The original documents are located in Box 42, “1/10/77 - Remarks at the Closing of the Ceremony Presenting Medals of Freedom” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CLOSING REMARKS FOR MEDAL OF FREEDOM PRESENTATION

-|- let me congratulate each and every one of you.

I regret that Irving Berlin, the late Alexander Calder, and Georgia O'Keeffe were unable to be represented here today. Present we will be presenting their medals to them or to their families at a later date.
IN CLOSING, let me voice our country's gratitude not only to you, but to all those who helped you achieve what you did. Each of you has had friends and co-workers, teammates and families who share in your achievements and in our pride today. Once again, congratulations.

NOW BETTY AND I WILL JOIN THE HONOREES IN THE GRAND HALL TO MEET OUR OTHER GUESTS, AFTER WHICH YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH IN THE STATE DINING ROOM.

END OF TEXT
I. W. ABEL (pause)

JOHN BARDEEN (BAR/deen), REPRESENTED BY HIS

A PHYSICIST OF GENIUS, JOHN BARDEEN HAS

COMBINED FORMIDABLE AND UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC INSIGHTS WITH

THE MATHEMATICAL ABILITY TO CARRY THEM THROUGH.

HIS DISCOVERIES HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED ELECTRONICS AND

COMMUNICATIONS, CHANGING EACH OF OUR LIVES FOR THE

BETTER. WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR HIM AS A CREATIVE

MASTER IN THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF SCIENCE

AND TECHNOLOGY.
NORMAN BORLAUG  (BO:R - LOG)

REVOLUTIONARY SCIENTIST AND ELOQUENT PROPHET,

HE PERFORMED MIRACLES WITH GRAIN AND SAVED UNTOLD MILLIONS
FROM STARVATION. HIS WORK HAS PUSHED BACK THE SHADOW
OF HUNGER ON THIS PLANET/AND GIVEN US PRECIOUS TIME
TO FORCE ITS FINAL RETREAT.
GENERAL OMAR N. BRADLEY

MILITARY HERO, COURAGEOUS IN BATTLE,

AND GENTLE IN SPIRIT, FRIEND OF THE COMMON SOLDIER,

GENERAL OF THE ARMY, FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS

OF STAFF, HE EMBODIES THE BEST OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY

TRADITION WITH DIGNITY, HUMANITY AND HONOR.
ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE

COMBAT COMMANDER, INNOVATIVE NAVAL

STRATEGIST AND TACTICIAN, INSPIRING LEADER, FIRST

THREE-TERM CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, HE MADE THE SEA

A PLACE OF VICTORY IN WAR, A MIGHTY FORTRESS IN PEACE.
BRUCE CATTON
MAN OF LETTERS, / PRE-EMINENT HISTORIAN
SOUNDS OF BATTLE AND CHERISH PEACE. HE MADE US SEE
THE BLEEDING WOUND OF SLAVERY / AND HOLD MAN'S FREEDOM
DEAR.
JOE DIAZIO REPRESENTED BY HIS BROTHER, DOMINICK DIAMMIO

SUPERB ATHLETE, COACH, AUTHOR AND BUSINESSMAN, JOE DIAZIO STANDS TALL AMONG THE RANKS OF GENUINE AMERICAN HEROES KNOWN AND REVERED (RE-VERED) AROUND THE WORLD AS THE "YANKEE CLIPPER," HE CONTRIBUTED MANY YEARS OF STYLE AND SPLENDID ABILITY TO THE SPORT WHICH HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS OUR NATIONAL PASTIME.

HIS CHARACTER AND GRACE, BOTH ON AND OFF THE PLAYING FIELD, HAVE BEEN A CONTINUING SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO AMERICANS OF ALL AGES.
ARIEL DUWANT

WRITER, HISTORIAN AND PHILOSOPHER,

ARIEL DURANT HAS COMBINED A SENSITIVE AND SWEEPING VISION WITH UNIQUE LITERARY TALENTS. HER LIFELONG COLLABORATION WITH HER HUSBAND WILL HAS HELPED MAKE HISTORY ACCESSIBLE, POPULARIZING BUT NEVER CHEAPENING ITS LESSONS.

THE STYLE AND SUBSTANCE OF HER WRITINGS HAVE MADE THE PAST MORE VIVID, AND ENRICHED OUR LIVES IN THE PRESENT.
WILL DURANT

WRITER, HISTORIAN AND PHILOSOPHER,

WILL DURANT HAS PROVIDED AN OPEN WINDOW INTO THE LIVES
AND THOUGHTS OF PAST AGES. WITH THE COLLABORATION
OF HIS WIFE ARIEL, HE HAS HELPED LEAD US THROUGH THE
PAST TO THE MEANING OF THE PRESENT. AN ELOQUENT
APOSTLE OF SOCIAL ORDER AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, HE IS
AN ENEMY OF CHAOS, A FRIEND AND AN INVALUABLE GUIDE
TO MILLIONS OF GRATEFUL READERS.
ARTHUR FIEDLER

VIOLINIST, CONDUCTOR AND MUSICAL INNOVATOR, ARTHUR FIEDLER, HAS BRIDGED THE GAP BETWEEN POPULAR AND CLASSICAL MUSIC AND GIVEN MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD A GREATER APPRECIATION OF AMERICA'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE. HIS SPIRIT AND ZEST FOR LIVING HAVE MADE AN IMMEASURABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN LIFE.
JUDGE HENRY J. FRIENDLY

HONORED STUDENT AND SERVANT OF THE LAW, / MAN OF INTELLECT AND WISDOM, / HE BROUGHT A BRILLIANCE AND A SENSE OF PRECISION TO AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE, SHARPENING ITS FOCUS AND STRENGTHENING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE HIGH GOAL OF EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE FOR EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN.
LADY BIRD JOHNSON

AS ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT FIRST LADIES,

SHE CLAIMED HER OWN PLACE IN THE HEARTS AND HISTORY

OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IN COUNCILS OF POWER OR IN

HOMES OF THE POOR, SHE MADE GOVERNMENT HUMAN WITH HER

UNIQUE COMPASSION AND HER GRACE, WARMTH AND WISDOM.

HER LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMED THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE AND

PRESERVED ITS NATURAL BEAUTY AS A NATIONAL TREASURE.
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH, REPRESENTED BY HIS NEPHEW,

RODERICK MACLEISH

POET AND PLAYWRIGHT, TEACHER AND STATESMAN,

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH HAS COMBINED THE VOCATION OF MAN

OF LETTERS WITH THAT OF PUBLIC SPOKESMAN, A POET OF

REALITIES AS WELL AS DREAMS, HIS ELOQUENT WORDS ARE

MATCHED BY HIS SENSITIVE SOCIAL CONSCIENCE, HE SEeks

TRUTH, INSPIRED BY LOVE OF HIS FELLOW MEN AND OF HIS

COUNTRY; WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE HIS STATURE

AS A HUMANIST, AN ARTIST AND AN AMERICAN.
JAMES ALBERT MICHENER

AUTHOR, TEACHER AND POPULAR HISTORIAN,/ JAMES MICHENER HAS ENTRANCED A GENERATION WITH HIS

COMPPELLING ESSAYS AND NOVELS. FROM

TALES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO CENTENNIAL, THE PROLIFIC

WRITINGS OF THIS MASTER STORYTELLER HAVE EXPANDED

THE KNOWLEDGE AND ENRICHED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS.
VICE PRESIDENT NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

Patriot, philanthropist, patron of the arts, diplomat, governor of New York, vice president of the United States. His long years of service to his country have yielded governmental, economic, social and cultural contributions beyond measure.
NORMAN ROCKWELL, REPRESENTED BY HIS SON, JARVIS ROCKWELL

ARTIST, ILLUSTRATOR AND AUTHOR, / NORMAN

ROCKWELL HAS PORTRAYED THE AMERICAN SCENE WITH

UNRIVALLED FRESHNESS AND CLARITY. / INSIGHT, OPTIMISM

AND GOOD HUMOR ARE THE HALLMARKS OF HIS ARTISTIC STYLE.

HIS VIVID AND AFFECTIONATE PORTRAITS OF OUR COUNTRY /

AND OURSELVES / HAVE BECOME A BELOVED PART OF THE AMERICAN

TRADITION.
Catherine Filene Shouse

Catherine Filene Shouse has given her
country half a century of invaluable voluntary service.

A pioneer in job training for women, she herself is an
outstanding example of what good taste and intelligence,
pragmatism and persistence can accomplish.

A working patron of the arts as well as a giving one,
her keen interest and involvement have enriched
immeasurably our nation’s cultural life.
PIONEER RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTATOR, WAR CORRESPONDENT, AUTHOR AND EXPLORER, LOWELL THOMAS HAS LIVED AND FULFILLED MANY DREAMS. HIS ELOQUENT VOICE, HIS ZEST FOR LIVING, HIS SUPERB PROFESSIONALISM AND HIS PATRIOTISM HAVE LEFT A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE WITH THE MILLIONS WHO HAVE SEEN AND HEARD HIM OVER THE YEARS.
JAMES D. WATSON

SCHOLAR, TEACHER, AUTHOR, AND SCIENTIFIC PIONEER, JAMES D. WATSON HAS CHALLENGED THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE ITSELF AND CHARTED A NEW PATH IN MANKIND'S ENDLESS SEARCH FOR TRUTH. HIS INTELLECTUAL COURAGE AND RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE HAVE EARNED HIM THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF HIS COUNTRY AND A PERMANENT PLACE AS ONE OF THE GREAT EXPLORERS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.