

# *Among* FRIENDS *of LBJ*

February 2008



**A Living Exhibit: LBJ as Majority Leader.**

**Actor Michael Stuart in a Role He Makes Up as He Goes.**

Story begins on Page 17

## August 27, 2007: At LBJ's Gravesite, Califano Lays Wreath Marking the President's 99th Birthday

As President Johnson's chief assistant for domestic legislation, Joseph A. Califano Jr. had unique insights into LBJ's deepest fears about the impact that the Vietnam War might have on his beloved Great Society. He began his remarks under the live oaks at the Johnson family gravesite this way:

Those of us who worked for LBJ have known all along that, to him, Vietnam was at least as much a threat to his revolution at home as were right wing conservatives and die hard segregationists. Indeed I believe his decision to

fight that war, the manner in which he chose to fight it, and his repeated Herculean efforts to bring the North Vietnamese to the negotiating table, were driven by his determination to minimize the war's impact on the needs of the neediest Americans—the black, the Hispanic, the elderly, the poor. More than once, he said he would not let Vietnam shatter his Great Society, as President Truman's Fair Deal had been killed by charges that he had lost China to the Communists and the Korean War.

The war LBJ wanted to wage

was the one against poverty and discrimination. His commitment was fierce and articulated most powerfully in his 1966 State of the Union message:

We will continue to meet the needs of our people by continuing to develop the Great Society.... I have come here to recommend that you, the representatives of the richest Nation on earth, bring the most urgent decencies of life to all of your fellow Americans.... There are men who cry out: We must sacrifice. Well, let us rather ask them: Who will



Photo by Charles Bogel

Johnny Ray Watson gives a memorable *a cappella* rendition of "America the Beautiful."





*Photo by Charles Bogel*

**Speaking under the live oaks at the family plot, Joseph Califano reminds the crowd that LBJ's spirit lives on in the Great Society programs that he left to us.**

they sacrifice? Are they going to sacrifice the children who seek the learning, or the sick who need medical care, or the families who dwell in squalor now brightened by the hope of a home? Will they sacrifice opportunity for the distressed, the beauty of our land, the hope of our poor?...I believe that we can continue the Great Society while we fight in Vietnam. But if there are some who do not believe this, then, in the name of justice, let them call for the contribution of those who live in the fullness of our blessing, rather than try to strip it from

the hands of those that are most in need.

And about the war that tortured him and threatened his ambitions for our people, he had this to say that evening:

"The war in Vietnam is not like World War II and Korea. . . . Yet, finally, all war is the same. It is young men dying in the fullness of their promise. It is trying to kill a man that you do not know even well enough to hate. . . . Therefore, to know war is to know that there is still

madness in this world."

We know how depressed LBJ was in those four years after he left the White House. I wish he were here today to see the budding appreciation of his greatness.

Mr. Califano noted that even the most severe critics of LBJ's record, economist John Kenneth Galbraith, Senator George McGovern, and biographer Robert Caro, have come to admit that his domestic achievements must not be forever clouded by the legacy of Vietnam:



Whatever individuals think about Vietnam and how-ever politicians shrink from the liberal label, it is time to recognize the reality of this revolutionary's remarkable achievements. To the point

of nagging, he reminded us that racism and poverty amid unprecedented affluence were unacceptable in the eyes of God and history.

So, in a material sense, Lyn-

don Johnson is buried here. But he is very much alive today—in the children who benefit from Head Start, the college students on his loan, grant and work study programs, the elderly and poor who benefit from Medicare, Medicaid and community health centers, the drivers in safer cars, the senior citizens in comfortable centers, all of us who breathe cleaner air and swim in unpolluted waters. . . .

And his beloved wife, Lady Bird, also buried in this hallowed ground, lives on—in the spectacular beauty that can be found not just in wildflowers across our ranges and prairies, but in pockets of natural beauty in just about every city in our nation.

Lyndon Johnson changed my life. He brought to vivid reality all that the Jesuits had taught me about social justice. He helped instill a sense that God gives us talents and good health and energy not to make out for ourselves, but to make the world a better place, especially for those less fortunate than us. He opened opportunities that have given this kid from Brooklyn, the only son of a first generation Italian-American and an Irish-American public school teacher, a kid who did not know anyone when he went to Washington in 1961, a life full of satisfactions that I never knew existed and purpose that nourishes those satisfactions.

And finally, we cannot celebrate LBJ without recogniz-



**Colonel Clark recalls that his own career was bracketed by two Great Society education initiatives: Head Start and the White House Fellows program.**



ing what all of us around him knew: he could never have done what he did without Lady Bird. She was the ballast in his personal ship and at critical moments in his ship of state. Some day, I hope we will all see each other again in heaven. My only prayer is that there are no cell phones there. Can you imagine what it must be like, for all those angels and souls who sought eternal rest in heaven, if Lyndon Johnson is up there with wireless cell phone technology!

Assisting Mr. Califano in laying the wreath at President Johnson's grave was Air Force Colonel Richard M. Clark, Commander, 12<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Wing, Randolph Air Force Base. Col. Clark began his remarks by noting LBJ's commitment to his First Lady:

I am honored to be invited back to the LBJ ranch to celebrate the birthday of . . . President Lyndon Baines Johnson. . . . Like the rest of America, however, I am saddened at our recent loss of his confidante and partner, First Lady Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson. . . . [I]t is important to recognize that the countless accomplishments of President Johnson would not have been possible without the support and determination of his wife. As a team, their commitment had a profound and lasting impact on our country.

Colonel Clark took special note of LBJ's commitment to another life-long darling, education:

His commitment to education was emblazoned on his heart

almost four decades before he first took the oath of office. His commitment to education began with his post high school education at Southwest Texas State Teachers College. During an internship in Cotulla, Texas, he saw first-hand the hardships that lower-class and immigrant children faced trying to get an education. He saw the enthusiasm for learning in his young 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders coupled with the struggle of their families who had to pull them out of school to help harvest crops.

Thirty-eight years after his work in Cotulla, he shared the meaning of that experience as the President speaking before a Joint Session of Congress: "Somehow, you never forget what poverty and hatred can do when you see its scars on the hopeful face of a young child . . . it never even occurred to me in my fondest dreams that I might have the chance to help the sons and daughters of those students and to help people like them all over this country. But now I do have that chance . . . and I'll let you in on a secret . . . *I mean to use it.*"

When you talk about commitment, we see four categories of people:

You have the Cop-outs—people who have no goals and don't commit to anything.

You have the Hold-outs—they are the people who don't know if they can reach their goals, so they're afraid to commit.

And there are the Dropouts—they are the folks who start toward a goal, but quit when the going gets tough.

But then you have that uncommon group, the All-outs—they are people whose commitment starts in their heart, who set goals and commit to them, and they take action and pay the price to achieve those goals.

I am personally thankful that President and Mrs. Johnson were all out for this country. In 1968, I was enrolled in the Head Start Program at Lincoln Elementary School in Oakland, CA, and it launched an academic career through public education that ended three decades later when I became a White House Fellow, another education program initiated by President Johnson. My education, bracketed by two programs started by Lyndon B. Johnson, is the key to my success in life and the key to my family's success. . . . And there are countless Americans with stories similar to mine, and we are thankful that President and Mrs. Johnson were champions for the people, especially those groups of people who never had an advocate. This amazing couple set the example of working hard for the betterment of society, and our nation shines because of it. They made a lasting impression in a multitude of ways throughout our government, along our highways and in our classrooms—this country remembers . . . and is grateful.

Happy Birthday, President Johnson.



# The 2007 Harry Middleton Lecture: The Origins of the Universe, by Steven Weinberg

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The Harry Middleton Lectureship is endowed by Lady Bird Johnson in honor of the long-time LBJ Library Director. On March 27, 2007, Professor Steven Weinberg joined other distinguished Middleton lecturers, including former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, actors Laurence Luckinbill and Shakespearean Michael York, Bill Moyers, and anchorman Brian Williams.

In introducing Dr. Weinberg, Library Director Betty Sue Flowers noted that he won the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics, and in 1991 received the National Medal of Science. In 2004 he was awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal of the American Philosophical Society. He is a member of Britain's Royal Society and has written over 300 articles on elementary particle physics. He holds honorary degrees from sixteen universities and taught at MIT, Harvard, Columbia, and Berkeley before coming to Texas in 1982. Dr. Flowers continued, "He is considered by many to be the preeminent theoretical physicist alive in the world today. He also holds the Lewis Thomas Prize for the researcher who best embodies the scientist as poet, and is an authority on anything produced by Gilbert and Sullivan."

Dr. Weinberg began by posing the fundamental question that he confronts: "Why do we think that there is such a thing as the origin of the universe? It's been around a long time." But he noted that

in his search for very old things, he found a very curious fact: all of the oldest things are about the same age. Why should that be, he mused... unless, at some moment in the past, everything *began*."

And this is the situation that we are in. Was there a time when the galaxies were so close together that they didn't exist as separate entities? If we can figure that one out, we will be close to calculating how old the universe is. So far, most indicators point to an age of something a little older than 13 billion years.

At some instant in our archaic past, Weinberg believes—actually in about three minutes—everything was decided; all the laws of physics and chemistry; the few numbers that seem to govern everything in our universe, such things as the speed of light, for example, and how dense and how hot things were at the very beginning of creation, and when it had cooled enough for the first atoms to form out of an archaic, primordial soup of neutrons and subatomic stuff.

"You never, for example, find star clusters older than about 13.2 billion years," Weinberg declared.

But there are other things we can date. We can date the chemical elements in the stars, which are older than the stars themselves. We think

that the very heavy stars, that were formed near the beginning, went through their life cycles so fast that they're not around any more—they exploded; they formed what are called super novas—and in the super-nova explosion... just as we use nuclear reactors to convert uranium into heavier atoms like plutonium... the great flux of neutrons converted lighter elements into heavy elements, and all the uranium and thorium and other heavy elements that we see in the universe come from these nuclear reactions in supernovas, very near the beginning of the formation of stars of any kind. On earth the uranium is not that old; it was produced by a supernova that was several billion years older than the formation of the sun. But we can look for really old stars. Auguste Comte thought that was something we would never be able to do. But it turns out that we can. It's done spectroscopically.

"There are galaxies everywhere you look," said Weinberg,

and the fascinating thing is that they are all rushing apart. Today they are 1,089 times further apart than they were in the beginning. The rate at which they are rushing apart is slowing down, because gravity is pulling at them. Yet recently we have discovered





For the packed house, Dr. Weinberg's charts and photos traced the history of the cosmos.

that the rate of expansion has started to speed up again. We don't know exactly why this is true, except that it seems to be related to something called dark energy, one of the hottest topics in astronomy today. We don't understand it, and it is being studied at the Mac-Donald Observatory.

Weinberg suggested that one of the most intriguing possibilities in current cosmological theorizing is that there may have been not one but many "Big Bangs," so that our world of chemistry and

physics is only one of a number of such worlds, with different sets of laws. Is there actually a "multiverse," he asked, and are the other worlds in it all the same, with the same laws governing *their* physics and chemistry? And why is our own chemistry so cunningly arranged, and so perfectly positioned as to produce our population of living creatures, with carbon-based chemistries? Is it only on earths such as ours that anyone is even asking such questions? Are we, and all we observe, the result of some Benevolent Design, or is everything we see only

the result of some huge accident, a cosmic joke, as it were?

Or was Einstein right when he said that God did not play dice with the universe?



**Harry Middleton escorted Mrs. Johnson to the lecture.**



## Building in D.C. Named after President Johnson

Lyndon Johnson often said that he wanted to be the education President. He is now generally accorded that title. Some formal recognition of that came on March 23, 2007, when President George W. Bush signed HR 584 into law, which named the Federal Building at 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. in Washington, D.C. as the Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building. At the LBJ Library the occasion was marked by a visit from U.S. Congressman Michael McCaul, (R-10<sup>th</sup> District), who presented the red-line copy of the bill—and the pen used to sign it—to Library Director Betty Sue Flowers. In his remarks Congressman McCaul acknowledged the crucial support the bill received from Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. UT President William Powers, Jr. spoke at the ceremony, calling to mind the debt that The University of Texas at Austin owes President Johnson and the Johnson family, and especially Lady Bird Johnson, its most well-known alumna.

LBJ saw sixty education bills passed during his tenure, including some that remain at the foundation of the entire national system, from kindergarden-level schooling such as Head Start, to student loan programs for higher education. LBJ insisted that the papers on education should be the first in the Library to be opened for public scrutiny. At the ceremony that opened those papers, he used a phrase that he later used often: "Here it is, the history of our times, with the bark off."



**The red-line copy of the bill, and below it the pen used to sign it.**



**UT President William Powers, Jr.; Congressman McCaul, Luci Johnson, LBJ Library and Museum Director Betty Sue Flowers.**

*Photos by Charles Bogel*



## Hardeman Prize-Winning Book Examines the Role of Congress in the Cold War

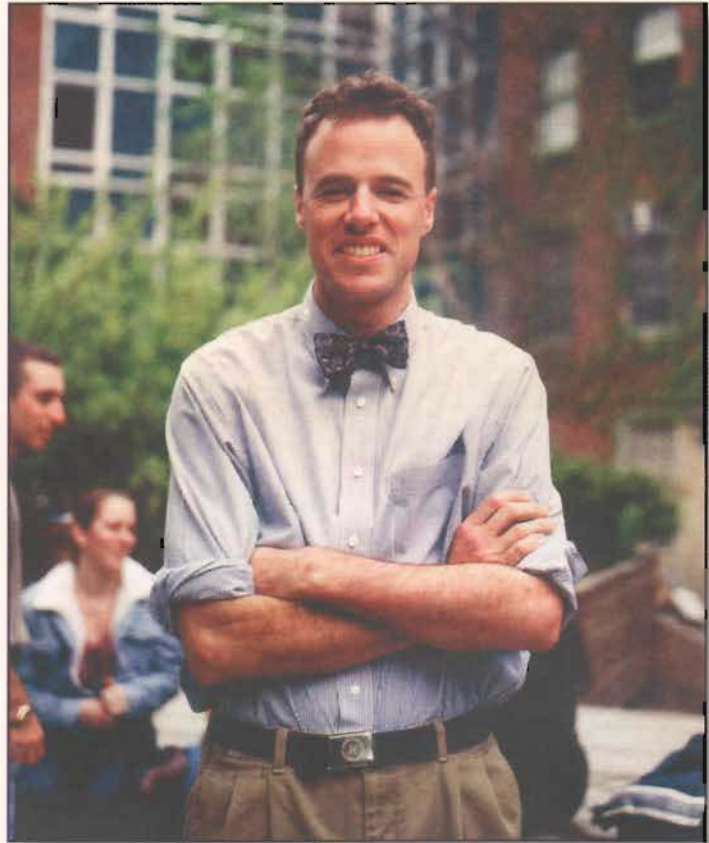
Each year the Johnson Foundation awards the D. B. Hardeman Prize to the author of the most important book on a congressional topic. For the year 2006, the prize goes to Robert David Johnson, professor of history at CUNY. Dr. Betty Koed, member of the Hardeman Prize committee and Assistant Historian, Senate Historical Office, had this to say about Dr. Johnson's winning book, *Congress and the Cold War*.

It has long been argued by historians and political scientists that the Cold War forced Congress into a position of seemingly permanent institutional inferiority when it came to foreign policy. In *Congress and the Cold War*, however, Robert David Johnson successfully challenges that assumption, showing us an enterprising and activist legislative branch that used its constitutional tools to influence foreign policy decisions in the post-World War II era.

Johnson's detailed survey of Cold War decision-making begins with his focus on the "revisionists," a group of conservative Republican members of Congress who sought to revise the liberal policies of the previous several decades, and to reject the bipartisan foreign policy forged by President Truman and Senator Arthur Vandenberg in the late 1940s. Led by Robert Taft, Pat McCarran and Joseph McCarthy, the revisionists sought to re-

place Truman's containment policy with a more aggressive anti-Communist agenda. By the mid-1950s, however, any revisionist progress was halted by the death of its leaders and the excesses of McCarthyism. More successful in shaping the foreign policy of the 1960s and early 1970s were the "new internationalists," a group of influential members of Congress that included Stuart Symington, J. William Fulbright, Frank Church and William Proxmire. . . .

*Congress and the Cold War* will remain a must-read for congressional scholars for years to come.



**"KC" Johnson, as his associates know him, wearing his signature bow tie.**

Sitting with Dr. Koed on the Hardeman Prize Committee are two political scientists at The University of Texas at Austin, Sean Theriault and Andrew Karch; also Don Bacon, former editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Congress*; Professor H. W. Brands, Dickson, Allen, Anderson Centennial Professor of History at UT; Raymond Smock, former Historian of the U. S. House of Representatives and now Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University; and John Sides of the Political Science Department at George Washington University.



## Bess Abell Recalls Social Events at the Johnson White House

Bess Abell has been described as Vice President in Charge of Elegance and Romance in the LBJ White House. Her formal title was Social Secretary, as LBJ Library Director Betty Sue Flowers recalled for the audience, but that job included a multitude of tasks. She did indeed plan the entertainment for heads of state, but she also arranged for the weddings of presidential daughters; she selected and purchased the White House china, she was a personal and close confidante of the First Lady, and even now she is the darling of many of the staff. Recently she shared some memories of her White House Days with the docents and volunteers at the LBJ Library.

Ms. Abell recalled that the most important event that she planned for the LBJ Ranch never happened. It was supposed to have taken place in November 1963, when Lyndon Johnson was Vice President. A grand tour of Texas had been planned for President Kennedy and his First Lady Jacqueline. An overnight visit to the

Ranch was on the agenda, with a big barbecue the next day on the banks of the Pedernales River, beneath the welcoming live oaks that even today give shade to visitors. So on November 22, 1963, the Ranch was alive with activity, with Secret Service setting up checkpoints everywhere, and the Signal Corps running cables through the trees so that the President could be in contact with virtually anyone he wanted to talk to. "In the kitchen there were all kinds of tempting aromas, homemade bread had been baking, and pecan pies seemed to cover every flat surface," Ms. Abell remembered. After consulting the White House staff, a menu was assembled that included cream of corn soup, a John Kennedy favorite, and iced champagne for Mrs. Kennedy. Mr. Johnson's last command to Ms. Abell was to make sure that the Kennedy party came into the Ranch House through the front door, not the laundry room, which had always been the traditional route for visitors.

When word arrived of the Kenne-

dy assassination, Ms. Abell somehow managed to gather herself to book a flight back to Washington, where she began a new career in the LBJ White House.

The first head of state visit to the LBJ Ranch took place a month later, when Chancellor of Germany Ludwig Erhard came to call. The Ranch seemed a perfect venue for Mr. Erhard, since the entire area had first been settled by German immigrants more than a century before. The Stonewall High School gym was appropriated for the dinner, and a grand piano was installed for the young Texas virtuoso Van Cliburn to entertain the guests. Five years before, at age 23, Cliburn had won the international Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow. If the decorations, which included hay bales, saddles, and red checkered tablecloths, seemed incongruous, nobody noticed.

The hectic pace that the Erhard visit imposed on the White House social staff continued throughout the following year, with travel from coast to coast and the election campaign providing the backdrop and President Johnson cracking the whip. Perhaps the climax was an impromptu barbecue at the Ranch that LBJ demanded at the last minute. Master barbecuer Walter Jetton rose to the challenge. After throwing beef, staff, and all the fixings into a caravan, he traveled from Fort Worth to coordinate an outdoor feast that he was to repeat numerous times in the next four years.

On election night 1968, Ms. Abell dealt with a presidential last-minute request for a drink and snack to begin a night of watching the returns on the three-screen TV



**January, 1969: Bess Abell, with Liz Carpenter and Lady Bird Johnson on the left and Ashton Gonella on the right.**

*Photo by Yoichi Okamoto, White House photographer*



console that LBJ so loved. To Ms. Abell's chagrin, there was almost nothing to be found in the Ranch refrigerator, except a large, open, left-over can of caviar and some white bread. After scraping the rather hard surface off the top of the caviar, toasting the bread, and icing a drink of Cutty Sark and soda, Ms. Abell, with long-time LBJ staff member Yolanda Boozer and the President, began watching the election returns. After the President left for a dinner engagement, Ms. Boozer chided Abell for eating twice as much caviar and toast as she gave the President. Abell had a ready retort: "If the President got sick on the caviar, I wanted to get twice as sick."

Ms. Abell recalled that anyone who worked with the Johnsons for as long as a week could recall the

frequency with which LBJ would answer a request for a decision, whether it be a line in a speech or the sort of tree to plant on the White House lawn, or even a prospective cabinet appointment, with the rejoinder: "Ask Bird about that. See what she thinks."

Asked what the worst crisis was that she had to face while orchestrating the White House Head of State entertainments, she said it was when Robert Merrill, the famed opera star, was to perform for the visiting Prime Minister of England Harold Macmillan. When Merrill sent his program for approval, Abell got a call from an alarmed presidential adviser Walt Rostow, who said,

You can't be serious! You can't be serious! How can

you entertain the Prime Minister, who has just announced pulling back the British Empire from east of the Suez Canal, with a rendition of "On the Road to Mandalay?!" Furthermore, how can you possibly have Merrill sing to this man, *who has recently devaluated the British pound*, "I've got Plenty of Nothin'?"

Macmillan however got wind of the move to change the program, and immediately decided that his political opponents in Parliament would make great fun of the whole thing. He insisted that the original music be performed. It was agreed, and Merrill smoothed it all over with his finale from *Porgy and Bess*, "It Ain't Necessarily So."

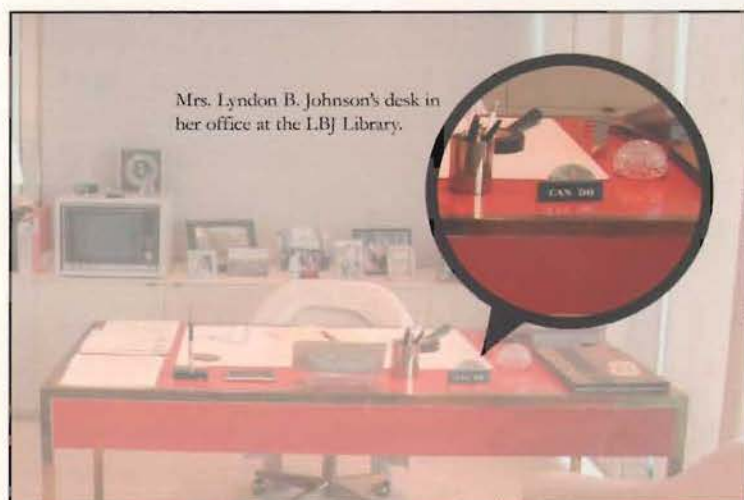
## A Word from the Store

Our Museum Store offers a large inventory of presidential memorabilia, from George Washington's day to the present. Items can be viewed at our website, [www.lbjstore.com](http://www.lbjstore.com).

A new addition to the store's stock incorporates a paperweight with a favorite saying of President Johnson's, the "Can Do" shibboleth. He would challenge staffers and friends to rise to some occasion with the question, "Are you a can-do man?" Once he was arranging a golfing date with UT football coach Darrell Royal and asked him, "Are you a can-do man, or are you not a can-do man? Can you get us transportation, or have I got to handle that, too?" (Royal's recollection is that he managed to earn the coveted rank of can-do man, on that occasion at least.)

A similar paperweight was on Lady Bird Johnson's desk in the LBJ Library, as in the pictures below.

Speaking of Mrs. Johnson, her *White House Diary* has been reprinted by UT Press and is available in the store.





# LBJ Library Releases Telephone Conversation Recordings

by Anne Wheeler, Communications Director

Listen as President Lyndon Johnson talks about using the "Hot Line" for the first time during the Six Day War, discusses the historic appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the U. S. Supreme Court, talks about working with a post-election Congress, and deals with questions about the Vietnam War.

At 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, the LBJ Library released recordings and transcripts of President Johnson's telephone conversations for 1967.

For unknown reasons, President Johnson recorded fewer conversations in 1967 than previously, but those that were recorded are especially interesting and historically significant. In addition, while nine conversations were not recorded by machine, he apparently directed staff members to take notes of those conversations, and those transcripts are included in this release.

In January 1967, President Johnson faced a new Congress and one with fewer Democrats as a result of the November 1966 election. While the Democrats still retained control of both houses, criticism of the President's policies was more pronounced. Many of the conversations concern President Johnson's dealings with this new Congress on federal spending and a possible tax increase, Senate ratification of a new Consular Convention with the Soviet Union, and questioning of the progress of the Vietnam War by both hawks and doves, especially Senators William Fulbright and Robert Kennedy.

President Johnson also discusses with Acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark the on-going trial of his one-time associate, Bobby Baker, and the historic appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the United States Supreme Court. A few conversations also deal with rioting in Detroit, Michigan, and Newark, New Jersey, and with antiwar protests at the Pentagon.

The outbreak of the Six Day War in the Middle East is a major topic of the conversations in June 1967. For the first time, the "Hot Line" between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union is put into use during a crisis. Later that month, the conversations turn to the summit meeting between President Johnson and Soviet Chairman Alexsei Kosygin at Glassboro, New Jersey. The conversation recorded between President Johnson and President Dwight Eisenhower about these events is particularly worthy of note.

While processing these recordings, the staff of the Johnson Library also identified one recording that apparently had been misfiled by the White House staff. It is an almost inaudible recording of a meeting between President Johnson and Senator Barry Goldwater in the Oval Office in July 1964, in which the two men discuss the recently-passed Civil Rights Act and the upcoming 1964 presidential election.

There are approximately 30 hours of recorded conversations from 1967: 10 hours for January 1967, 7 hours for February, 5 hours for March, 1 hour for April, 2 hours

for June, 1 hour for July, 2 hours for December, and less than 1 hour each for the months of May, August, September, October, and November. Detailed information about individual conversations and a list of "Highlights" are available in the Library's Reading Room and on the Library's web site (<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>) on October 9.

Researchers may either listen to the recordings in the Reading Room or purchase copies of individual compact discs at a cost of \$8.00 per disc, plus shipping and handling. The cost of the set of 33 discs, including the one disc for July 1964, is \$264.00 plus shipping, handling, and Texas sales tax where applicable. We will also provide a set of copies of those transcripts of conversations that were not recorded free of charge to anyone who orders the complete set of discs. Once the limited number of available sets has been sold, orders will be filled once a week as staff time permits. Orders for individual discs will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis after October 9.

Copies of transcripts of those conversations that were transcribed by the President's staff may also be purchased at a cost of \$ 0.30 per page by mail or \$ 0.20 per page if ordered in the Reading Room. The exact page count of a complete set of transcripts is 350 pages. Researchers should be cautioned that the transcripts are not always reliable and should not be used without checking them against the actual recordings to assure accuracy.



# A Sculpture for the LBJ Museum

by Gary Yarrington, former Curator, LBJ Museum

After I retired from the Library in 1996, Director Harry Middleton and I discussed the possibility of my doing a sculptured portrait of him.

I liked the idea.

Harry deserved it. He put presidential libraries on the map, and in doing so also made National Archives stand a little taller in the nation's eye.

And from a personal point of view I liked the idea of a portrait of the longest-serving Johnson Library Director sculpted by the first Curator of the Johnson Library Museum.

Very appealing!

On a Monday morning in 2002, I met Harry in his office. I had a camera and a tripod. In addition to taking photos in the round, I measured his head with calipers, so we could have a genuinely life-sized portrait. Over the years I have discovered that I can do a decent portrait from a photo—provided that I take the photo.

My plan included an additional two-hour sitting and photographs of Harry. Regretfully, that did not happen. But what I had going for me instead is that I had known and worked with Harry for 27 years. I saw him in action, how he moved his head, how he reacted. It also helped that I have great respect for Harry. He is smart, talented, and creative.

I started to work right away, and within a few days had a fairly good likeness sketched in clay.

But questions began to occur to me. Would the finished piece go to the Library, or where? Who would pay for the expensive bronze casting? Should I even continue the work? Neither Harry nor I had the answers.

I wrapped the clay model in polyethylene for protection, and it remained thus for several years.

Finally I decided to finish it. In two weeks the modeling was complete. I photographed it in the clay. I signed it "Middleton, by Yarrington," and dated it as 2005. Then I made a flexible mold with a backup plaster mold. Both went into storage in my studio.

Then one day in 2007 the phone rang. It was Larry Temple, the

Chief Executive Officer of the LBJ Foundation. I had corresponded with Larry several years earlier, so he was familiar with the portrait and had seen photos of the clay sketch.

He said everything I wanted to hear. He wanted the portrait of Harry in bronze for the Library's collection.

There was one catch.

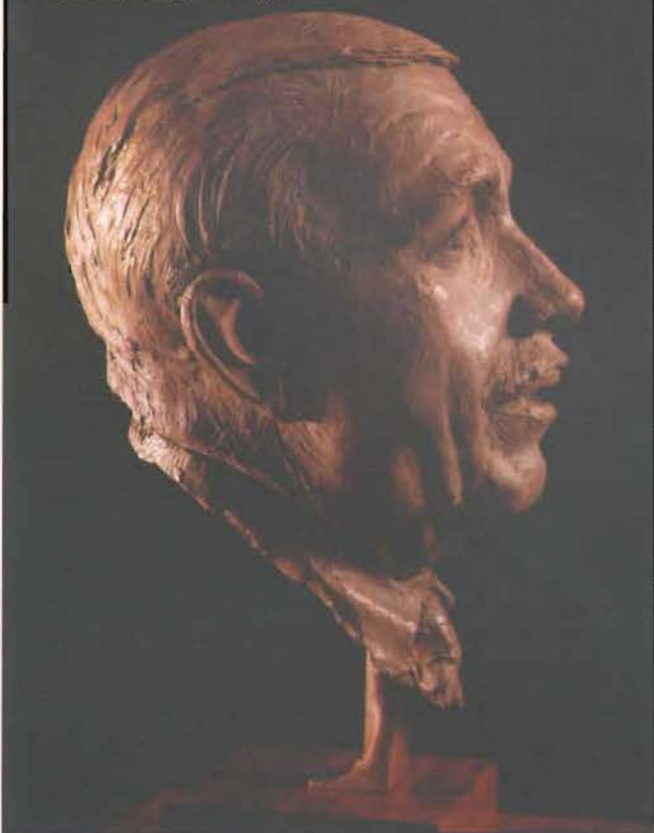
He wanted it in *two weeks*. Casting a sculpture by the lost wax process in bronze is tedious, complicated, and time consuming. The foundry usually required at least two months.

It is a nail-biting story, but with a happy ending: a bronze portrait sculpture of Harry Middleton, ready for unveiling in two weeks.

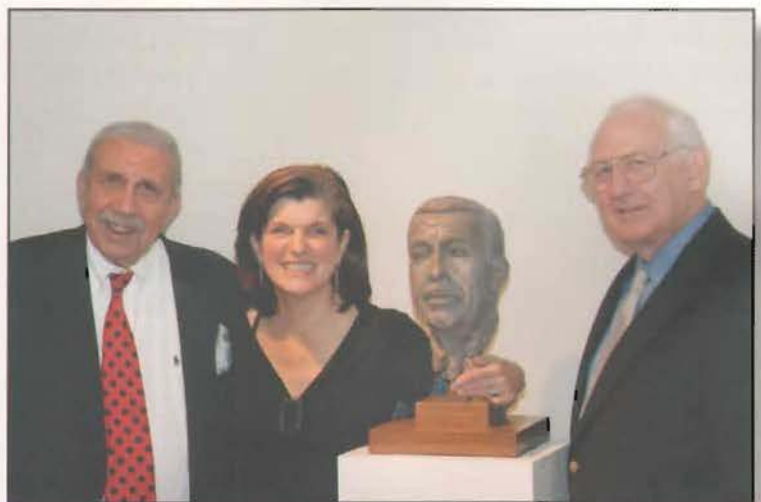
On May 11, 2007, Larry Temple presided over the unveiling at the Trustees Annual Dinner.

(Ed. Note: With a grin, former Library and Museum Director Middleton recalled his satisfaction in knowing that even after retiring, the bust guaranteed his continuing presence in the Museum exhibits. Larry Temple, President of the LBJ Foundation, has confirmed Gary Yarrington's memory of this story.)

Photos by Gary Yarrington

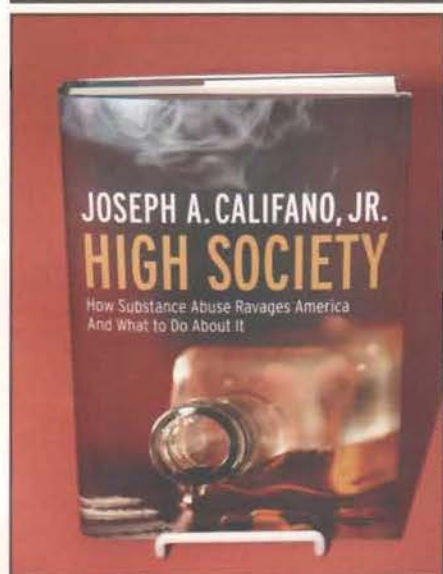


Harry Middleton, on the left, with Luci Johnson and sculptor Gary Yarrington.





## May 10, 2007: Architect of Great Society, J. Califano, Outlines Today's Drug Concerns



"You were the captain I wanted," wrote President Johnson to White House aide Joseph A. Califano, Jr. in the closing days of his administration, "and you steered the course well." Former Library Director Harry Middleton recalled those words in introducing Mr. Califano. "His handprints are all over the social revolution that was the Great Society. The spirit of 'can do' was a quality much valued in the Johnson White House, and no one exemplified it more forcefully than Joe Califano." Califano responded, "We could not accept poverty, ignorance, and hunger as permanent features of American society. There was no child we could not feed, no adult we could not put to work, no disease we could not cure."

Today Califano steers another war, this one against addiction and abuse of alcohol, drugs, and nicotine. His most recent book outlines the problem: *High Society: How Substance Abuse Ravages America and What to Do About It*.

Califano began his talk with a stunning statistic: Americans are only 4% of the world's population. Yet "we consume two-thirds of the world's illegal drugs. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. . . . What do Judy Garland, Mickey Mantle, President George W. Bush, Snoop Dog, many mothers on welfare, Elton John, Rush Limbaugh, Natalie Cole, Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Imus, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, most incar-

cerated felons and arrested juveniles, Frank Sinatra, Mel Gibson, millions of children and teens under twenty-one, Billy Joel, Joe Namath, Robert Downey Jr., Robin Williams, and former First Lady Betty Ford have in common? What attribute do most victims of cancer, heart disease, emphysema, accidents and violence share? And what's the culprit in most assaults and homicides, incest, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, college date rape and campus racial incidents? Substance abuse and addiction.

"The War on Drugs," he went on, "is failing." "On any given day, a hundred million Americans are taking some stimulant, antidepressant, tranquilizer, or pain killer. [Many are] smoking, inhaling from aerosol cans or glue bottles, or self-medicating with alcohol, illegal substances like marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, and designer drugs. Chemistry is chasing Christianity as the nation's largest religion." During the decade ending in 2005, Califano said, the number of children using some drug to treat attention deficit disorders increased by about a thousand percent. Teen abuse of prescription opiates, stimulants and depressants more than tripled between 1992 and 2003, rising to 2.3 million children. "Our athletes thrive on all kinds of stuff: steroids, amphetamines . . . body building creams. Baseball players, caught with their steroids showing, for years swallowed 'greenies'—that's what they call them—amphetamine pills—to maintain their energy over the course of the long season. Rock stars shake the rafters with eardrum-bursting anthems to drug and alcohol abuse; film and television stars . . . bounce in and out of drug and alcohol rehab, and fill the pages of *People* . . . with outrageous drug and alcohol-filled antics.

"Psychiatrists replace the couch with chemistry, pushing pills to squelch guilt and anxiety. Pharmaceutical companies and their Madison Avenue mavens christen new disorders and old ailments with catchy names, and they hawk pills to treat them.

"In 2006 the Food and Drug Administration approved the first pill to ease wintertime blues: 'seasonal affective disorder.' In the same years psychologists dubbed road rage as

'intermittent explosive disorder,'" and offered chemical treatments for both ailments.

"If Moses were an American at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the tablets he would bring down from the mountain would be vicodin and valium, not a set of commandments.

"The anecdotal evidence of abuse is everywhere, in the addiction of megastars like Liza Minnelli, and the collapse of athletic careers of professional superstars like Cy Young Award winner Dwight Gooden, and the destructive cocaine and heroin dependence of Eugene Fodor, the first American to win Moscow's Tchaikovsky Competition; in the problem of teen movie queen Lindsey Lohan and the antics of celebrities like Charlie Sheen and Paris Hilton, and the overdose deaths of John Belushi and pop culture icons Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley.

"We've seen it in the halls of politics: Betty Ford, Kitty Dukakis, Joan Kennedy and Cindy McCain, and in the long line of alcohol-abusing politicians, including two of the most powerful congressmen in history, Wilbur Mills and Russell Long.

"Working as Lyndon Johnson's top domestic aide, I smoked four packs a day, regular cigarettes in one pocket, mentholated in another, so I could keep getting my nicotine fix even when my throat was raw. If you smoked and you worked for Lyndon Johnson for four years in the White House, you'd smoke four packs a day, too. (Laughter)

"As for smoking, the sobering morbidity list begins with Humphrey Bogart, Joe DiMaggio, and Nat King Cole, and it gets longer every day. In 2005 it claimed the lives of American comic icon Johnny Carson and ABC news anchor Peter Jennings.

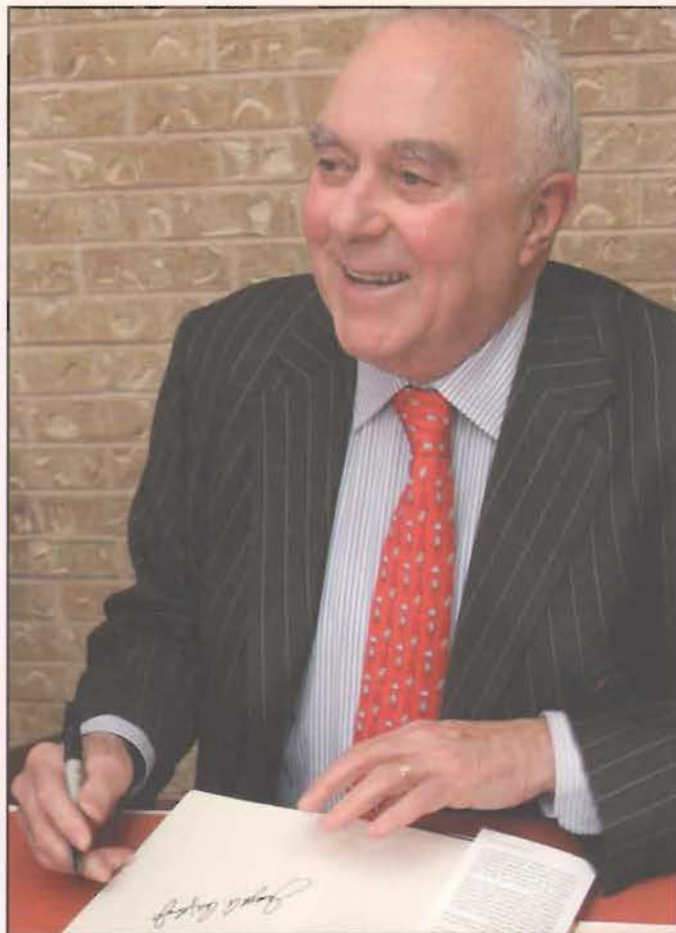
"Almost two million of our kids under seventeen have used steroids, and 4.5 million have abused . . . prescription drugs like OxyContin, Ritalin, and Adderall to get high. The human misery they cause can't be calculated: broken homes, lives snuffed out, teenage mothers and absent fathers, women victimized by violence and rape, deformed babies, meth labs in



the Midwest, and children committing suicide."

Our poor and minorities suffer especially, Califano noted, but the elites suffer also. Consider the Kennedys. Ethyl Kennedy's son David lost his life to heroin in a luxurious Palm Beach hotel at age 28. Alcohol and drugs have touched Robert Kennedy, Jr., Matthew Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Patrick Kennedy, Ted Kennedy, Jr., Joan Kennedy, Patricia Kennedy Lawford, and her son Christopher. "Alcohol has devastated the Barrymore family," Califano went on, "stunting the careers of patriarch John, his son John, Jr., and threatening third-generation Hollywood actress Drew."

"This year the financial bill for alcohol and substance addiction is likely to hit one trillion dollars in health care, low productivity, disability, welfare, crime and punishment, property damage from vandalism, interest on the federal debt, legal and court costs, family breakup, child abuse and the array of social interventions, public and private, to deal with the ravages of this scourge."



"Half of the beds in many American hospitals hold victims of auto and home accidents, cancers and cardiovascular diseases, liver and respiratory ailments, and other illnesses and violence caused or exacerbated by tobacco, alcohol, and drug abuse."

For years, Califano pointed out, public coffers have been raided by rising Medicare and Medicaid costs due to smoking and alcohol. Drug and alcohol abusers crowd our prisons. Eighty per cent of the 2.2 million felons in our prisons committed their crimes while high, or stealing money to buy drugs. The number one crime in America is DUI, Driving Under the Influence.

1700 American college students are killed on campuses every year by alcohol poisoning or alcohol-related injuries.

"Drug pushers," Califano averred, "are now putting together candy-flavored heroin for our younger children. A year or so ago, R. J. Reynolds put out candy-flavored cigarettes. They pulled them off the market after much protesting. Anheuser-Busch has put out chocolate-flavored beer, and raspberry. They say it's not for kids, but what thirty-year-old is going to put such stuff in their beer?"

"Today's marijuana is much stronger and more addictive than it was in the sixties," Califano stated, "and an even bigger question is the effect these increased potencies of cannabis is having on younger brains."

"Every year, substance abuse and addiction kill three million Americans, more than in our wars and auto accidents. Cigarettes today will kill more Americans than will die in Afghanistan and Iraq for the entire year."

The same old programs, which call for more and more of the same, will not cure this problem. So what can be done, if anything? Plenty, said Califano, and he laid out a simple list of cures. "There was a time not so long ago when smoking was cool, seat belts were for sissies, and AIDS was an accepted death sentence for gay sex. Today our attitudes are a lot different. Smoking has been cut sharply, and so have the related deaths from lung cancer and heart disease. Safety belts have cut death rates from auto accidents, and AIDS has been recognized as a serious but treatable illness."

"In all three cases we recognized the problems, took action, and improved the quality of life of the country. We can do the same with substance abuse and addiction. Today, nobody scoffs at the use of seatbelts. The auto industry sells safety on television. Our national campaign against the causes of AIDS has dramatically reduced its incidence."

"Addiction is a chronic disease of epidemic proportions, with physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual elements that require holistic care. It is not a moral failing or an easily abandoned act of self-indulgence." Dealing with it calls for much more than the iodine, mercurochrome, and band-aid approach we have used in the past, Califano believes. "We need a revolution in our criminal justice, medical, educational, and social service systems, in our foreign policy priorities, and in the exercise of the power of parenting. We must . . . rethink our concept of crime and punishment, reshape our medical system, and commit the energy and resources to confront this plague."

"We have more than a million addicts behind bars today. We can use treatment to get them off drugs and alcohol. Now we are releasing them just as they came in. It's as though we are providing a support program for drug dealers and liquor stores. If we only had a ten-percent success rate in treating prisoners, the cost of treating all of them would be recouped within a year."

"And the impact on our crime problem would be enormous. Experts say that a drug addict commits around *ninety crimes a year*."



"Medical schools must include courses in addiction just as prominently as they do courses in anatomy. Welfare mothers who are on drugs should have to enter treatment in order to receive their checks. Advertising of liquor aimed at kids should be eliminated.

"In our foreign policy, we must give drugs the same priority that we give nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

"The major weapon against drugs and alcohol are parents, without question. A child who reaches the age of 21 without smoking or using illegal drugs or abusing alcohol, is virtually certain to be home free for the rest of that child's life.

"Parents won't send their children to schools that have asbestos in the ceiling, but every day they send them to schools riddled with drugs.

"We cannot create a Garden of Eden utterly free of drugs and alcohol abuse; I understand that. But we can save millions of lives, untold heartache, and billions of dollars by dramatically reducing this scourge. This book is a call to arms, a manifesto of actions we can take, a cry to fundamentally change the way we confront alcohol and drug abuse and addiction. With such a cultural shift, we can improve the quality of life of all our

people, and by example, others across the world.

"In his monumental study of history, the brilliant British historian Arnold Toynbee found that . . . sixteen great civilizations were destroyed not by an external enemy, but from within. 'Civilizations,' he wrote, 'die from suicide, not by murder.' Of all the internal dangers our nation faces, none poses a greater threat to our children and families, and none are as complicit in our domestic ills, than are substance abuse and addiction. . . . The judgment of history will be harsh if we fail to defeat that enemy. The stakes are our children."

Some argue that legalization is one answer, but Califano puts no faith in it, and points out that the experience abroad with legalized drugs has not been encouraging. Switzerland tried "Needle Park" in Zurich; within a few years they closed it down because of massive heroin use there. Italy allows an individual to have several doses of heroin in possession—yet Italy has the highest addiction rate in Europe. For a while the British allowed any doctor to prescribe heroin; addiction went up.

Califano thinks that age may play a role in this. Very few people start to use drugs after they become adults,

he observed. Availability is the major problem, and "not just for illegal drugs. The two legal drugs, alcohol and tobacco, dwarf the others." And the worst problem of all for kids is alcohol. It is implicated in far more violent crimes than any of the others.

And money is a factor, Califano pointed out. Kids who have more than fifty dollars a week to spend are many times more likely to use drugs than those who have less. African-American kids smoke cigarettes far less than do white kids, and it may be because tobacco has become so expensive.

What can be done on a national level? Califano cited two examples. "Nancy Reagan was widely ridiculed for her slogan 'Just Say No,' but it had a hell of an impact," he said. "Drug use peaked in 1979, with 25 million using. When Len Bias, the great college basketball player who had just signed with the world champion Boston Celtics, died of a cocaine overdose, [Ms. Reagan] grabbed that and made it a wakeup call, and drug use dropped from 1979 to 1992.

Clinton was the first president to go after the tobacco industry, Califano recalled. The result? Teenage smoking dropped more during the Clinton years than at any other time in the history of the country.



Photo by Charles Bogel

**Califano spoke to a full house at the UT Alumni Center.**



# A Living Exhibit: LBJ in the Senate

by Anne Wheeler, Publicity Officer

Walk into a replica of the U. S. Senate Chamber for an unrehearsed, unpredictable encounter with actor Michael Stuart, who looks, dresses, and talks like Lyndon Johnson as he was in the 1950s. In the LBJ Library's new exhibit, *Bills, Bills, Bills: Lyndon Johnson as Senate Majority Leader*, visitors can talk to the Senate Majority Leader about important legislation of the era, including the creation of NASA, the Interstate Highway Bill, Labor Reform, Social Security Reform, and statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. Under Johnson's leadership, the first Civil Rights Bill since Reconstruction was passed into law.

Johnson redefined the role of Majority Leader from merely a go-between and errand runner into one of the most powerful positions in the U.S. Government. Visitors may even get a taste of the so-called Johnson Treatment, LBJ's unique and highly effective style of persuasion.

The exhibit covers LBJ's Senate career from his election in 1948 to his elevation to the vice-presidency in 1961, and it chronicles his rapid rise to power from an 87-vote margin of victory in 1948 – for which he was given the nickname "Landslide Lyndon" – to his selection as Majority Leader in 1955.

There are interactive touch screen computers detailing the major bills passed in the 1950s, with explanations of how they affected modern America.

*A special highlight:* home movies of the 1950s, narrated by Lady Bird Johnson.

In recreating this venue, Museum artists took pains to reproduce enough trappings of the Senate Chamber to capture the feel of the place. The desk, chair, carpet, and backdrop are faithful replicas of those articles as they appeared in the Capitol building in Johnson's days there.



Visitors first get a whirlwind tour of the famous—some say infamous—1948 campaign, which sent LBJ to the Senate.



Actor Michael Stuart addresses visitors to the Library. Stuart spent months studying LBJ's record in the Senate, and many hours mastering Senator Johnson's mannerisms and voice. Old timers say he should get high marks for the powerful accuracy of his presentation. He takes questions, too.



The mood changes, and the suit and tie, but hatless or not, the lapel pin was a constant. It is the Silver Star pin, the nation's third highest military award, in the form that can be worn by recipients in civilian clothes. President Johnson received his from General Douglas MacArthur during a trip to the Pacific in World War II.





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### In Memoriam

Photo by Noah Mingus



*Elspeth Rostow, Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs and widow of W. W. Rostow.*

*Among Friends of LBJ is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library.*

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The LBJ Library is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

