

FOR RELEASE AT 12:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1965

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT MONTICELLO
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
MAY 11, 1965

All of us gathered here today know that to stand here is to stand on a landmark of liberty.

Thomas Jefferson was both a patrician and a democrat. He was an imaginative, many-faceted, intensely alive renaissance man.

To walk around this house and grounds is to recall the architect Jefferson, the inventor Jefferson and the landscape lover Jefferson. It is also to remember him as a man of letters, a gracious host, a man for whom beauty and symmetry were synonymous.

To be here is to recall two of the statements I love most from his gifted pen:

In one, and I think that it took sheer daring in that day, he incorporated the words -- "pursuit of happiness" -- and in the second, he set down his assessment of his life's work. On his tombstone, he asked to be placed only these words -- "author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statutes of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and father of the University of Virginia."

There have been four Thomas Jeffersons in my family. It is a name we cherish. We do so with a sense of kinship for the many Americans who have named their children after him. For all of us share a sense of national heritage which stems from this man.

Jefferson was a most conspicuous apostle of democracy. He expressed the hopes and ideals of his time in his person, his words and in his faith in the equality of man.

This house attracts me as few houses I have known. Over the years I have seized on every excuse to return here, to partake once again of the artistic spirit, the enlightened vision and the legacy of hope its owner bequeathed to this nation.

As a lover of the land, I understand so well his words to his friend, Dr. George Gilmer: "I want to return to Monticello. All my wishes end where my days will end -- at Monticello."

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