

**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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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID...

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.

WE WILL <sup>present</sup> ~~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) //

STEELWORKER, SOCIAL REFORMER, UNION

ORGANIZER, AND LABOR STATESMAN, / I. W. ABEL HAS FORGED

A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF WISE AND FIRM LEADERSHIP

THAT EXEMPLIFIES THE VERY BEST TRADITIONS OF THE AMERICAN

LABOR MOVEMENT. HIS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS / AND HIS

UNFAILING CONCERN FOR PEOPLE / HAVE EARNED HIM NOT ONLY

THE GRATITUDE, BUT THE ESTEEM AND RESPECT OF HIS

FELLOW CITIZENS.

JOHN BARDEEN (BAR/deen), REPRESENTED BY HIS SON,

WILLIAM BARDEEN

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 (BOR - 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

OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, / HE MADE US HEAR THE

SOUNDS OF BATTLE AND CHERISH PEACE. HE MADE US SEE

THE BLEEDING WOUND OF SLAVERY / AND HOLD MAN'S FREEDOM

DEAR.

JOE DiMAGGIO REPRESENTED BY HIS BROTHER, DOMINICK

DiMAGGIO

SUPERB ATHLETE, COACH, AUTHOR AND

BUSINESSMAN, / JOE DiMAGGIO 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 DURANT

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, <sup>MASTERS</sup> 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

COMPELLING 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 CLTURAL 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.

LOWELL THOMAS

?

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.