

**The original documents are located in Box 20, folder “Medal of Freedom - Darden, Colgate” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO : Mr. Marsh  
FROM: Judy Muhlberg

Attached is a copy  
of the file on  
Colgate Darden.

RECEIVED  
JAN 20 1977  
CENTRAL FILES

Colgate W. Darden, Jr.

[11/76]

ENDORSEMENTS IN FILE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Brooks Hays	11/27/76
Linwood Holton	11/23/76
Justice Lewis F. Powell	9/30/76
George Mahon	9/ 3/76
Brooks Hays	7/28/75
Linwood Holton	8/ 8/75
Robert W. Daniel, Jr.	7/31/75
Dan Daniel	7/28/75
William C. Wampler	7/23/75
M. Caldwell Butler	7/25/75
G. William Whitehurst	7/18/75
J. Kenneth Robinson	7/22/75



**DARDEN, COLGATE WHITEHEAD, Jr.,** ret. pres. U. Va.; b. Southampton Co., Va., Feb. 11, 1897; A.B., U. Va.; M.A. and LL.B., Columbia; Carnegie fellowship, Oxford U. In practice of law in Va.; mem. Va. Gen. Assembly, 1930-33; mem. 73d Congress Va. at large, 74th, 76th and 77th Congresses 2d Dist. Va.; Gov. of Va., for term expiring Jan. 1946; apptd. vice chmn. Navy's Civilian Adv. Com., 1947; pres. U. Va., 1947-59, ret. Mem. Bd. Cons. to Pres. on Mut. Security, Fgn. Intelligence. U.S. del. 10th Session of Gen. Assembly of UN. Mem. bd. of visitors U.S. Navel Acad., 1936, 39. Served with U.S. Marine Corps, also French Army, World War I. Democrat. Address: 1536 Va National Bank Bldg Norfolk VA 23510

*Jerry*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE GERGEN

FROM:

JACK MARRIN *JM*

Attached is a copy of another communication I have received recommending Colgate Darden for the Medal of Freedom.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1976

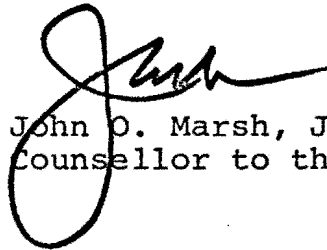
Dear Brooks:

Many thanks for your recent letter concerning Colgate Darden. It was good to hear from you.

I have taken the liberty of bringing your suggestion to the attention of those here at the White House working on this matter. I am sure careful consideration will be given to Colgate Darden. He has been highly recommended by many others.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Brooks Hays  
121 Second Street, Northeast  
Washington, D. C. 20002



NOV 23 1972

JEFFERY COHELAN  
PRESIDENT

CALEB BOGGS  
VICE-PRESIDENT

HORACE R. KORNEGAY  
TREASURER

CHARLOTTE T. REID  
SECRETARY

## Former Members of Congress

121 SECOND STREET, N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002  
(202) 543-1666

Nov-27-72

Dear Jack: I have seen Linwood Holton's letter to you regarding the suggested award to our good friend Colgate Aarden. I am writing to say that I am one of a multitude who would be happy if the President should take this action. I know how busy both you and he are and I am reluctant to add to your work, so don't take time to answer this. Hope our paths will cross before long.

With best wishes always -

Brooks -



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1976

J. Caleb Boggs  
John W. Byrnes  
Jeffery Cohelan  
Walter H. Moeller

1977

William R. Anderson  
Horace R. Kornegay  
Melvin R. Laird  
Charlotte T. Reid

1978

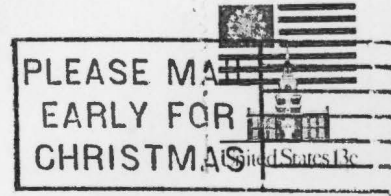
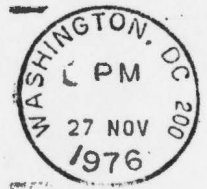
Charles B. Brownson  
Frank M. Karsten  
George Meader  
Carlton R. Sickles

Honorary - Without Term - Brooks Hays - Walter H. Judd

*Brooks Hays*

FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INC.

*121 Second St N.W.*  
3083 ORDWAY STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. ~~20002~~ *20002*



*The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.  
The White House  
Washington D.C.*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE GERGEN

FROM: JACK MARSH 

Former Governor Linwood Holton of Virginia called to reiterate his earlier suggestion that Colgate Darden be awarded the Medal of Freedom.

As you are probably aware, he is a former Governor of Virginia, a former Member of Congress and past President of the University of Virginia. He is an individual of great accomplishment and stature and certainly a worthy candidate for the Medal.

I am aware that some consideration is being given to a Medal of Freedom ceremony and perhaps those who are working on it should get together.

P.S.

This is related to your earlier memo of November 18th and I am not certain just where this stands.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1976

Dear Justice Powell:

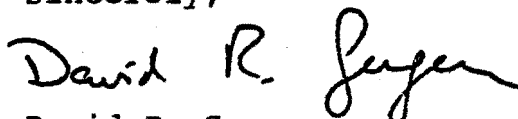
The President has asked me to convey his sincere appreciation to you for your September 30th letter commending Colgate W. Darden for his distinguished public service.

I know the President will appreciate having your evaluation of Mr. Darden's outstanding career and your recommendation that he be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I must advise you at this time, however, that with the election rapidly approaching, the President has decided to defer most Medal of Freedom presentations until after November 2nd so that they will not be misinterpreted. You may be assured, nonetheless, that your letter will be given prompt and serious attention.

With many thanks for your thoughtful letter,

Sincerely,



David R. Gergen  
Special Counsel to the President

Honorable Lewis F. Powell, Jr.  
Justice  
Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

September 30, 1976

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE LEWIS F. POWELL, JR.

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that Colgate W. Darden, Jr., has been proposed by the Virginia Delegation in the Congress for the Medal of Freedom.

I write to endorse the proposal with enthusiasm. I am sure the White House has been provided with full documentation of Governor Darden's distinguished public service, including: Member of Congress, Governor of Virginia, member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations, and President of the University of Virginia.

Governor Darden's service and contributions in these positions are widely known. I will, therefore, emphasize one aspect of his remarkable career that is less well known, certainly outside of Virginia. I refer to his role in public education, especially during the years of tension and readjustment that followed Brown v. Board of Education. I speak on this subject in light of having served, during that period, first as Chairman of the School Board of the City of Richmond, and thereafter as a member and President of the Virginia State Board of Education.

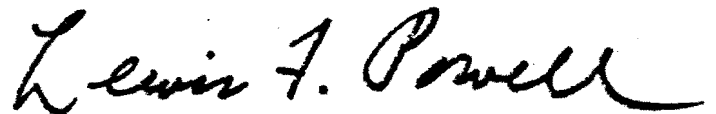
Colgate Darden and I served eight years together on the State Board, and so I speak with first-hand knowledge. At a time when there was much talk of "massive resistance" and "interposition" throughout the South, with many schools being closed, Colgate Darden was a respected voice of moderation. He spoke out strongly for compliance with "the law of the land" as declared by the Supreme Court. He insisted that the public schools remain open, and - during a brief period when other views temporarily prevailed in his native city of Norfolk -

he took the leadership in a movement that reopened the schools there. The positions he took during that period demonstrated the characteristics that have marked his entire career: the wisdom and insight of a philosopher, a wholly unselfish perception of public service as a duty to be fulfilled, a devotion to principle, and the courage to question what seemed at the time to be the expedient or the popular course to follow.

I have said publicly that Colgate Darden, by the force of his character and his leadership, has made the greatest contribution to the welfare of his state of any Virginian of his time. And these contributions, though often focused primarily on Virginia, have earned for him national recognition as a political statesman and educator.

I can think of few Americans who are as deserving of the Medal of Freedom as Colgate Darden.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis F. Powell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Hon. Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

lfp/ss

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON  
September 5, 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the President, I wish to thank you for your September 3 letter in support of the recommendation which has been made that Mr. Colgate W. Darden, Jr. be considered as a recipient of the Medal of Freedom.

To date, the President has not awarded the Medal of Freedom to anyone. However, I do wish to assure you that Mr. Darden will be given full consideration in the process of selecting possible recipients.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

*Vern*

Vernon C. Loen  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable George Mahon  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

✓  
bcc: w/incoming to Paul Theis - for your information  
bcc: w/incoming to Linda Foulks - for your information

VCL:VO:vo

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 3, 1975

Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to join with friends of Colgate W. Darden, Jr. in the recommendation that he be awarded the Medal of Freedom. I know the files will disclose the many reasons why he is deserving of this honor, and I wanted to add my strong endorsement of him.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George Mahon

M:hb

*Medal of Freedom*

*MF*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*George Mahon*  
WASHINGTON  
SEP  
1973  
200  
M.C.

ALWAYS  
USE ZIP  
CODE

Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

August 11, 1975

Dear Mr. Hays:

Thank you for your July 28 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr.

I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

*Charles Toppert Jr.*

*for* Vernon C. Loen  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Brooks Hays  
314 Second Street  
Washington, D.C. 20003

✓ bcc w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action

VCL:EF:jk



GEORGE MEADER  
PRESIDENT

JEFFREY COHELAN  
VICE PRESIDENT



J. CALEB BOGGS  
SECRETARY

JOSEPH W. BARR  
TREASURER

## Former Members of Congress

July 28, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to learn that the Virginia delegation in the House of Representatives has unanimously recommended that you award the Medal of Freedom to Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., whose distinguished career includes service in the Congress, in the Governor's office and in the presidency of the University of Virginia.

I respectfully join in this recommendation. I served with Mr. Darden in the United Nations General Assembly in 1955 and have been associated with him in other public undertakings. I wish to stress one activity of his in particular because I believe the award would be a fitting recognition of this particular service. I refer to his leadership in the successful effort to reopen the public schools of Prince Edward County, Virginia, in 1963 after a four year total disruption, resulting from the desegregation controversy.

I have personal knowledge of this remarkable service, Mr. President, because during much of that period I was serving as a member of President Kennedy's White House staff and had the privilege of conveying to him the Justice Department's and the President's wishes in this vital matter.

Following this request the Governor of Virginia, Honorable Albertis Harrison, appealed to Mr. Darden to head a special commission to effectuate compliance with the Supreme Court's school decision of 1954. He accepted the Governor's challenge and was joined by a distinguished group of the State's leaders as follows:

Dr. Fred B. Cole, President of Washington and Lee University;

Dr. Robert P. Daniel, President of Virginia State College;

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1975

Joseph W. Barr  
John Sherman Cooper  
J. Allen Frear, Jr.  
Jed Johnson, Jr.  
George Meader  
Fred Schwengel

1976

J. Caleb Boggs  
John W. Byrnes  
Jeffery Cohelan  
Walter H. Moeller

1977

William R. Anderson  
Horace R. Kornegay  
Melvin Laird  
Charlotte Reid

HONORARY — WITHOUT TERM — Brooks Hays — Walter Judd

Dr. Thomas Henderson, President of Virginia Union University;

Dr. Earl H. McClenny, President of St. Paul's College; and

Dr. F. D. G. Ribble, Dean of the Law School of the University of Virginia.

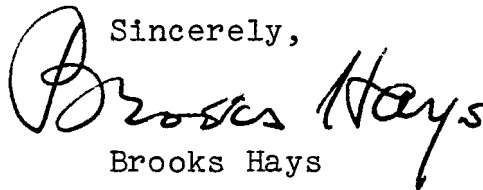
Mr. Darden gives his associates much of the credit for their contribution to the happy result, but the facts sustain the assertion that, without the Chairman's skill and his statesmanlike handling of the problem, the goal would not have been reached.

The Prince Edward County experience became a landmark case in the South's struggle to adapt to the new order of school administration.

In the light of Mr. Darden's outstanding and self-effacing service I express the hope that you will deem it appropriate to make this award.

With great esteem and appreciation of your friendship, I am,

Sincerely,

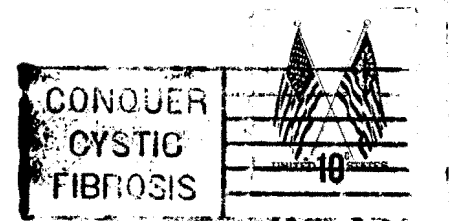
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooks Hays". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Brooks Hays".

Brooks Hays

BH/ej

**Former Members of Congress**

Brooks Hays  
314 Second Street  
Washington, D. C. 20003



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

LAW OFFICES OF

**HOGAN & HARTSON**

815 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

*Presidential James Governor*  
*Original to Robin West*  
*for response*

TELEPHONE (202) 331-4500  
CABLE ADDRESS "HOGANDER WASHINGTON"  
TELEX 89-2757

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

331-5753

August 8, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that the Virginia delegation in the U. S. House of Representatives has unanimously recommended that you award the Medal of Freedom to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr. who served as Governor of Virginia from 1942 to 1946 and whose entire lifetime has been devoted to service to his fellow citizens in many capacities. I also have a copy of a letter in which the Honorable Brooks Hays enthusiastically joined in the recommendation.

I think it would be uniquely fitting to make this award to Governor Darden. Though it is difficult to make a distinction among his many contributions to Virginia, his efforts in chairing a special commission to reopen the public schools of Prince Edward County, at the specific request of the then incumbent Governor of Virginia, represent an outstanding act of courageous leadership. He was supported in that effort by the distinguished Commission members whom Congressman Hays has described in his letter, but I agree that Mr. Darden's statesmanship was indeed the basic prerequisite for achieving the goal. I am certain, on the other hand, that Mr. Darden would accept the award only by giving appropriate credit to those who served with him.

It would be a proud moment for me if I could be present when you present the award.

Cordially yours,

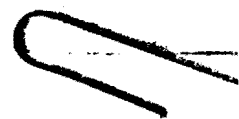


Linwood Holton

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

ORIGINAL TO: JAMES FALK

COPY FYI TO: PAUL THEIS



August 1, 1975

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your July 31 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr.

I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loen  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ bcc w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action

VCL:EF:jk



ROBERT W. DANIEL, JR.  
4TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THAD S. MURRAY  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

8-1  
CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICES:  
ROOM 215, FEDERAL BUILDING  
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA 23704  
804-441-6797

ROOM 209, POST OFFICE BUILDING  
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23803  
804-732-2544

July 31, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is a great personal honor for me to endorse the selection of the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr. for the Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Darden has had a most distinguished career of public service to the Commonwealth and to the Nation. While still a teenager, during World War I and before America's involvement therein, he joined the Armed Forces of France. After America entered the war, he resigned from the French Forces and became an officer in the United States Marines where he rendered distinguished service during the remainder of the war.

In 1930 Mr. Darden was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, and in 1932 he was elected to the 73rd Congress. He was subsequently reelected to the 74th, 76th, and 77th Congresses. He resigned from the House on March 1, 1941 to become a candidate for Governor. Mr. Darden served as Governor of Virginia from 1942-1946.

Upon completion of his term as Governor, Mr. Darden was chosen as the third President of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He served as President of this university for twelve years from 1947 to his retirement in 1959. Mr. Darden is largely responsible for establishing at the University a graduate school of business which the University has named in honor of him. In 1955 President Eisenhower appointed Mr. Darden a United States Delegate to the Tenth General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President  
July 31, 1975  
Page 2

Virginians have traditionally recognized their responsibility to participate in public service. Colgate Darden, perhaps more than any other Virginian, exemplifies this willingness to serve.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rob".

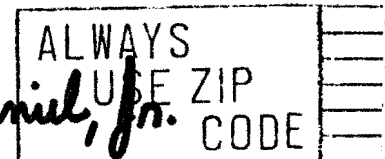
Robert W. Daniel, Jr.

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*Robert W. Daniel, Jr.*



M.C.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500



July 30, 1975

Dear Dan:

Thank you for your July 28 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr.

I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loen  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Dan Daniel  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ bcc w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action

VCL:EF:jk



DAN DANIEL  
5TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA  
1705 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4711  
COMMITTEE:  
ARMED SERVICES

*Medal of Freedom  
(Darden)*

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 28, 1975

DISTRICT OFFICES:

202 POST OFFICE BUILDING  
DANVILLE, VIRGINIA 24541  
TELEPHONE: 792-1280

104-A HIGH STREET  
FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA 23901  
TELEPHONE: 392-6644

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

*BF*

It is with a great deal of pride that I endorse the selection of Colgate Whitehead Darden, Jr., as recipient of the Medal of Freedom.

Colgate Darden, Jr., is a native of Southampton County, Virginia, having been born there in January 1897. He is endowed in an unusually high degree with sterling qualities of character and is noted for his courage and integrity.

Mr. Darden was educated in the public schools of Southampton County, Virginia. Later he attended the University of Virginia and, after graduating at that institution, was chosen as a Rhodes scholar. At an early age, and in fact while in his teens, during World War I and before America's involvement therein, he joined the Armed Forces of France to fight for freedom. After America entered the war, he resigned from the French Forces and became an officer in the United States Marines, where he rendered distinguished service during the remainder of that war.

He is a lawyer by profession and practiced some years in the City of Norfolk. In 1932, the people of Norfolk elected him as a member of the House of Delegates of Virginia. After serving in that body for only one term, he was elected in 1932 to the United States Congress, where he served for a number of years, rendering faithful and efficient service to the people of his District, State and Nation.

The President  
July 28, 1975  
Page Two

In 1941, he was elected Governor of Virginia and served from 1942 to 1946 as Virginia's distinguished War Governor. After his term had expired and upon the death of former United States Senator Carter Glass, the Virginia State Democratic Convention unanimously nominated him to the United States Senate. At this time, such a nomination was tantamount to election, but he declined to serve. Later, he was unanimously chosen President of the University of Virginia and served as head of this exalted educational center for a period of ten years.

Mr. Darden embraces the philosophy of Mr. Jefferson, who was founder of that great University. He is opposed to every form of tyranny over the mind of man. It is highly appropriate for Colgate Whitehead Darden, Jr., to be selected as the recipient of the Medal of Freedom. It is my fervent hope that such a Medal may be bestowed upon him.

Yours very sincerely,



Dan Daniel

DD/hmc

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Dan Daniel*  
M.C.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

**July 28, 1975**

**Dear Bills**

**Thank you for your July 23 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr.**

**I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.**

**With kind regards,**

**Sincerely,**

**Vernon C. Loon  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President**

**The Honorable William C. Wampler  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**✓ bcc w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action**

**VCL:EF:jk**



14  
WILLIAM C. WAMPLER  
NINTH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:  
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

225  
WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2422 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
524 CUMBERLAND STREET  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201  
309 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE  
PULASKI, VIRGINIA 24301  
P.O. Box 2000  
POST OFFICE BUILDING  
BIG STONE GAP, VIRGINIA 24219

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

July 23, 1975

MP  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to recommend the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., for the Medal of Freedom, joining other members of the Virginia delegation who have contacted you in this regard.

Governor Darden has had a distinguished record of public service, including service in the United States Congress, service to the Commonwealth of Virginia as her Governor, and as President of the University of Virginia.

I hope you will favorably consider bestowing this honor upon Governor Darden, who has faithfully served his State and his Nation with dedication and honor.

Sincerely,

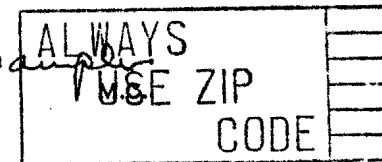


William C. Wampler  
Member of Congress

WCW:jg

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

July 28, 1975

Dear Caldwell:

Thank you for your July 25 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden.

I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loen  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable M. Caldwell Butler  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ bcc w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action

VCL:EF:jk





54  
M. CALDWELL BUTLER  
6TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

MEMBER:  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5431

*Colgate W. Darden*  
*Washington*

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

July 25, 1975

7-28  
DISTRICT OFFICES:  
313 U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE  
BUILDING  
900 CHURCH STREET  
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24503  
(804) 845-1378  
111 FEDERAL BUILDING AND POST OFFICE  
200 S. WAYNE AVENUE  
P.O. Box 1045  
WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980  
(703) 942-7758  
(IN STAUNTON DIAL "0" ASK FOR ENTERPRISE 78)  
109 U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE  
BUILDING  
212 W. CHURCH AVENUE  
P O. Box 885  
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24005  
(703) 981-1231

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

*me*  
I have seen a copy of Congressman Whitehurst's letter of July 18 and wish to be associated with his remarks concerning the efforts of Colgate W. Darden in Prince Edward County, Virginia and to affirm the accuracy thereof.

Colgate W. Darden is the Elder Statesman of Virginia. He served in the House of Representatives from 1933 to 1937 and from 1939 until he resigned on March 1, 1941 to become a candidate for Governor of Virginia. He was our Governor during the War years from 1942 to 1946. Thereafter, he served for 12 years as President of the University of Virginia, during which time I was attending the Law School there.

However, his greatest recognition lies in his close association with the Governors and leaders of Virginia who have constantly turned to him for his sound advice.

We are particularly grateful for the many services he provided our nation during the time he served as U.S. Delegate to the Tenth General Assembly of the United Nations, 1955.

The purpose of this letter is to join with Colgate Darden's many other friends in urging his nomination for the Medal of Freedom. Anything you can do in his behalf will be greatly appreciated.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

M. Caldwell Butler

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WAYS  
USE ZIP  
CODE



WAYS  
USE ZIP  
CODE  
M.C. C

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

**July 22, 1975**

**Dear Bill:**

**Thank you for your July 18 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr.**

**I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.**

**With kind regards,**

**Sincerely,**

**Vernon C. Loeb  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President**

**The Honorable G. William Whitehurst  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515**

**~~bcc~~ w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action**

**VCL:EF:jk**



G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST  
2ND DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

1221  
DISTRICT OFFICES:

ROOM 201, FEDERAL BUILDING  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510  
(804) 441-6763

ROOM 601, PEMBROKE ONE  
281 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23462  
(804) 490-2393

COMMITTEE:  
ARMED SERVICES

CHARLES H. FITZPATRICK  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

436 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4215

*Medal of Freedom*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 18, 1975

*me*

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

A number of us in the Virginia delegation in the House of Representatives have decided to recommend the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., for the Medal of Freedom. I have known Governor Darden most of my life since he was a long time friend of my father. As you no doubt are aware, he has a distinguished record of public service, one of the most impressive in our history. He not only held my Congressional seat many years ago, but he has served as Governor of Virginia and President of the University of Virginia. His contribution to governmental, civic, educational, and other activities has brought him countless accolades and marks him as one of the great citizens of our State in this century.

In recommending him for the Medal of Freedom, I would like to cite one unique contribution to the good of our Nation and State. I refer to his brilliant direction of the measures which led to the reopening of the public schools of Prince Edward County after a period of four years, 1959-1963, during which time there had been a complete disruption of the county's educational system as a result of the desegregation controversy.

The successful resolution of that crisis was primarily the result of the statesmanship and dedication of Mr. Darden, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Free School Association established by the State of Virginia with the approval of federal authorities for the purpose

of devising a plan for reopening the public schools. Resistance to the requirements of the United States Supreme Court's desegregation decision in 1954 struck with unusual force in Prince Edward County. School officials at every level found it impossible to adopt effective measures to keep the public schools open during the four years.

In the fourth year of the impasse, the Governor, the Honorable Albertis Harrison, with the knowledge and support of federal authorities, induced Mr. Darden to head a prestigious group of Virginians designated to find a solution. This group was composed of three black and three white members and constituted the Board of Trustees for the Free School Association, which had the support of a great number of moderate citizens.

Mr. Darden credits his five associates on the Board with a deep devotion to public education and a spirit of unselfish service in the enterprise. These associates were:

Dr. Fred B. Cole, President of Washington and Lee University;

Dr. Robert P. Daniel, President of Virginia State College;

Dr. Thomas Henderson, President of Virginia Union University;

Dr. Earl H. McClenny, President of St. Paul's College; and

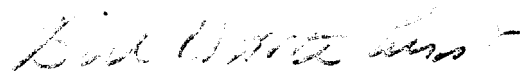
Dr. F. D. G. Ribble, Dean of the Law School of the University of Virginia.

Their efforts were successful chiefly because of Mr. Darden's skill and patience and the influence of his associates. Shortly after their painstaking work, covering a period of several months, was completed, the public school system, open to all of the County's children, black and white, began to function again.

Mr. Darden is a man of great integrity, honor, and dedication to public service. He is an inspiration to all who have the privilege to know him.

Mr. President, I hope that you will look with favor upon this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Whitehurst".

G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST

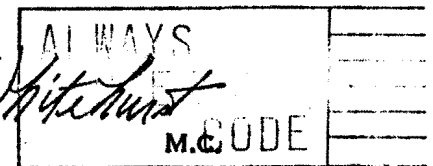
GWW:hes

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*A. William Whitehurst*



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

**July 23, 1975**

**Dear Ken:**

**Thank you for your July 22 letter to the President proposing that the Presidential Medal of Freedom be awarded to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr.**

**I shall be pleased to pass along your suggestion for consideration by the White House staff members who review and evaluate the backgrounds of persons who have been recommended to receive the Medal.**

**With kind regards,**

**Sincerely,**

*Vern*

**Vernon C. Loeb  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President**

**The Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**bcc w/inc to Paul Theis - for further action**

**VCL:EF:VO:jk**





14  
KENNETH ROBINSON  
7TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE:  
APPROPRIATIONS

*Medal of Freedom  
(Colgate Darden)*

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

OFFICES IN THE 7TH DISTRICT:  
112 N. CAMERON STREET (P.O. Box 714)  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601  
TELEPHONE: (703) 667-0990

212-B POST OFFICE BLDG. (P.O. Box 136)  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901  
TELEPHONE: (703) 295-2106

5 POST OFFICE BLDG. (P.O. Box 336)  
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22401  
TELEPHONE: (703) 373-0536

July 22, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

*MF*

I am taking the liberty of suggesting for your consideration as a recipient of the Medal of Freedom Colgate W. Darden, Jr., who has served Virginia in its State Legislature, as a Representative in Congress, as Governor and as President of the University of Virginia, but, more importantly, has served the people of the Commonwealth, and the nation, in a variety of important voluntary assignments over the years.

He is a veteran of World War I, was a United States delegate to the 10th General Assembly of United Nations in 1955, and is a distinguished member of the Bar.

What stands out in any review of the career of Colgate Darden, however, is his consistent willingness, over the years, to respond to calls for voluntary public service in dealing with specific problems, and his unremitting dedication to the cause of public education.

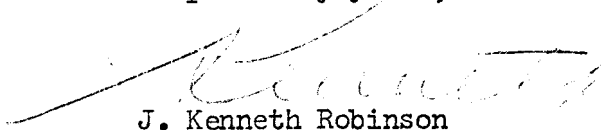
Individually, and as a member of various study groups organized over the years, his sound reasoning, and his ability to project it in a comprehensible and effective way, has contributed, time and again, to the enhancement of educational opportunity in Virginia.

His patience, and his talent for conciliation have been catalysts for agreement which have moved public policy forward in a constructive manner, without undue governmental pressure.

The President  
Washington, D. C.  
July 22, 1975  
Page 2

I believe an examination of the public record of Colgate W. Darden, Jr. would lead you to the conclusion that this distinguished American merits the recognition represented by the Medal of Freedom.

Respectfully yours,



J. Kenneth Robinson

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 22, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am taking the liberty of suggesting for your consideration as a recipient of the Medal of Freedom Colgate W. Darden, Jr., who has served Virginia in its State Legislature, as a Representative in Congress, as Governor and as President of the University of Virginia, but, more importantly, has served the people of the Commonwealth, and the nation, in a variety of important voluntary assignments over the years.

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The President  
Washington, D. C.  
July 22, 1975  
Page 2

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J. Kenneth Robinson

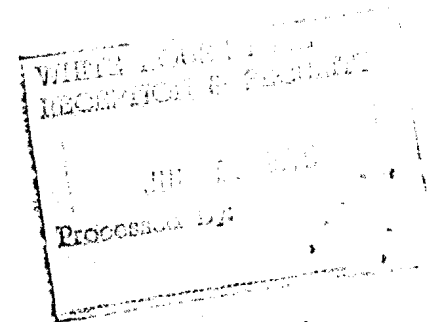


Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*A. Robinson*  
M.C.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500



Peter

DB

August 26, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Governor Holton:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President recommending Colgate W. Darden, Jr. for the President's Medal of Freedom award.

The President has recently re-evaluated the Medal of Freedom program and a review will soon be made of those persons recommended for this honor. Please be assured that Mr. Darden's many contributions to Virginia will receive every consideration.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Sennett  
Director  
Presidential Personnel Office

The Honorable Linwood Holton  
Hogan & Hartson  
315 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20006

DPB:af:jb



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Uinda  
Tolles  
for  
DB  
see*

Date 8/18/75

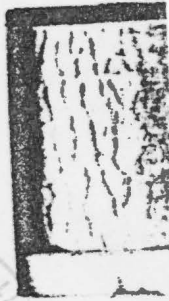
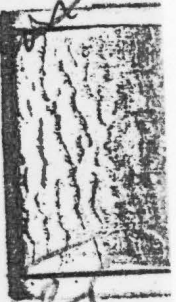
TO: Doug Bennett

FROM: JIM FALK *F*

- For your information
- For your appropriate handling
- For your review and comment
- Return to me
- Return to file
- Return to central files

Comments:

101 <i>Doug</i>	Return To:
Action: <i>J</i>	
FM:	
Info To:	8/20/75



LAW OFFICES OF

*Handwritten: (Resident)*  
**HOGAN & HARTSON**

815 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

TELEPHONE (202) 331-4500

CABLE ADDRESS "HOGANDER WASHINGTON"

TELEX 89-2757

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

331-5753

August 8, 1975

*Handwritten: Lammie (Bull)*  
Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that the Virginia delegation in the U. S. House of Representatives has unanimously recommended that you award the Medal of Freedom to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr. who served as Governor of Virginia from 1942 to 1946 and whose entire lifetime has been devoted to service to his fellow citizens in many capacities. I also have a copy of a letter in which the Honorable Brooks Hays enthusiastically joined in the recommendation.

I think it would be uniquely fitting to make this award to Governor Darden. Though it is difficult to make a distinction among his many contributions to Virginia, his efforts in chairing a special commission to reopen the public schools of Prince Edward County, at the specific request of the then incumbent Governor of Virginia, represent an outstanding act of courageous leadership. He was supported in that effort by the distinguished Commission members whom Congressman Hays has described in his letter, but I agree that Mr. Darden's statesmanship was indeed the basic prerequisite for achieving the goal. I am certain, on the other hand, that Mr. Darden would accept the award only by giving appropriate credit to those who served with him.

It would be a proud moment for me if I could be present when you present the award.

Cordially yours,



Linwood Holton

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501



September 5, 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the President, I wish to thank you for your September 3 letter in support of the recommendation which has been made that Mr. Colgate W. Darden, Jr. be considered as a recipient of the Medal of Freedom.

To date, the President has not awarded the Medal of Freedom to anyone. However, I do wish to assure you that Mr. Darden will be given full consideration in the process of selecting possible recipients.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vern

Vernon C. Loen  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable George Mahon  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Paul Theis - for your information  
~~bcc:~~ w/incoming to Linda Foulks - for your information

VCL:VO:vo

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 3, 1975

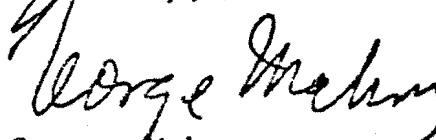
Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to join with friends of Colgate W. Darden, Jr. in the recommendation that he be awarded the Medal of Freedom. I know the files will disclose the many reasons why he is deserving of this honor, and I wanted to add my strong endorsement of him.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



George Mahon

M:hb

November 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DAVE GERSEN

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Attached is a copy of another communication I have received recommending Colgate Darden for the Medal of Freedom.

Attachment

dl





NOV 28 1972

JEFFERY COHELAN  
PRESIDENT

CALEB BOGGS  
VICE-PRESIDENT

HORACE R. KORNEGAY  
TREASURER

CHARLOTTE T. REID  
SECRETARY

## Former Members of Congress

121 SECOND STREET, N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002  
(202) 543-1666

Nov-27-72

Dear Jack: I have seen Linwood Holton's letter to you regarding the suggested award to our good friend Colgate Scadden. I am writing to say that I am one of a multitude who would be happy if the President should take this action. I know how busy both you and he are and I am reluctant to add to your work, so don't take time to answer this. Hope our paths will cross before long.

With best wishes always -

Brooks-



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1976

J. Caleb Boggs  
John W. Byrnes  
Jeffery Cohelan  
Walter H. Moeller

1977

William R. Anderson  
Horace R. Kornegay  
Melvin R. Laird  
Charlotte T. Reid

1978

Charles B. Brownson  
Frank M. Karsten  
George Meader  
Carlton R. Sickles

Honorary - Without Term - Brooks Hays - Walter H. ...

November 29, 1976

Medal of  
Merit

Dear Brooks:

Many thanks for your recent letter concerning Colgate Darden. It was good to hear from you.

I have taken the liberty of bringing your suggestion to the attention of those here at the White House working on this matter. I am sure careful consideration will be given to Colgate Darden. He has been highly recommended by many others.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Brooks Hays  
121 Second Street, Northeast  
Washington, D. C. 20002

dl

cc: Dave Gergen



November 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE GERGEN

FROM: JACK MARSH

Attached is an additional communication I have received concerning the Medal of Freedom and Colgate Darden.

Attachment

copies of letters from Linwood Holton

d1



November 30, 1976

Dear Lin:

Just a short note to acknowledge receipt of the copy of your letter to the President concerning Colgate Darden, together with attachments.

Following our telephone conversation the other day, I contacted the people here at the White House handling this matter and relayed your recommendation. I will also forward a copy of your letter. I am sure Governor Darden will be given every consideration.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

John O. Marsh, Jr.  
Counsellor to the President

The Honorable Linwood H&lton  
Suite 600  
815 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20006

dl

cc: Dave Gergen



SUITE 600  
815 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

November 22, 1976.

Dear Mr. President:

To refresh your recollection, I enclose a copy of Brooks Hays' letter of July 28, 1975, in which he joined the unanimous Virginia House delegation in recommending that you award the Medal of Freedom to Colgate W. Darden, Jr., who was Governor of Virginia from 1942 to 1946.

I also enclose copy of my letter of August 8, to you, adding my enthusiastic endorsement to that recommendation.

I surely hope that you will give consideration to this request again now, and I strongly hope that you can come to an affirmative conclusion.

It would, in my judgment, be a most fitting thing for you to do.

Cordially yours,

Linwood Holton

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 2050

*Jack: thanks. Lin*  
bcc: Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.





J. CALEB BOGGS  
SECRETARY

JOSEPH W. BARR  
TREASURER

# Former Members of Congress

July 28, 1975

*copy*

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to learn that the Virginia delegation in the House of Representatives has unanimously recommended that you award the Medal of Freedom to Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., whose distinguished career includes service in the Congress, in the Governor's office and in the presidency of the University of Virginia.

I respectfully join in this recommendation. I served with Mr. Darden in the United Nations General Assembly in 1955 and have been associated with him in other public undertakings. I wish to stress one activity of his in particular because I believe the award would be a fitting recognition of this particular service. I refer to his leadership in the successful effort to reopen the public schools of Prince Edward County, Virginia, in 1963 after a four year total disruption, resulting from the desegregation controversy.

I have personal knowledge of this remarkable service, Mr. President, because during much of that period I was serving as a member of President Kennedy's White House staff and had the privilege of conveying to him the Justice Department's and the President's wishes in this vital matter.

Following this request the Governor of Virginia, Honorable Albertis Harrison, appealed to Mr. Darden to head a special commission to effectuate compliance with the Supreme Court's school decision of 1954. He accepted the Governor's challenge and was joined by a distinguished group of the State's leaders as follows:

Dr. Fred B. Cole, President of Washington and Lee University;

Dr. Robert P. Daniel, President of Virginia State College;

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1975

Joseph W. Barr  
John Sherman Cooper  
J. Allen Frear, Jr.  
Jed Johnson, Jr.  
George Meader  
Fred Schwengel

1976

J. Caleb Boggs  
John W. Byrnes  
Jeffery Cohelan  
Walter H. Moeller

1977

William R. Anderson  
Horace R. Kornegay  
Melvin Laird  
Charlotte Reid

HONORARY - WITHOUT TERM - Brooks Hays - Walter Judd

Dr. Thomas Henderson, President of Virginia Union University;

Dr. Earl H. McClenny, President of St. Paul's College; and

Dr. F. D. G. Ribble, Dean of the Law School of the University  
Virginia.

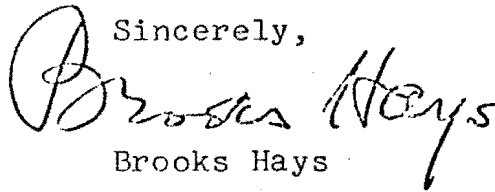
Mr. Darden gives his associates much of the credit for their contribution to the happy result, but the facts sustain the assertion that, without the Chairman's skill and his statesmanlike handling of the problem, the goal would not have been reached.

The Prince Edward County experience became a landmark case in the South's struggle to adapt to the new order of school administration.

In the light of Mr. Darden's outstanding and self-effacing service I express the hope that you will deem it appropriate to make this award.

With great esteem and appreciation of your friendship, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooks Hays". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brooks Hays

331-5753

August 8, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that the Virginia delegation in the U. S. House of Representatives has unanimously recommended that you award the Medal of Freedom to the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr. who served as Governor of Virginia from 1942 to 1946 and whose entire lifetime has been devoted to service to his fellow citizens in many capacities. I also have a copy of a letter in which the Honorable Brooks Hays enthusiastically joined in the recommendation.

I think it would be uniquely fitting to make this award to Governor Darden. Though it is difficult to make a distinction among his many contributions to Virginia, his efforts in chairing a special commission to reopen the public schools of Prince Edward County, at the specific request of the then incumbent Governor of Virginia, represent an outstanding act of courageous leadership. He was supported in that effort by the distinguished Commission members whom Congressman Hays has described in his letter, but I agree that Mr. Darden's statesmanship was indeed the basic prerequisite for achieving the goal. I am certain, on the other hand, that Mr. Darden would accept the award only by giving appropriate credit to those who served with him.

It would be a proud moment for me if I could be present when you present the award.

Cordially yours,

Linwood Holton

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

November 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE GERGEN  
FROM: JACK MARSH

Former Governor Linwood Holton of Virginia called to reiterate his earlier suggestion that Colgate Darden be awarded the Medal of Freedom.

As you are probably aware, he is a former Governor of Virginia, a former Member of Congress and past President of the University of Virginia. He is an individual of great accomplishment and stature and certainly a worthy candidate for the Medal.

I am aware that some consideration is being given to a Medal of Freedom ceremony and perhaps those who are working on it should get together.

P.S.

This is related to your earlier memo of November 18th and I am not certain just where this stands.

JOM/dl



NOV 18 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DICK CHENEY

JACK MARSH

FROM:

DAVE GERGEN *DR*

SUBJECT:

Medal of Freedom

I would strongly recommend that the President present Medals of Freedom to a number of prominent Americans in a gala event before January 20. As you know, there are a number of outstanding people whose names are already high on our candidate list (e.g., George Shults, Arthur Fiedler, the Durants, Georgia O'Keefe, Norman Rockwell, Lowell Thomas, General Omar Bradley, and Irving Berlin).

There are also several excellent choices within the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps -- past and present -- and elsewhere.

I recommend that Bill Nicholson be asked to set up an event and that our Medal of Freedom committee, which Jack informally chairs, be commissioned to come up with a list of 20 recommended candidates from which the President might select out 10 or so. It would be particularly appropriate if the medals were presented at a special White House dinner -- and far enough ahead of January 20th that it is not lost in the shuffle. Our office is prepared to present a list of names almost overnight.

cc: Jerry Jones  
Bill Nicholson

*Carl Gergen*