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Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AT PRESENTATION OF HEART VOLUNTEER AWARD
THE WHITE HOUSE

Today, we are in the midst of the American Heart Association's month-long Heart Fund Campaign. Volunteers are visiting their neighbors to ask for contributions to conquer the heart and blood vessel diseases. These diseases take nearly one million lives annually in this country.

No one watches this drive more anxiously than the 22 million Americans who are suffering from some type of heart or blood vessel disease.

But underlying these statistics is a bright ray of hope, best exemplified by a young lady who is here today to receive the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award of the American Heart Association. She is Marie Mushro of Sioux City, Iowa, who was born with two holes between the chambers of her heart. The doctors gave her only six months to live. But she held on until medical research had perfected a heart-lung machine permitting surgery inside the heart. In 1959 -- at the age of fourteen -- she underwent a successful heart operation.

Then, at nineteen, she went on to win her state's beauty crown and with it scholarships to finance her education at the University of South Dakota. It was during her year as "Miss Iowa" that she became a heart volunteer with the determination to help others just as she was helped. She has made more than 250 speeches and traveled 12,000 miles to participate in Heart Association events around the country. In her home community, she is a dedicated Heart Sunday Volunteer. She has found that there is a great truth in the adage which holds, "who brings his neighbor's bark to land will find his own has reached the shore."

Miss Mushro I know that your own story, as well as your selfless service to others, will enrich the efforts of the two million Heart Fund volunteers making their Sunday calls. Your example is an inspiration to them and to the young people of our nation. In conferring this award upon you, I wish you and all other Heart volunteers God-speed.

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