

Statement by President Lyndon B. Johnson
Filmed for Presentation at the Yeshiva University
Distinguished Science Award Dinner
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City
May 24, 1964

I'm delighted to be able in this way to join you in the tribute to my friend General Sarnoff.

It has been said that the greatest use of a lifetime is to spend it for something that outlasts it. By that standard, General Sarnoff has already more than earned the award that you present to him tonight. Few people have contributed more to our beloved America. He is responsible for major expansions on the horizons of knowledge. He has brought the benefits of science and technology to all the people. He has devoted himself with a singleness of purpose to the advancement of scientific thought and the advancement of scientific talent to national problems.

No one better illustrates the genius of America. His life, from immigrant boy to industrial statesman, is an inspiring record. The establishment of a new science center for Yeshiva University is a fitting occasion for the presentation of the Distinguished Science Award to General Sarnoff.

George Washington once wrote, "if I have a wish ungratified, it is that the arts and sciences may continue to flourish with increasing luster." That same wish seems to be the basis for this project. We need more scientists. We must have more science teachers. Our very future depends upon more scientific research. The Graduate School of Science, which the new science center will house, therefor is directly responsible to the wish of the first President -- and to the wishes of your current President.

I understand that Scott Carpenter is with you this evening. On this, the second anniversary of Scott's flight, it is particularly appropriate, I think, that General Sarnoff be honored for refusing to be bound by existing frontiers of science, that a new science center be established to enlarge our scientific resources, and that we be rededicated to the principles of courage in scientific inquiry represented by Scott Carpenter's flight two years ago and General Sarnoff's record of a lifetime.

As a holder of a degree from Yeshiva, it gives me great pride and satisfaction to participate in this tribute to my old and dear friend David Sarnoff.
