

The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/6/76 - Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony for the LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

REMARKS AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY

FOR THE LBJ MEMORIAL GROVE ON THE POTOMAC,

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LBJ GROVE DEDICATION

THANK YOU, TOM.

(Secretary Kleppe introduces you.)

MRS. JOHNSON - LYNDA - LUCI - CHUCK

MR. VICE PRESIDENT

MY FRIEND AND FORMER COLLEAGUE GEORGE MAHON

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND

FRIENDS OF LYNDON JOHNSON

I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO JOIN
IN CEREMONIES HONORING A GOOD FRIEND AND A GREAT
AMERICAN PATRIOT•

IT IS ENTIRELY FITTING THAT IN THIS CITY OF BRONZE
AND MARBLE MONUMENTS WE CHOOSE TO REMEMBER LYNDON JOHNSON
WITH A LIVING MEMORIAL OF PINES HERE ALONG THE BANKS OF
THE POTOMAC•

LYNDON JOHNSON AND HIS DEAR WIFE, LADY BIRD,

WERE ARDENT CONSERVATIONISTS IN THE SPIRIT OF

TEDDY ROOSEVELT ~~---~~ WHOSE OWN MEMORIAL STANDS AMONG

A GROVE OF TREES NEARBY.

WASHINGTON HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN KIND TO THE

NEEDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, LYNDON JOHNSON
WORKED HARD TO RESPOND TO THOSE NEEDS IN A MORE SENSITIVE
WAY.

HIS GOAL, HE ONCE SAID, WAS TO LEAVE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS
"A GLIMPSE OF THE WORLD AS GOD REALLY MADE IT, NOT AS IT
LOOKED WHEN WE GOT THROUGH WITH IT."

THIS GROVE OF PINES HELPS TO FULFILL

LYNDON JOHNSON'S DREAMS FOR AMERICA.

STANDING HERE, AND LOOKING OUT OVER THE

VISTAS OF OUR CAPITAL, I BELIEVE THIS MEMORIAL ALSO HELPS

TO CAPTURE SOMETHING MORE:

THE EXCITEMENT AND INSPIRATION THAT MOVED LYNDON JOHNSON
WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO WASHINGTON, FRESH FROM TEACHING
SCHOOL, TO BEGIN WORK IN A CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE.

FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, VISITORS CAN ABSORB
THE CITY AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING THE CAPITOL AND THE GREAT
MONUMENTS TO WASHINGTON, LINCOLN AND JEFFERSON BEFORE
VISITING THE SHRINES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IN THIS
GREAT CAPITAL.

I WOULD ESPECIALLY URGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO COME
TO THIS SPOT TO PONDER THE SIGHT THAT HAS QUICKENED THE
PULSE OF MANY YOUNG AMERICANS STARTING OUT ON THEIR
CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT -- JUST AS IT DID FOR LYNDON JOHNSON•

IT IS THE VERY HEART OF A DEMOCRACY THAT
FRESH, VITAL IDEAS CONTINUE TO BE INFUSED INTO THE BODY
POLITIC•

NO DOUBT, YOUNG PEOPLE MUST DO THEIR OWN THING•

BUT I WOULD SAY TO THEM, AS LYNDON JOHNSON OFTEN SAID --

CONSIDER SERVING YOUR NATION IN GOVERNMENT, WHETHER AT

THE LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL•

AND LET THIS PLACE, THIS LIVING MEMORIAL TO

A LIFE DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE, BE THE INSPIRATION FOR

SUCH A DECISION•

LET ME ADD ONE WORD OF THANKS -- EXPRESSING
THE GRATITUDE OF THE NATION -- TO A GREAT AND GRACIOUS
FIRST LADY, MRS. JOHNSON, WHOSE TIRELESS EFFORTS ON BEHALF
OF A MORE BEAUTIFUL AMERICA HAVE, IN LARGE MEASURE, MADE
THIS SPOT COME ALIVE WITH NATURE'S BLESSINGS.

HER WORK FOR BEAUTIFICATION ALL ACROSS THE
LAND, AS WELL AS FOR PERENNIAL SPRINGTIME BEAUTY IN THE
NATION'S CAPITOL, HAS CHANGED THE FACE OF AMERICA FOR THE
BETTER.

I WAS PROUD, AS A CONGRESSMAN, TO WORK WITH
MRS. JOHNSON IN THE FORMATIVE STAGES OF THIS MEMORIAL
GROVE.

TO ALL OF US WHO PLAYED SOME PART IN ITS
CONCEPTION, THIS DEDICATION TODAY IS A DREAM BECOME
REALITY.

AND IT IS A FITTING TRIBUTE, NOT ONLY TO
THE FORMER PRESIDENT, BUT TO HIS FIRST LADY TO WHOM WE
ALL OWE SO MUCH.

END OF TEXT