (pattern is reversed for fusible appliqué), make templates and appliqué to a 7" square of background fabric according to the block design. Trim block to 6½" x 6½".