

For Release on Delivery

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
AT AWARD CEREMONY FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF GIFT  
MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA  
MARCH 24, 1964

Mr. Webb, Dr. von Braun, Mr. Johnson and all of you here who are so important to our national space program, I want you to know how much I appreciate the opportunity I have had to see the work being done here at the Center to advance our peaceful efforts in space exploration.

I have seen the marvelous machinery being built for space. Both its size and complexity are impressive to any viewer; and I am no exception. I have been impressed; but even more, I have been inspired by the fact that these wonderful machines are the creations of the minds and hands of dedicated men and women who are working to expand the knowledge of the universe.

When I saw the large engine section of the advanced Saturn which you here refer to as the Saturn V, Roman Numeral Five, I recalled that during the past -- and hopefully the last -- of the world's great wars, the Roman Numeral Five -- the VEE-- became our symbol of victory. When, in the near future, the Saturn V, which you will have built, carries three men to the moon, that will be another V-Day, but with an important distinction.

For the antagonist over whom we will have won a victory will not be a human enemy or hostile ideology. Rather, it is a vast unknown; and our mission is not conquest, but understanding. Our weapons are not arms, but ideas. Our strategy and tactic are intellectual and scientific ingenuity. Our goal: peaceful cooperation.

This future V-Day will belong to all of you -- those who do the paperwork and typing at night, compile the information and prepare the reports -- as well as the engineers and scientists.

The President often has said that a major strength of our government are those persons to whom public service is a career -- not measured merely in years, but in the consistent excellence with which they perform their duties. This award ceremony, in which I have been privileged to participate, is evidence of that consistent excellence and superior performance which is the best of our government and which truly cannot be measured adequately in dollars. Your accomplishments and service are an inspiration to us all. On behalf of the President and for myself, I want to express deepest appreciation for your efforts and all they mean to the strength and advancement of our democracy.

Thank you all.