

The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/18/76 - Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for 15 American Recipients of the National Medal of Science” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

51
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

REMARKS AT NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE AWARD CEREMONY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1976

- DISTINGUISHED MEDAL RECIPIENTS
- MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
- DR. STEYER
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

high honor & Medal for science

THIS MORNING I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF PRESENTING

THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE, THE NATION'S HIGHEST AWARD

FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, TO 15

DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS.

~~AS ALL OF YOU KNOW~~, SOME HAVE RECENTLY
RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT AMERICA'S CONTINUING LEADERSHIP
IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS.

THOSE DOUBTS WERE SURELY PUT TO REST THIS
MORNING.

THREE MORE AMERICANS TODAY WERE NAMED
RECIPIENTS OF THE 1976 NOBEL PRIZES. AMERICANS
HAVE NOW SWEPT THE 1976 PRIZES IN ECONOMICS,
MEDICINE, PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY, MARKING THE
FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THAT A SINGLE COUNTRY HAS
BEEN THE HOME OF ALL OF THESE WINNERS.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF A PROUD AND GRATEFUL
NATION, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SALUTE
THE SIX OUTSTANDING AMERICANS WHO HAVE EARNED
THIS DISTINCTION. THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY
TO THEIR PROFESSION, TO THEIR COUNTRY, AND TO ALL
MANKIND.

NOW LET ME TURN TO THE MATTER AT HAND. ONE
OF THE PRIVILEGES OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS TO
PERSONALLY PRESENT THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE,
THE NATION'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. THIS AFTERNOON IT IS MY
PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS AWARD TO 15 DISTINGUISHED
AMERICANS.

high honor & rare privilege

THIS AFTERNOON I HAVE ~~THE PLEASURE~~ OF SHARING
IN TWO EVENTS THAT REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON THE
UNITED STATES IN OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

THE FIRST INVOLVES THE LATEST ANNOUNCEMENTS
BY THE NOBEL PRIZE SELECTION COMMITTEE.

THEY ARE JOINING A VERY SELECT GROUP OF MEDAL OF
SCIENCE AWARD WINNERS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED RECOGNITION SINCE
1962, "FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE IN
THE PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL, MATHEMATICAL AND ENGINEERING
SCIENCES."

THE RECIPIENTS WE HONOR TODAY HAVE ADDED TO OUR

UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THEY HAVE

INCREASED OUR PRODUCTIVITY IN AGRICULTURE. THEY HAVE

IMPROVED OUR NATION'S HEALTH.

THEY HAVE HELPED BRING NEW ENERGY SOURCES WITHIN OUR REACH.

AND THEY HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS IN MATHEMATICS AND ITS

APPLICATIONS THAT WILL PERMIT FURTHER PROGRESS IN COMPUTER

TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS RESEARCH.

THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ITSELF. THE FREEDOM AND THE MEANS TO
QUESTION AND EXPLORE ARE NOT JUST BRANCHES OF THE AMERICAN
EXPERIENCE - THEY LIE AT ITS VERY ROOTS.

THE DISCOVERY OF THIS CONTINENT - THE BIRTH OF THIS
NATION - WERE THE RESULTS OF EXPERIMENT AND EXPLORATION.

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, THIS NATION'S STRENGTH HAS BEEN IN

ITS ECONOMIC HEALTH, ITS MILITARY SECURITY AND THE GENERAL

WELL-BEING OF ITS PEOPLE - AND THESE, IN TURN, HAVE

DEPENDED ON THE INTELLECT AND CREATIVITY OF AMERICA'S INVENTORS

SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

OUR FOUNDERS BELIEVED THAT THE IDEAS OF SUCH INQUIRING
MEN AND WOMEN, ENCOURAGED AND PROTECTED BY A FREE SOCIETY,
WOULD PRODUCE BENEFITS EXTENDING TO ALL ITS PEOPLE.

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, THIS BELIEF HAS BEEN
JUSTIFIED. TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THE RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH HAVE CAPTURED OUR IMAGINATION, BETTERED OUR
CONDITION, AND RAISED OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

TODAY MORE THAN EVER, A STRONG NATIONAL EFFORT IN

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN

OUR ECONOMY AND OUR DEFENSE, AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF

LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS. *While in Congress & as Protector*
~~THIS IS WHY~~ I HAVE WORKED TO

BOLSTER OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO

ACHIEVE OUR NATIONAL GOALS.

Just about a year ago, I was struggling with Office of Management + Budget

DESPITE TIGHT FISCAL CONSTRAINTS, MY 1977 BUDGET

INCLUDED REQUESTS FOR AN ELEVEN PERCENT INCREASE IN FEDERAL

FUNDING FOR R & D.

WE HAVE INCREASED OUR SUPPORT OF

BASIC RESEARCH -- TO ENLARGE THE FUND OF BASIC KNOWLEDGE

SO NECESSARY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING PROGRESS.

With the strong + effective support of V. P. Rockefeller
we HAVE ESTABLISHED A NEW OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY POLICY IN THE WHITE HOUSE, DESIGNED TO BRING TO

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT TIMELY ADVICE ON HOW

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP US DEAL WITH NATIONAL

PROBLEMS.

I am delighted the Dr Steven
now heads up that important office.

THE MEN AND WOMEN DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY -- IN OUR UNIVERSITIES, OUR INDUSTRIAL
LABORATORIES, OUR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RESEARCH CENTERS --
CONTINUE TO DESERVE AMERICA'S SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

THEREFORE I AM PROUD TO AWARD THESE FIFTEEN NATIONAL
MEDALS OF SCIENCE TODAY -- AND TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE AND
MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD WINNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

END OF TEXT

DOCTOR STEVER, WOULD YOU PLEASE
READ THE NAMES AS I PRESENT
THE AWARDS --

(MOVE TO YOUR RIGHT)