

The original documents are located in Box 16, “9/15/75 - Recorded Remarks Upon the Presentation of the National March of Dimes First "Service to Humanity" Award to Mr. I.W. Abel” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TAPING: TRIBUTE TO I.W. ABEL

SEPTEMBER 15, 1975

I AM GREATLY HONORED TO JOIN IN THIS TRIBUTE
TO THE MAN WHO WILL RECEIVE YOUR FIRST "SERVICE TO HUMANITY"
AWARD.

I PRIZE HIM AS A FRIEND. I KNOW HIM AS A
HUMANITARIAN. AND I ADMIRE HIM FOR A COMPASSION SO
CONSUMING THAT HE HAS TRANSLATED IT INTO A COMMITMENT
OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS TO THE CHILDREN THIS GREAT FOUNDATION
EXISTS TO SERVE.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF MEN LIKE I.W. ABEL, AND THE
MILLIONS OF VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT YOUR 2,300 CHAPTERS,
THAT HAS MADE THE MARCH OF DIMES A SUCCESS.

IF EACH OF YOU HERE TONIGHT -- AND ACROSS
AMERICA -- JOIN IN THE COMING CAMPAIGN WITH THE SAME
COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION OF THE MAN WE HONOR HERE
TONIGHT, THIS WILL BE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EFFORT YET.

CONGRATULATIONS, "ABE" ON AN AWARD WELL
DESERVED.

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