

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1968

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON AT THE
PRESENTATION OF THE PORTRAIT OF BESS TRUMAN
TO THE WHITE HOUSE

This is a very happy occasion for me. For I have long felt that the White House should have a portrait of Mrs. Truman.

It was not easy to get the lady's permission. In typical modesty, she put me off several times -- and finally, after some persistent phone calls, and devious techniques through daughter and friends, she agreed to my request.

I am especially happy that four very important grandsons are on hand for there are many people in this room who met and loved your grandparents before you did.

More and more, I am finding that I am respectful about grandparents -- and admiring of grandchildren.

I remember so much coming here as a Congressional wife. I walked into the great hall with a long line of other wives, and she took my hand as though she knew me. We found in this house, the same warmth and genuine hospitality that you could find on the front porch of a white frame house on North Delaware Street in Independence, Missouri. There was an air of self-contained happiness about it.

And as a footnote to history, and as one who has lived here -- I want to ask you, Margaret, to thank your father for that balcony!

It has blessed our life as it will all future Presidents.

When you think of the Trumans, you think of the best of this country -- its strong fiber, its courage, its resolve, and its patriotism.

This portrait was painted by the only artist ever to paint Mrs. Truman -- Greta Kempton in 1967 -- from one she did in 1952, while Mrs. Truman was First Lady.

The White House Historical Association has again made a First Family portrait possible, and we thank them.

We are honored to have it -- and to have Margaret here to unveil it.

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