

The original documents are located in Box 30, “4/27/76 - Remarks at the Presentation of Award to the Outstanding Handicapped American of the Year” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TALKING POINTS:

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

TO THE HANDICAPPED AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

THE CABINET ROOM

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1976

I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE
TO HONOR THE HANDICAPPED AMERICAN OF THE YEAR,
BILL KISER (Kie-zer), OF WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA.

BILL'S LIFE DEMONSTRATES THE TRIUMPH

OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. INSTEAD OF SURRENDERING

TO HELPLESSNESS AND HOPELESSNESS, TO INSTITUTIONS

AND TO OBLIVION, BILL KISER (Kie-zer) HAS EMERGED

AS A COURAGEOUS AND CREATIVE AMERICAN.

BILL, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AS A CITIZEN

AND THE EXAMPLE YOU FURNISH COMBINE TO MAKE ME VERY PROUD,

AS PRESIDENT, TO MEET YOU. YOU REPRESENT WHAT IS BEST

ABOUT AMERICA.

STRUGGLING AGAINST PHYSICAL HANDICAPS

THAT WOULD HAVE INCAPACITATED LESSER HUMAN BEINGS,

YOU BECAME THE MUCH ADMIRERED PRESIDENT OF A NEWS SERVICE.

YOU WRITE SYNDICATED RADIO SHOWS AND NEWSPAPER COLUMNS.

YOUR INSPIRATIONAL BOOK HAS BEEN ACCLAIMED.

YOU ARE A COMMUNICATOR IN THE BEST SENSE

OF THE WORD. YOU COMMUNICATE DETERMINATION AND SUCCESS.

ALTHOUGH YOUR SPEED AT THE TYPEWRITER IS IMPAIRED
BY YOUR HANDICAP, YOUR MESSAGE RINGS OUT LOUD AND CLEAR.

YOUR MESSAGE REAFFIRMS THE DIGNITY, WORTH,
AND POTENTIAL OF EVERY AMERICAN.

YOU INSPIRE THE LEADERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED. IN THAT SPIRIT,

I TODAY REAFFIRM MY COMMITMENT TO THE IMPORTANCE

OF FULL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICA'S HANDICAPPED.

I APPLAUD THE EXCELLENT WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND REGRET

THAT I WILL BE OUT OF THE CITY AND UNABLE TO ATTEND

YOUR FORMAL MEETING LATER THIS WEEK.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT YOU, BILL KISER (Kie-zer),
IS NOT YOUR DISABILITY, BUT YOUR ABILITY. YOUR FRIENDS
GATHERED HERE TODAY -- AND I WANT TO BE AMONG
YOUR FRIENDS -- KNOW FIRST HAND THE QUALITY OF YOUR
ACHIEVEMENTS. I SHARE IN THEIR ADMIRATION AND RESPECT
FOR YOUR WRITINGS, YOUR COURAGE, AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION
TO OUR NATION.

ACCORDINGLY, I AM HONORED TO PRESENT

THIS AWARD TO A GREAT AMERICAN -- BILL KISER (Kie-zer)●

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