

FOR RELEASE AT 11:00 A. M.  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary  
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

-----

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
UPON PRESENTATION OF THE 1968 DISTINGUISHED  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD OF THE AMERICAN  
HEART ASSOCIATION--THE WHITE HOUSE

There is something very special about this presentation. Two different worlds are touching -- ever so lightly, but nonetheless meaningfully.

The first is the world of technology of scientific progress. This is the world of the specialist -- the organizer -- the professional.

The second is the world of personal involvement and participation -- the world of the individual volunteer.

The American Heart Association encompasses both these worlds.

As an organization, its concerns are both scientific and humanistic. On the one hand, its annual fund-raising activities have helped make possible unparalleled advances in cardiovascular medicine. That miracle of our day -- the transplant of the human heart -- could not have taken place without years of painstaking research and experiment. Millions have been given hope by revolutionary advances in heart surgery and treatment during the past decade.

Yet its contribution to medical science is only one mark of the American Heart Association. A second stems from the way in which it operates as an organization. It combines the professional skills of more than 25,000 physician members with the support of more than 2 million volunteers, each of whom is an integral part of the whole. The volunteers call on neighbors, transmit good will, distribute heart saving literature and receive Heart Fund contributions. Each volunteer demonstrates the kind of private concern for the public good which has made our country strong.

Two million concerned and willing volunteers are the best guaranty I know to keep 20th Century society from becoming a dehumanized machine.

In keeping with this concern for both the individual and the community, we pay particular tribute to one person -- who symbolizes the dedication of the private citizen.

Jane Pickens Langley has given her charm, energy, and compassion to the Heart Fund as vice president and chairman of special projects of the New York Heart Association. For eleven years, she has been the guiding spirit behind New York's "Heart of America" ball. Together with other special events under her direction, this has brought more than one million dollars to programs of the American Heart Association.

So, now -- for the work she has done in strengthening the bonds of faith and hope in the hearts of her countrymen, it becomes my most pleasant duty, as National Honorary Heart Sunday Chairman to recognize Mrs. William C. Langley as the most Distinguished Volunteer of the American Heart Association for 1968. I present to her this award -- and with it, the thanks of the American Heart Association, of myself as Chairman, and of the President of the United States.

# # #