

December 17, 1939

[Tudal Awarded to Mrs. Richard Aldrich - by Congress]

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FDR Speech - File

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THIS IS A MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
DATE: 12/17/1939 BY: [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
In Presenting a Medal
Awarded to Mrs. Richard Aldrich
By the Congress
Hyde Park, December 17, 1939

This is not an ordinary medal. This is a
Congressional Medal and it is given by an Act of the
Congress which I think it would be appropriate to read:

"(Private - No. 644 - 75th Congress)
(Chapter 552 - 3d Session)

(S. 3917)

AN ACT

Authorizing the President to present gold medals to Mrs.
Richard Aldrich and posthumously to Anna Bouligny.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to present a gold medal of appropriate design to Mrs. Richard Aldrich, nee Margaret Livingston Chanler, and posthumously to Anna Bouligny, deceased, who, during the War with Spain, voluntarily went to Puerto Rico and there rendered service of inestimable value to the Army of the United States in the establishment and operation of hospitals for the care and treatment of military patients in Puerto Rico. The posthumous presentation to Anna Bouligny, deceased, shall be made to such representative of the said Anna Bouligny, deceased, as the President may designate. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved, June 20, 1938."

In pursuance of that Act, the medal has been struck by the Mint after I had received six designs, and it is this particular one which I chose and which I hope very much that Mrs. Aldrich will like.

You see, I go back to the Spanish American War.

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE CONGRESS, JANUARY 6, 1933

January 6, 1933
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Speaker:

It is a privilege to stand before you on this day, and to address you on the opening of the 73rd Congress.

The past year has been a year of unusual stress and strain for our country. We have seen the effects of the depression, the unemployment, the suffering of our people. We have seen the need for action, for a new program of relief and recovery. We have seen the need for a new leadership, for a new vision, for a new courage. We have seen the need for a new faith, for a new hope, for a new dream. We have seen the need for a new unity, for a new solidarity, for a new strength. We have seen the need for a new spirit, for a new determination, for a new resolve. We have seen the need for a new sacrifice, for a new devotion, for a new service. We have seen the need for a new courage, for a new faith, for a new hope, for a new dream, for a new unity, for a new solidarity, for a new strength, for a new spirit, for a new determination, for a new resolve, for a new sacrifice, for a new devotion, for a new service.

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I tried to enlist but was taken with an attack of the mumps before I could do it. I think the thing that strikes all of us, is the amazing progress which has been made in nursing since those earlier days. And I think, in view of what you went through down there, first to get to the South and then across to Puerto Rico, the almost complete lack of facilities you found, the hardships you overcame, and the imagination it took to carry the work through, that this is the best deserved of Congressional medals I know of and, of course, it personally gives me great pleasure to be able to give it to one of my very old friends and close neighbors.

REMARKS OF MRS. RICHARD ALDRICH
In Acceptance of Congressional Medal
From the President
Hyde Park, December 17, 1939

Mr. President, Your Excellency:

My thanks for, and appreciation of, this beautiful tribute from you and from the Congress, are steeped in memories which recall as though present a host of persons all engaged in terminating upon our neighboring West Indies, corrupt European government.

My experiences among them were of Opportunity, Faith and Gratitude.

Opportunity came first; from General Miles, from his Chief Medical Officer Colonel Greenleaf, from the Puerto Rican Red Cross, from officers who brought their men to our wards and from those officers who themselves took advantage of our nursing. This they did because of their belief in The Red Cross that gigantic dynamo for faith and service. I have a letter written in some very small remote place saying " I am the mother of an army packer. I read every day about soldiers. Nobody speaks about the packers. Miss Chanler I know you will find my son if he is near where you are because I see you belong to the Red Cross." Such faith as this raising any situation above the capacities of an individual brought me the strength I needed in unusual surroundings.

And then there was gratitude. I see weak men helped through doors by their friends trying to express

relief at finding rest and care. I see, some days later strong men pouring out gratitude because they were leaving us for their regiments. That is what the Army Nurse does. She shortens the time spent on sick leave. The lowest hour in Army hospitals is that which includes the time for reporting for duty.

Gratitude felt by soldiers returning to service may well be perpetuated in gold by their Government.

Today the gratitude is mine. I am happy to have lived so long that I may say: Government has not forgotten. Government does not forget. Government remembers.

[PRIVATE—No. 644—75TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 552—3D SESSION]

[S. 3917]

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Approved, June 29, 1938.

STATEMENTS FILE

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
MADE AT HYDE PARK? DECEMBER 17, 1939,³⁰
IN PRESENTING A MEDAL AWARDED TO MRS. RICHARD ALDRICH
BY THE CONGRESS *At 10, de 12 de*

This is not an ordinary ~~service~~ medal, which, when
~~presented to people who have taken part in campaigns,~~
~~is sent by mail by the War Department.~~ This is a
Congressional Medal and it is given ^{on the} by ^{an} Act of Congress
which I think it would be ^{appropriate} ~~best~~ to read:

Copy

In pursuance of that Act, the medal has been struck
by the Mint after I ² have received six designs, and it is
this particular one which I hope very much that ~~the~~
^{I chose and which}
^{Mrs. Aldrich} ~~she~~ will like.

You see, I go back to the Spanish American War. I
tried to enlist but was taken with an attack of the mumps
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all of us, is the amazing progress which has been made in
nursing since those earlier days. And I think, ^{In view}
of) what you went through down there, first to get to the
South and then across to Puerto Rico, ~~the~~ the almost

complete lack of facilities you found ~~in~~

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