

Mr. Bill Decker  
Mr. Engle  
Dr. Tamm

Jim Parke

minn<sup>④</sup>

NOTES BY  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
AT 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING  
VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTEER SERVICES  
Washington, April 19, 1966

and,

The "Volunteer Spirit" was the Spirit of '76,  
It was the Spirit of 1946 when your great V.A. Volunteer  
Services was established, and it is today's "Spirit of  
1966."

For this spirit, for the compassion and concern  
you show our hospitalized veterans, I salute you and  
commend you. — Thank you ~~of the people~~ people.

You represent the "Yes-I-can", "Yes-I-will" spirit.  
You demonstrate the finest tradition of individual initiative  
and responsibility.

The patriotic, veterans' and welfare organizations  
you serve are a "Star-Spangled" list of "Red-White-and Blue"  
assets to our country.

Last night, out in Hollywood -- were the Academy Award  
Presentations, of the Motion Picture Industry.  
I'd like to present our own version of the  
"Oscar" -- for "Outstanding Patriotic Performance, 1946-1966" --

to you and the over 100,000 volunteers you represent. This  
"Patriotic Oscar" is in recognition of the over 8 million  
hours you put in at the side of V.A. patients.

And so, I bring you the warm personal greetings  
of our President. As Commander-in-Chief, his highest  
responsibility is the maintenance of America's security.

No factor is more important in our security than the morale  
of our fighting forces.

<sup>need to</sup> They know that, if they are injured or wounded,  
they will -- deservedly -- get the finest medical <sup>hospital</sup> care  
in the world.

And thanks to you, they will also get <sup>even more</sup> ~~the interest~~,  
<sup>the attention</sup> the concern, the friendship of devoted volunteers.

You and I know that one of the most important  
single factors in the healing of wounds is a cheerful <sup>spirit</sup> ~~heart~~,  
a rosy outlook, the knowledge that someone cares.

The VAVS spirit is what it takes to bring a smile to  
a hospitalized veteran and to speed his recovery.

L Not every American can <sup>serve</sup> on the front line,  
but every American can serve those who have been on the  
front lines.

L I have seen some of our wounded servicemen --  
<sup>Clark</sup> from the Air Force Base in Manila <sup>Hosp in Vietnam</sup> to Walter Reed in Bethesda.

L Fortunately, volunteers are at their side, helping them,  
comforting them <sup>you</sup> from field hospitals onward, -- all the  
way back home.

L Later, when ill servicemen are discharged from  
the Armed Service, they need volunteers at their side --  
more than ever before.

L Where? Not just in the hospital, but in the  
domiciliary, in the out-patient clinic and, yes, <sup>even</sup> when the  
patient is discharged to his own home.

L Who does all this? Men and women, as well as  
conscientious teen-agers in communities across the land.

L A man may offer job counseling; a woman may write a letter  
or read a book for a patient; a housewife foregoes an  
afternoon of bridge for an afternoon of service; an

"Organization" man or woman recruits other volunteers,  
meets with VA doctors to find new and better assignments  
for volunteers.

L To each and every one of you, we are indeed  
grateful. And it is the source of great joy for me to  
have the opportunity to tell you so.

L I am sure you do not need my reassurance that  
the will of the American people and the determination of  
the American government are solidly behind you in your  
devotion to veterans.

L The Veterans Administration, under the very  
capable leadership of William J. Driver, is seeking and  
finding new ways to channel the efforts of 170,000 em-  
ployees into better service to veterans.

L Veterans hospitals in America are among the best  
hospitals in ~~America~~ <sup>the world</sup>. Not only are the physical plants  
excellent and the staffs competent, they are improving  
daily through the frank and frequent interchange of knowledge

and ideas between VA professionals and their counterparts  
in the Nation's leading medical schools.

L Veterans benefits now supplemented by the  
"Cold War G.I. Bill" -- are substantial and appropriate.  
These benefits range from home loans to life insurance,  
from educational grants to widows' pensions, from prosthetic  
appliances to pills.

L ~~And may I say, that~~ As a former pharmacist, I have  
visited the great modern pharmacy at V.A.'s newest hospital  
in our Nation's Capital, and it is a Top.

L The excellence of V.A. medicine is not a new interest  
with me. From ~~about~~ the time I entered the Senate in January,  
1949, I worked for top quality medical care for our Veterans.

L And I am so happy to say that this battle was won and it has  
stayed won.

L So, ladies and gentlemen of the VAVS, you are not  
working alone ~~for veterans~~. Your Nation is with you, in  
heart and in resources.

You are an inspiration to your government and  
to your fellow citizens; just as you are compassion and  
care -- in person -- to the veterans you serve.

*Thank you* God bless you, one and all.  
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Address  
by  
THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
Vice President of the United States  
20th Anniversary Meeting - VA Voluntary Service  
Tuesday, April 19, 1966  
Sheraton Park Hotel  
Washington, D. C.

Thank you, thank you very much. Thanks very much Bill.

It's nice to be shot at like this (referring to flashing of cameras).

Indeed thanks to Bill Driver, our dedicated and able and, I think, outstanding Administrator of the Veterans Administration; Dr. Engle; and Dr. Timm; and Jim Parke; and to all of the many, many participants here in the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service and the National Advisory Committee. If I'd known that all these ladies would be here I'd have hurried up and got over here. This Bill Driver just won't tell me the truth. He said, "I'd like to have you stop over at the Sheraton Park for a little ceremony we're having this afternoon." And I said, "Well, just what is it?" And he said, "Well, it's a small ceremony that you might enjoy for the VAVS" and didn't go on to explain it any further than that. And in Washington any initials like that frighten you right away. You don't know what that'll mean. But I'm simply delighted to have this privilege, and may I apologize to you for keeing you waiting? But my day is a rather difficult one to plan. I am at the service of many people in this Government, and one in particular. And just a very few minutes ago I left the Department of Agriculture, which is slightly



remote from the Veterans Administration, but in this complicated society of ours today I don't suppose anything is too remote. So, thank you for letting me come to say a few words to you of appreciation and thanks.

When I was figuring out what I might say to you I thought I ought to find somewhat of a theme, and, of course, the very word "volunteer" suggests the theme right away. If there is any one word that characterizes the entire American history it's the word "volunteer." There have been more volunteers in our country for more good things: volunteers for the defense of this nation; volunteers, young men and women, today in the Peace Corps; volunteers in the communities for a host of community services. And we have more voluntary organizations than there are countries in the world, and that's a fact. No nation is known so well for its voluntary services as the United States of America. You see, we don't just depend on Government to do everything, and I hope we never live that long to ever have to depend on Government to do everything... as important as our Government is. What we depend on is a partnership between a Government of the people, and by the people, and for the people, and the people in everything we do.

This morning I met with members of our Cabinet to discuss some of our critical situations internationally. The Secretary of the Treasury had into his office members of the Cabinet, Federal Reserve Board, Council of Economic Advisers. We were discussing our serious problems overseas, as they relate to our economy and the drain on this economy, and the problem of balance of payments, which is a phrase that is used so frequently here. And when we got right down to handling this problem



and doing something about these problems we started to talk about how we would work with private business, how we could work with Agriculture, how we could work with Labor, how we could work with the people in the private sector of our economy. Because, remember one thing above everything else: When you talk of the United States of America you not only talk of a Government and of a governmental system (and it is the best governmental system that was ever designed by the hand of man or the mind of man) but you are also talking about 200 million Americans that pitch in and get a job done when it is needed to be done. That's our strength.

Now this volunteer spirit has been written up in the pages of our history. It is a volunteer spirit of 1776. Those men at Lexington and Concord, they were volunteers. And it was the spirit of the volunteer and the volunteer spirit when your great VA Volunteer Services were established back in 1946, and you're celebrating your 20th anniversary today. And I hope all of you fellows have given the girls a present. That's what you're supposed to do on a 20th anniversary. And today, in the year 1966, it is the volunteer spirit that we commend and celebrate once again. For this spirit and for the compassion and the concern that you show our hospitalized veteran, as your Vice President, on behalf of your Government I salute you, I commend you, and I gratefully thank you.

You know you represent the kind of get up and go that it takes. The President of the United States always says to me "I like those 'can do' fellows." He says, "I don't have time to listen to all of those explanations of how we can't do it, you take that to somebody else."

I want a 'can do' man." I've heard him say it a hundred and one times when he was Majority Leader in the United States Senate and as President of the United States. And I think that you represent the "Yes, I can" and the "Yes, I will" spirit. Not that maybe we ought to, it might be a good idea of who is going to do it, but that "I will do it—I can and I will." And you demonstrate the finest tradition of individual initiative and responsibility. My fellow Americans, those two phrases sum up an awful lot about the progress of this country—individual initiative, get up and go, and responsibility.

My father used to tell me that procrastination was the bane of all evils. And whenever I would be a little tired he would say "ac-ti-viti," which was a nice way of South Dakota French "get up and go, get at it." And I can even remember him saying to me, "Don't tell me your troubles; we have a doctor in town for that." And I can even go a step further. I've told many an audience that my beloved father was my inspiration in life. He never, ever once in his whole life told me what time to go to bed, but he was the best getter-upper in the whole county. So you see, this is your spirit. You do what needs to be done.

The patriotic and veterans and welfare organizations that I've found listed here in this program of yours today is nothing short of amazing. And they represent the best that this country has to offer. And I'll tell you that as a member of those organizations—whichever one you are a part of or whichever membership you hold—you serve on a Star Spangled Banner list of red, white, and blue assets to this country. That's real first-class patriotism.

And you know...by the way I said to a reporter the other day... She was interviewing me on a matter or two, and she said to me, "Well, you seem to get a little bit emotional, a little bit sentimental about things." I said, "Listen, I'm a rip-roaring patriot about this country," and I am. I don't know what's wrong with a little old-fashioned pride in country, and I don't think it proves that you're well educated or anything else to sort of look at it as if it's beneath your dignity. This is without a doubt the greatest experience in Government that the world has ever known and it is the greatest system of economics that the world has ever known. And, by the way, it is the greatest neighborhood of people that the world has ever known, right here in the United States of America, and I would like to tell as many people about it as I can. And when I travel overseas I don't mind telling them a little bit about it. They tell me about their countries, and I say "I want equal time." And I find they sort of like you a little better if you sort of stand up and speak for yourself.

Now, last night, out in Hollywood (and I'm sure some of you saw that TV production) they had their Academy Award presentations of the motion picture industry. Well, when I look over this audience I think they got the cameras in the wrong place. I'd like to present our own version of our own "Oscar" for outstanding patriotic performance—20 years of it, not just one show, the 20 years from 1946 to 1966. And I'd make the presentation if I had it — I wouldn't make it an Oscar — I'd just make it an eagle, to you and over a hundred thousand volunteers that you represent. And you ought to be able to take that home symbolically.



This patriotic Oscar or this patriotic eagle is in recognition of the over eight million hours/<sup>over the past year</sup> that you and your associates have put in at the side of VA patients—eight million hours of attention, concern, care, love, and understanding.

And so I bring you the warm, personal greetings of your President, and as Commander in Chief his highest responsibility is the maintenance of America's security. We've been working on that all day. This is the main item of our concern. And might I add that the strength of this nation is the protective shield of hundreds of millions of people all over the world. Without our strength and without our sense of forbearance and self discipline and without our courage there is no peace in the world. And people know it, too—don't you kid yourself—all around the world. So, my fellow Americans, while we do not need to engage in braggadocio nor do we need to have any spirit of arrogance or false pride, I think it can be said that this world is a safer place, it is a better place, and the hope of peace in this world is all the stronger because of the United States of America and what it does.

In all of this picture of national security you know and I know that no factor is more important than the spirit of the people and no factor is more important in our armed services than the morale of our fighting forces. And I can tell you that the morale of those forces is good.

Many of you have been to Viet Nam; and, if you haven't, let one who has been tell you for just a moment about it. With all of the

tragedy and the pain and the suffering of this terribly unpopular struggle, the men that are there are the finest that this nation has to offer. I have visited those units. I've seen our Marines, our Airmen, our Infantrymen, our Cavalry units, our Navy, our Coast Guard. I've seen them all. I've talked with the Privates and with the Generals, and I want the mothers and fathers in this room to know that there is less complaining amongst the Armed Forces of the United States engaged in battle in Viet Nam than there is in any one county in the entire United States of America. They know why they're there. Many of them are not happy about it, but they know it's a responsibility. They're mature men and they know about what the struggle is all about. And many of them are married men, with children, professionals in the armed services of the United States, and they know they're there for their children and for their children's children.

It has been said by General Westmoreland—who I think is one of the great soldiers, both a great soldier and a great civilian, a complete and wonderful citizen—it has been said by General Westmoreland that this group of men and women that serve in our Armed Forces today in Viet Nam are without a doubt the most efficient, without a doubt the best trained, the most efficient, the most competent people that have ever been put into the field by the people of the United States at any time in our history. And I think that's true. They have the tools to do the job, they've had the training, and their morale is an inspiration—truly, my dear friends, it's an inspiration. And make no mistake about it, there is no power on the face of this earth that can defeat them. So don't you be worried about that. No power on the face of this earth!

But, speaking of morale, I think you ought to know that you contribute a great deal to this. Because these men, wherever they are, not just in Viet Nam, but all over the world... We have three million men today in the Armed Forces of this nation, and they are scattered from one end of the world to another; and many of you wonder why, but they're there because there are prowlers on the loose in this world, evil forces at work, men who believe that aggression is a way of life that they ought to pursue. And these men stand guard country after country, and area after area, our men—with others—to see to it that lawlessness and the rule of the jungle does not become the pattern of human conduct, because if it does there is no peace for anybody. And their morale is good in a large measure because you've helped make it good. They know, for example, that if they're injured or wounded that they will deservedly get the finest medical and hospital care in the world.

And mothers and fathers you should know that in this present situation in Viet Nam the hospital and medical care is literally miraculous. I think you've maybe been told about it, but if you haven't let me repeat it. In World War I approximately 9 out of every 100 men that got to a hospital (and many didn't ever make it) died of their wounds; and the capacity and the ability to get men to hospitals was far beyond, far lower than it is today. In World War II about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5, about 5 out of every 100 that were able to get into a hospital after wounds died. In the Korean War, between  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 out of every 100 that got to a hospital perished, died of their wounds. In this



struggle in Viet Nam, with many more being picked off the battlefield because of the helicopter and because of the rescue teams, less than 1 out of 100 perish, die of their wounds. Never in the history of the world has there been such medical care. You would be so proud of the quality of that medical care, you'd be so proud of the hospitalization. And when you're at home I think you are very proud of what you see in our VA hospitals, too, which I want to speak of. And thanks to you back here at home these veterans will get even more--the concern, the friendship, and the devoted care of volunteers.

You and I know that one of the most important single factors in the healing process is the cheerful spirit, a rosy outlook, and the knowledge that someone cares. Why, many a doctor has said that does more good than all the medicines you can pump into somebody. And the VAVS spirit is what it takes to bring a smile to a hospitalized veteran and to speed his recovery. Those hospitals can get to be mighty lonesome places, as you know. Not every American can or does serve on the front line, but every American can and should serve those who have been on the front line.

Now, I've seen some of our wounded servicemen, as I've indicated to you already. Mrs. Humphrey and I spent an afternoon at Clark Air Force Base, in the Philippines outside of Manilla, where the men are there within two hours, two hours of wounds on the battlefield in Viet Nam--men who come in their uniforms from the rice paddies, just with the most preliminary emergency care and brought on in. And I've seen them



in the hospitals in Viet Nam, less than two months ago, and I've been out to Walter Reed and over to Bethesda, and the Navy Hospital, just to walk around and to see them. Just to talk to the fellows. It is quite an experience! I do this sometimes before I come to work, the least that a person can do, and fortunately I find volunteers at the side of these men, helping them and comforting them. Yes, I find them and found them in the field hospitals and all the way back home. And later, when servicemen who are ill are discharged from the Armed Services they need volunteers at their side more than ever before. And where? Not just in the hospital, but in the domiciliary or in the outpatient clinic, and even when the patient sometimes is discharged to his own home he still needs some care, some outside help. Now, who does all of this? Well, you know--men and women as well as conscientious teenagers in communities across this land. I wish we could get the newspapers filled up with the stories about what some of these youngsters of ours are doing at these hospitals. I've seen hundreds of them, hundreds of them, yes, more than that (that's just a figure of speech) that are there working. I see these youngsters right out here in Washington, D. C., that are out here at these orphanages...some of our young people from these high schools and junior high schools that are out here doing great work. But if one of these kids gets into trouble and he's got his name all over the town. But I've seen them go out after school and on Saturdays and Sundays day after day and week after week, giving of themselves, and I tell you that these young people need a pat

on the back. They need to be told that this is something good. So, we all have something that we can do. A man can offer, for example, job counselling, some good business man, somebody that's been successful in his trade or his skill. A woman may help a fellow write a letter or read him a book, when he is flat on his back there. A housewife foregoes an afternoon of bridge for an afternoon of service.

I've found some of our ladies from over here from Washington over at Walter Reed, and they were just having a time over there, doing the job, and the men were so delighted. And I talked to these ladies. One lady came up to me and said, "Oh, I know you," you know, and she wanted to visit with me. And I said, "Well, my goodness Bea, what are you doing here?" She's a neighbor out where I live, out near Chevy Chase. And she said, "Oh, I come up here three afternoons a week." She said, "You know something? It's made my life meaningful. I really feel I'm doing something." She said, "My children are grown up, my husband's at work, and I have something now to do that makes life worthwhile." I bet you have heard that ten thousand times. So, you see, there's a lot of good that's going on, and very frankly some of the good is more to us than the ones you serve. You get more out of it.

And then you see an organization man or woman that recruits other volunteers and meets with the VA doctors to find new and better assignments for the volunteers. And there are some of you right here in this room, and to each and every one of you all I can say is we are grateful, and thanks. It's a mighty good source of joy to me to have the opportunity to tell you so, too. I'm sure that you don't need my reassurance

of the will of the American people and the determination of the American Government are solidly behind you in your devotion to your service and to the veterans.

The Veterans Administration, under the capable leadership of William Driver, is seeking and finding new ways to channel the efforts of 170,000 employees of that Service, of that Administration, into better service to the veterans. That's what he works at. And we have people on, working in our Veterans Hospitals on the Government payroll...they're not just there drawing pay. This whole establishment, from the top on down, seeks how to make that service more meaningful and helpful to those that it's designed to help. The Veterans Hospitals in America, (in case you've forgotten it, I want to repeat it) are among the best hospitals in the world, not just at home here, and we need to remember that. Not only are they the best in physical plants, not only do they have competent, trained professional staffs, but they are improving daily through the frank and frequent interchange of knowledge and ideas between VA professionals and their counterparts in the nation's leading medical schools. I think it is fair to say that you can get the best medical care of modern medical science in your Veterans Hospitals today because of this great interchange of knowledge. And veterans benefits are now supplemented by a new bill that was signed by your President recently, the Cold War GI Bill. And they're substantial and appropriate. These benefits range from home loans to life insurance, from educational grants to widows pensions, from prosthetic appliances to pills. I had to bring in pills because



I'm a pharmacist. Now, as a former pharmacist, they wouldn't let me practice. Don't worry, I'll not threaten your health. I visited recently the great modern pharmacy in VA's newest hospital, in our nation's capital. I took sort of a statesmanlike view of the whole thing, and I want to tell you that it's tops...right...the best that you can find.

And the excellence of VA medicine is not a new interest with me. I sort of appointed myself the number one guardian of this when I came to the Senate. We're very proud out at Ft. Snelling of the relationship between our Veterans Hospital there and the University of Minnesota Medical School and the entire medical profession, the Mayo Clinic and all. We think that...(I've got to remember that I am Vice President of the United States now and not Senator from Minnesota...I have to remember that). But...but you know I often think of that poem: "Is there a man with soul so dead who to himself has never said 'This is my own, my native land,'" and I can't help but apply it somewhat back home. Because when I became United States Senator and came down here to Washington the first thing I wanted to do was to make sure that the gains that had been made in the Veterans Administration for medical care...and there is a whole list of great Medical Directors right up to Doctor Engle here at the present time who have all contributed to that. You remember that Omar Bradley came in as the Director, the post-war head of the VA. I wanted to make sure that those gains were solidified, that they

were protected, so I set up a special subcommittee in the Senate of the United States on medical care for veterans. And we had hearings and we raised Cain with everybody for awhile (Senators do that), and I am happy to tell you that I worked for top medical care for our veterans and am more happy to tell you that we won the battle, and that's one battle that stayed won. It's still operative. So, ladies and gentlemen of the VAVS, you are not working alone. You've had partners all along, and your nation is with you. And it's with you in its heart and its resources. You've had a full day, and I understand that you have much more that you still want to do.

If ever that the Vice President of the United States can be of help to you in your work I hope you will feel free to call upon him. I want you to know that it's a wonderful privilege to be in this Government. Many times I am asked "Do you like your job?" And I'll let you in on a secret: I sure do, and I like you too. Thank you very much. .... Thank you.



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