



FOR RELEASE TO PM'S, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1975 (RADIO-TV: 12 NOON)

ACS Courage Award to Cadet

Washington, D.C. - President Ford today awarded the American Cancer Society's Courage Award to West Point Cadet Robert E. Johnson, captain of the Army football team, who waged a personal campaign against cancer.

The President presented a plaque to Johnson in a White House ceremony launching the Society's 1975 educational and fund raising Crusade. Mrs. Gerald Ford is Honorary Chairman of the Crusade. She has been an American Cancer Society volunteer for some years. Also present at the ceremony was the Society's national Crusade Chairman, actress Raquel Welch.

Cadet Johnson was the first black captain of the Army Varsity football team in its 84-year history. He was unable to play during the 1974 season due to surgery and treatment for cancer, but he continued to lead the team as its non-playing captain. Johnson also lettered for two years with the wrestling team. On graduation, he will be commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the infantry.

The American Cancer Society is seeking to top the \$100 million mark in the 1975 Crusade, and about two million volunteers are

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expected to visit 40 million homes with lifesaving leaflets this April.

The text of the plaque presented by the President to Cadet Johnson states: "The American Cancer Society salutes a courageous young man, Cadet Robert E. Johnson, for his bravery in his battle against cancer; and for the hope and inspiration he has given all Americans in the fight for life and health." It was signed by the President and Mrs. Ford, ACS President Dr. George P. Rosemond and ACS Board Chairman W. Armin Willig.

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