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16	7	2/26/1872	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal	Letter	From: Neva Service To: Helene Drown RE: The Presidential Medal of Freedom for Charles LeRoy Lowman, M.D.. 3 pgs.

1026 S. Larch Street
Inglewood, California 90301
February 26, 1972

Mrs. Jack Drown
1 Crest Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, California 90274

Dear Mrs. Drown:

I have been prompted by the recent news story of Feb. 21 in the Los Angeles Times regarding the close friendship which you and Mr. Drown have enjoyed for years with President and Mrs. Nixon, to write to you at this time.

For some time, I have been acting as correspondent for a group of educators, who were later joined by medical and paramedical organizations; also by members of certain business men's service clubs, all interested in gaining Presidential recognition of Charles LeRoy Lowman, M.D., for whom we seek Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Lowman, now 92, is the very-active founder of Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles (2400 S. Flower Street), an institution which has developed into an outstanding Medical Center for the Handicapped -- starting from a meagre clinic, set up with a mere \$500 in cash, and staffed by a handful of volunteer women from Dr. Lowman's Church-Guild. His achievements have been phenomenal in regard to his influence in the field of orthopaedic practice; also in that of education; but we see his most-unusual humanitarian qualities as perhaps topping both. His prominence in all regards has been noticed all across the Nation; not only in the Southern California Community; and satellite-clinics, starting as Dr. Lowman's first clinic (volunteers and a shoe-string budget) have been inspired in Argentina, and on the U. S. - Mexico border (Calexico - Mexicali). Children from the latter-area are transported by plane -- private Flying Club -- to Orthopaedic Hospital when surgical procedures are required. The basis for care has always been that of an idealist: care for the whole-child or person who is in need of orthopaedic care, regardless of race, creed, color or ability to pay for such services. The need is always great, and Dr. Lowman has never ceased giving freely of his time and energies --- early in his career he guided his activities solely in the direction of following his idealistic dream of serving humanity with his special skills, thus passing up what could have been a very lucrative private practice.

Over quite a period of time, we have been able to build up a file on Dr. Lowman which is being held in Washington in the office of one of President Nixon's aides -- but in spite of correspondence from the White House, we are yet uncertain as to whether or not President Nixon has ever been advised of its contents, and of the diversified representation in numerous, forwarded endorsements of our request for his consideration of our candidate. We do know however, that Dr. Lowman has been approved for this highest of civilian honors, and that his name has been placed on a long list of candidates awaiting selection. Hopefully, the President may soon wish to recognize one or more medical doctors.

With Mrs. Nixon's obvious interest in volunteer programs for the handicapped I wrote to her under date of December 28th, to inform her of the membership of the now-very-large group of citizens scattered all over the Nation, eager to promote the candidacy of Dr. Lowman. The timing of my letter proved to be poor, but I did receive a warm response from Mrs. Gwen King, Director of Correspondence for Mrs. Nixon (under date of 1/7/72), stating that she would be happy to tell Mrs. Nixon of our interest, upon her return from Africa. We were further encouraged by her adding: "In the meantime, I am forwarding it (letter) to the official on the President's staff directly involved in matters of this nature." It is our hope naturally, that Mrs. Nixon may wish to place before the President, the qualifications of Dr. Lowman, and be the means of assurance that such has been done. If only we may know for certain that we have reached President Nixon personally with this request, we will truly be grateful.

Politics should not enter into the granting of such awards, but as a volunteer who has been working with Victory Squads for the Republican Party, and in an election year in particular, my mind turns to the possibilities for votes from members of the groups I presently represent in this effort for Dr. Lowman. In the Los Angeles area, I am fully aware of the large, general registration of Democrats. I suspect that our own group consists of more Democrats *than* Republicans, and I am aware of the fact that some of these Democrats are quite disenchanted with the present list of Democratic hopefuls in regard to the Presidency. Two such, whom I know well have stated that they would vote for President Nixon if only he would recognize

our candidate amused, I commented that they were now showing rare good-judgment. They could be serious.

Dr. Lowman has lived most of his years in California, but is a native of the State of Illinois where he is greatly-respected, and entertained whenever he visits. The memberships of the many medical and professional groups in which he holds membership (several Orthopaedic Medical Associations in particular are backing our request) total many thousands. The Los Angeles County Medical Association alone, which named Dr. Lowman "Doctor of the Century" during their Centennial year in 1971, claims 10,000 members. In late-January, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (selective) convened in Washington, D.C., with 7600 registrants in attendance. These are but two.

Special recognition, in acknowledgement of 50 years of membership, is planned for Dr. Lowman when he attends the Annual Convention of the American Orthopaedic Association to be held in Bermuda, June 26 to June 29. That group of his peers long ago added its endorsement of Dr. Lowman's candidacy for Presidential recognition. If such is to be forthcoming, it is now our hope that it might be granted to him at a time close to those dates -- just prior to the start of the meetings were it to be planned for a Washington presentation. Of course, we would love to have such take place in San Clemente, at an earlier date if possible.

Would you and Mr. Brown feel that you could mention this matter to either President Nixon or Mrs. Nixon; possibly both? There is always the chance of a lapse in communication between such busy people as are in the White House. Attorney General John N. Mitchell might be interested also, when he turns to the running of President Nixon's reelection campaign. I am serious in my belief that to overlook Dr. Lowman now, in regard to this honor, might lose some otherwise-forthcoming Nixon votes. This would appear to be a most-propitious time to recognize a great humanitarian; while the thinking of many is in terms of world as well as national relationships.

Sincerely yours,

Neva Service

(Miss) Neva Service

NS: ss

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