

The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “Interagency Task Force on Indochina Refugees - Award for Julia Taft - February 18-26, 1976” of the White House Special Files Unit Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ITEM TRANSFER REFERENCE FORM

The item described below has been removed.

m New File Location: audiovisual collection

Document Description: 8 x 10 b & w glossie of Julia Taft

Old File Location: Special Files, Issue Papers for the President
Interagency Task Force, Award for Julia Taft

By PhC Date 4/13/84



I called Ted Marrs office to find out where original letter to President was --- he has it --- he received it by hand from HEW --- I told him that it should have come thru channels (nobody knew where it was).

He will send to me --- I did not tell him about the approval -- as I do not think we can consider this final until it is staffed out to find --- if in fact Julia Taft ~~✓~~ can be given this award.

Trudy Fry 2/25/76



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

February 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the
President's Award for Distinguished Federal
Civilian Service

Mrs. Julia Vadala Taft served from May 1975 through December 1975 as Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees. As a result of her outstanding abilities, this program has been concluded with the successful resettlement into American society of 130,000 Indochina refugees. The demands of this Presidentially mandated mission and the challenging complexity of the resettlement process have been superbly managed and successfully resolved by this highly dedicated and talented young woman. The attached documentation outlines her specific accomplishments.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of our nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.

Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State

David Mathews
Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare

Attachment

Julia Vadala Taft

A. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

1. Date and Place of Birth

July 27, 1942
New York, New York

2. Educational Background

University of Colorado - B.A. 1964
Political Science (Cited for Superior Scholarship)

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3. Federal Employment Background

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May 1975 - December 1975

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September 1970 - September 1971

4. Appointment Status

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Development
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Secretarial Appointment
Non-career (Schedule C)
GS-17

B. PROPOSED CITATION

For her exceptional performance as Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees.

Mrs. Taft's leadership of the Indochina Refugee Resettlement Program has been an outstanding example of dedication to public service and sensitivity to human needs. Her ability to inspire cooperation and to motivate public and private institutions to initiate and successfully complete an important and complex humanitarian endeavor reflect the highest ideals of the United States.



C. NARRATIVE STATEMENT

1. Description of Accomplishment and Outstanding Achievement

The emergency migration to the United States of over 140,000 Indochinese refugees in a period of only a few months is unprecedented in United States history. That the cultural and religious heritage of these refugees is substantially different from our own heritage added to the difficulty of absorbing these people. Furthermore, the political and economic climate in the United States at the time of their exodus from Southeast Asia dampened the enthusiasm with which these unfortunate refugees might otherwise have been welcomed by the American people. Without question, the United States has never in so short a period of time engaged in a refugee resettlement of such size and complexity as the Indochinese refugee resettlement program.

As of December 20, 1975, all Indochinese refugees who were in U.S. reception centers had been resettled into American society. The remarkable success of this resettlement is due substantially to the perseverance, leadership, initiative and unremitting energy of Julia Vadala Taft.

Mrs. Taft provided skillful oversight and policy direction in the organization of the reception centers and the effective and humane processing of the refugees through these centers. In numerous public appearances she reminded Americans of their own immigrant and refugee heritage and achieved significant public support for this program. Her accessibility to the press and her honest and forthright response to criticism in the media provided for this effort a degree of public credibility which is unusual for a Federal program.

The effectiveness and success of the Indochina refugee resettlement program has been dependent upon the active participation of numerous public and private American institutions. Mrs. Taft's outstanding ability has been to successfully achieve the participation, cooperation and active interest of these institutions.

Throughout the entire resettlement process, Mrs. Taft's leadership, high standards, humanitarian concerns, and ability to inspire the cooperation of diverse public and private interests on behalf of this complex endeavor have been in the finest tradition of public service.

The number and diversity of the organizations whose participation Mrs. Taft successfully obtained and effectively coordinated on behalf of this program is extraordinary -- the four United States military services, 12 Federal departments and agencies, 15 Voluntary resettlement agencies, State and local governments and agencies of the United Nations. In addition, there was daily contact with and frequent presentation of legislative and oversight testimony to the Congress of the United States.

Mrs. Taft's ability to coordinate the diverse interests of these groups and to achieve harmony in working toward the specific goal of effective refugee resettlement has been exceptional. Her performance in achieving this cooperation has been equally remarkable since she has received the highest praise for her abilities from her colleagues within these organizations. This is high praise indeed, since the possibility of failing in such a multi-institutional endeavor has been historically greater than the possibility of succeeding.

Mrs. Taft's leadership, persistence and ability to inspire cooperation among diverse organizations have, without question, been the catalytic force behind the success of this program.

2. Additional Details

As Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees, Mrs. Taft has had the unique and substantial responsibility for coordinating the activities of 12 Federal departments and agencies and 15 Voluntary resettlement agencies, and for establishing policy and guidance on all aspects of the refugee resettlement program.

Some of her specific duties were:

1. Operational responsibility for staging areas at Guam and Wake Island and for the four refugee reception centers in the United States. These centers were located at Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania.

2. The reception into these centers of over 140,000 Indochinese refugees.

3. The organization and coordination of health, social security, immigration status and security check procedures, as well as organizing education, acculturation and broad counselling programs.

4. Provision of testimony to the Congress which led to the enactment of "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975" authorizing the refugee program. This act was signed by the President on May 24, 1975.

5. The negotiation of contracts with voluntary resettlement agencies. The work of these agencies has been critical in arranging sponsors and resettlement for the refugees.

6. Negotiations with interested State and local governments for special resettlement programs in their communities.

7. Organization of special programs with private American business organizations to provide jobs and housing for refugees.

8. The establishment of guidelines for the States which explain the nature of Federal government financial support in the fields of health and medical services, education, and welfare services.

9. The special attention and planning which was required for nearly 2,000 evacuees who preferred repatriation to their homeland.

10. The phase down and closure of the reception centers with transfer of on-going responsibilities to the Department of State and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The principal tangible benefit of this program was the effective and humane resettlement into American society of the Indochina refugees. It is becoming increasingly apparent that they too will make substantial contributions to their communities and to the nation just as other refugee populations have. A further tangible benefit to the Government is the effectiveness with which the program was managed. Despite the chaotic conditions under which this program began, it has been concluded after only nine months. In addition, \$25 million of unexpended appropriated funds have been earmarked for transfer to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to supplement the refugee social services activities which are now the responsibility of the HEW Refugee Task Force, and approximately \$27 million will be available for further refugee operations or will be returned to the United States Treasury. The successful completion of a Federal program and the potential return of substantial appropriated monies to the Treasury is a rare, if not unparalleled program conclusion in the recent annals of Federal program management.

The most significant intangible benefit of this program is that it has shown that the institutions of the Federal Government do work; they work together creatively, they work in the public interest, and they work effectively with State governments and private institutions. If the effects of this program have served in part to modify the apprehension with which the American public has come to regard its public and private institutions in recent years, this is a significant intangible benefit indeed.

D. OTHER SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

1. Secretary's Special Citation - 1973
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
2. Nominated by the Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare for the 1976 Arthur S. Flemming Award
for the Ten Outstanding Young Men and Women in
the Federal Government



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

February 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the
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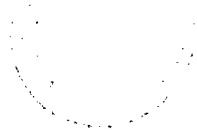
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Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State

David Mathews
Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: February 26, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

- Phil Buchen
- Jim Cannon
- Bob Hartmann

cc (for information):

- ✓ Douglas P. Bennett*
- Jim Lynn
- Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, ~~February~~ March 1

Time: 10 A.M.

SUBJECT:

Memorandum from Secretary Kissinger &
 Secretary Mathews re: Nomination of Julia
 Vadala Taft ~~for~~ distinguished Federal
 Civilian Service

ACTION REQUESTED:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks |

REMARKS:

Hartmann - see comments
Bennett - enclose wholeheartedly ✓
Buchen - concurs
Marsh -



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James E. Connor
 For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN
JACK MARSH
From Ted Sperry

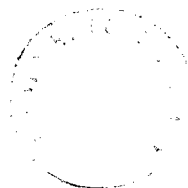
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She earned an award at this level for the unique accomplishments of doing this job with a minimum of adverse publicity or Congressional complication.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE



Enclosures



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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

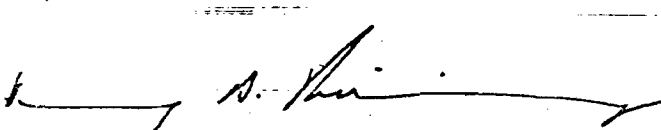
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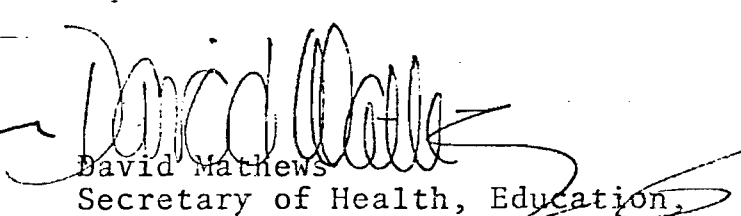
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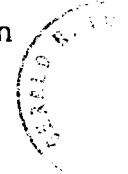
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4. Provision of testimony to the Congress which led to the enactment of "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975" authorizing the refugee program. This act was signed by the President on May 24, 1975.
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Yes - endorse
wholeheartedly.



Date: February 26, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Phil Buchen Douglas P. Bennett
 Jim Cannon Jim Lynn
 Bob Hartmann Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, March 1 Time: 10 A.M.

SUBJECT:

Memorandum from Secretary Kissinger &
 Secretary Mathews re: Nomination of Julia
 Vadala Taft for Distinguished Federal
 Civilian Service

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:



Dang
 Date: _____
 By: _____
 Title: _____
 Return To: _____
 Date: 2/27/76

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 For the President

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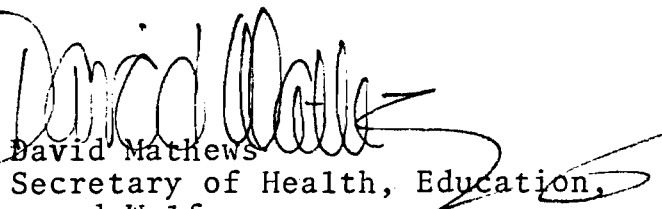
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the Federal Government

Date: February 26, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Phil Buchen	Douglas P. Bennett
Jim Cannon	Jim Lynn
Bob Hartmann	Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, March 1 **Time:** 10 A. M.

SUBJECT:

Memorandum from Secretary Kissinger &
Secretary Mathews re: Nomination of Julia
Vadala Taft for Distinguished Federal
Civilian Service

ACTION REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a
delay in submitting the required material, please
telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.


James E. Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN
JACK MARSH
From Jack Marsh

SUBJECT: JULIA TAFT PROPOSED AWARD

I would like to arrange an awards ceremony with representatives from the inter-departmental task force and the members of the White House Staff who supported Julia in this effort.

She earned an award at this level for the unique accomplishments of doing this job with a minimum of adverse publicity or Congressional complication.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Enclosures



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201


February 18, 1976

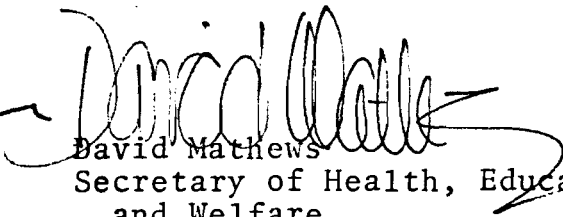
MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the
President's Award for Distinguished Federal
Civilian Service

Mrs. Julia Vadala Taft served from May 1975 through December 1975 as Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees. As a result of her outstanding abilities, this program has been concluded with the successful resettlement into American society of 130,000 Indochina refugees. The demands of this Presidentially mandated mission and the challenging complexity of the resettlement process have been superbly managed and successfully resolved by this highly dedicated and talented young woman. The attached documentation outlines her specific accomplishments.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of our nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.


Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State


David Mathews
Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare

Attachment

Julia Vadala Taft

A. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

1. Date and Place of Birth

July 27, 1942
New York, New York

2. Educational Background

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3. Federal Employment Background

Director, Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees
May 1975 - December 1975

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Development
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
August 1973 - Present

Deputy Director (Health)
Cabinet Committee on Human Resources
March 1973 - June 1973

Special Assistant to the Secretary for External Affairs
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
September 1971 - September 1973

White House Fellow
Office of the Vice President
September 1970 - September 1971

4. Appointment Status

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Development
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Secretarial Appointment
Non-career (Schedule C)
GS-17

B. PROPOSED CITATION

For her exceptional performance as Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees.

Mrs. Taft's leadership of the Indochina Refugee Resettlement Program has been an outstanding example of dedication to public service and sensitivity to human needs. Her ability to inspire cooperation and to motivate public and private institutions to initiate and successfully complete an important and complex humanitarian endeavor reflect the highest ideals of the United States.

C. NARRATIVE STATEMENT

1. Description of Accomplishment and Outstanding Achievement

The emergency migration to the United States of over 140,000 Indochinese refugees in a period of only a few months is unprecedented in United States history. That the cultural and religious heritage of these refugees is substantially different from our own heritage added to the difficulty of absorbing these people. Furthermore, the political and economic climate in the United States at the time of their exodus from Southeast Asia dampened the enthusiasm with which these unfortunate refugees might otherwise have been welcomed by the American people. Without question, the United States has never in so short a period of time engaged in a refugee resettlement of such size and complexity as the Indochinese refugee resettlement program.

As of December 20, 1975, all Indochinese refugees who were in U.S. reception centers had been resettled into American society. The remarkable success of this resettlement is due substantially to the perseverance, leadership, initiative and unremitting energy of Julia Vadala Taft.

Mrs. Taft provided skillful oversight and policy direction in the organization of the reception centers and the effective and humane processing of the refugees through these centers. In numerous public appearances she reminded Americans of their own immigrant and refugee heritage and achieved significant public support for this program. Her accessibility to the press and her honest and forthright response to criticism in the media provided for this effort a degree of public credibility which is unusual for a Federal program.

The effectiveness and success of the Indochina refugee resettlement program has been dependent upon the active participation of numerous public and private American institutions. Mrs. Taft's outstanding ability has been to successfully achieve the participation, cooperation and active interest of these institutions.

Throughout the entire resettlement process, Mrs. Taft's leadership, high standards, humanitarian concerns, and ability to inspire the cooperation of diverse public and private interests on behalf of this complex endeavor have been in the finest tradition of public service.

The number and diversity of the organizations whose participation Mrs. Taft successfully obtained and effectively coordinated on behalf of this program is extraordinary -- the four United States military services, 12 Federal departments and agencies, 15 Voluntary resettlement agencies, State and local governments and agencies of the United Nations. In addition, there was daily contact with and frequent presentation of legislative and oversight testimony to the Congress of the United States.

Mrs. Taft's ability to coordinate the diverse interests of these groups and to achieve harmony in working toward the specific goal of effective refugee resettlement has been exceptional. Her performance in achieving this cooperation has been equally remarkable since she has received the highest praise for her abilities from her colleagues within these organizations. This is high praise indeed, since the possibility of failing in such a multi-institutional endeavor has been historically greater than the possibility of succeeding.

Mrs. Taft's leadership, persistence and ability to inspire cooperation among diverse organizations have, without question, been the catalytic force behind the success of this program.

2. Additional Details

As Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees, Mrs. Taft has had the unique and substantial responsibility for coordinating the activities of 12 Federal departments and agencies and 15 Voluntary resettlement agencies, and for establishing policy and guidance on all aspects of the refugee resettlement program.

Some of her specific duties were:

1. Operational responsibility for staging areas at Guam and Wake Island and for the four refugee reception centers in the United States. These centers were located at Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and Indianatown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania.
2. The reception into these centers of over 140,000 Indochinese refugees.
3. The organization and coordination of health, social security, immigration status and security check procedures, as well as organizing education, acculturation and broad counselling programs.
4. Provision of testimony to the Congress which led to the enactment of "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975" authorizing the refugee program. This act was signed by the President on May 24, 1975.
5. The negotiation of contracts with voluntary resettlement agencies. The work of these agencies has been critical in arranging sponsors and resettlement for the refugees.
6. Negotiations with interested State and local governments for special resettlement programs in their communities.
7. Organization of special programs with private American business organizations to provide jobs and housing for refugees.
8. The establishment of guidelines for the States which explain the nature of Federal government financial support in the fields of health and medical services, education, and welfare services.
9. The special attention and planning which was required for nearly 2,000 evacuees who preferred repatriation to their homeland.
10. The phase down and closure of the reception centers with transfer of on-going responsibilities to the Department of State and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The principal tangible benefit of this program was the effective and humane resettlement into American society of the Indochina refugees. It is becoming increasingly apparent that they too will make substantial contributions to their communities and to the nation just as other refugee populations have. A further tangible benefit to the Government is the effectiveness with which the program was managed. Despite the chaotic conditions under which this program began, it has been concluded after only nine months. In addition, \$25 million of unexpended appropriated funds have been earmarked for transfer to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to supplement the refugee social services activities which are now the responsibility of the HEW Refugee Task Force, and approximately \$27 million will be available for further refugee operations or will be returned to the United States Treasury. The successful completion of a Federal program and the potential return of substantial appropriated monies to the Treasury is a rare, if not unparalleled program conclusion in the recent annals of Federal program management.

The most significant intangible benefit of this program is that it has shown that the institutions of the Federal Government do work; they work together creatively, they work in the public interest, and they work effectively with State governments and private institutions. If the effects of this program have served in part to modify the apprehension with which the American public has come to regard its public and private institutions in recent years, this is a significant intangible benefit indeed.

D. OTHER SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

1. Secretary's Special Citation - 1973
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
2. Nominated by the Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare for the 1976 Arthur S. Flemming Award
for the Ten Outstanding Young Men and Women in
the Federal Government

due Mon 3/1/76
FEB 26 1976

Date: February 26, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Phil Buchen

Douglas P. Bennett

Jim Cannon

Jim Lynn

Bob Hartmann

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, March 1 Time: 10 A. M.

SUBJECT:

Memorandum from Secretary Kissinger & Secretary Mathews re: Nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

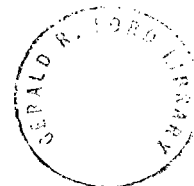
For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks



REMARKS:

Don't this award the same as one previously suggested for which she is ineligible not being a career civilian

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[Signature]
James E. Connor
For the President

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February 19, 1976

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JACK MARSH
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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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February 18, 1976

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GS-17

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Date: February 26, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

- Phil Buchen Douglas P. Bennett
- Jim Cannon Jim Lynn
- Bob Hartmann Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, March 1 Time: 10 A.M.

SUBJECT: *2/26 - 4:30 pm*

Memorandum from Secretary Kissinger & Secretary Mathews re: Nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service



ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Mr. Taft is worthy BUT terminal of memories of the Viet Nam War is not desirable at this time

RFH

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For the President

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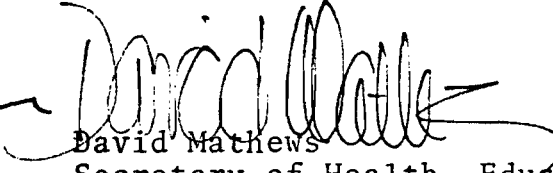
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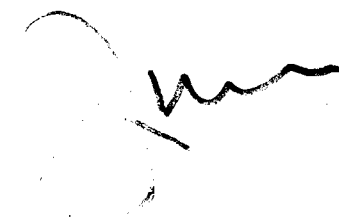
For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:


No objections. Concur --

Spence Johnson

Excellent idea


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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

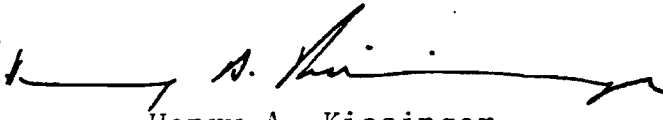
February 18, 1976

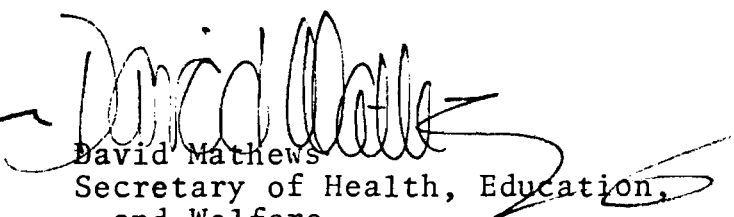
MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the
President's Award for Distinguished Federal
Civilian Service

Mrs. Julia Vadala Taft served from May 1975 through December 1975 as Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees. As a result of her outstanding abilities, this program has been concluded with the successful resettlement into American society of 130,000 Indochina refugees. The demands of this Presidentially mandated mission and the challenging complexity of the resettlement process have been superbly managed and successfully resolved by this highly dedicated and talented young woman. The attached documentation outlines her specific accomplishments.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of our nomination of Julia Vadala Taft for the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.


Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State


David Mathews
Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare

Attachment

Julia Vadała Taft

A. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

1. Date and Place of Birth

July 27, 1942
New York, New York

2. Educational Background

University of Colorado - B.A. 1964
Political Science (Cited for Superior Scholarship)

University of Colorado - M.A. 1969
Political Science (International Politics)

3. Federal Employment Background

Director, Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees
May 1975 - December 1975

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Development
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
August 1973 - Present

Deputy Director (Health)
Cabinet Committee on Human Resources
March 1973 - June 1973

Special Assistant to the Secretary for External Affairs
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
September 1971 - September 1973

White House Fellow
Office of the Vice President
September 1970 - September 1971

4. Appointment Status

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Development
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Secretarial Appointment
Non-career (Schedule C)
GS-17

B. PROPOSED CITATION

For her exceptional performance as Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees.

Mrs. Taft's leadership of the Indochina Refugee Resettlement Program has been an outstanding example of dedication to public service and sensitivity to human needs. Her ability to inspire cooperation and to motivate public and private institutions to initiate and successfully complete an important and complex humanitarian endeavor reflect the highest ideals of the United States.

C. NARRATIVE STATEMENT

1. Description of Accomplishment and Outstanding Achievement

The emergency migration to the United States of over 140,000 Indochinese refugees in a period of only a few months is unprecedented in United States history. That the cultural and religious heritage of these refugees is substantially different from our own heritage added to the difficulty of absorbing these people. Furthermore, the political and economic climate in the United States at the time of their exodus from Southeast Asia dampened the enthusiasm with which these unfortunate refugees might otherwise have been welcomed by the American people. Without question, the United States has never in so short a period of time engaged in a refugee resettlement of such size and complexity as the Indochinese refugee resettlement program.

As of December 20, 1975, all Indochinese refugees who were in U.S. reception centers had been resettled into American society. The remarkable success of this resettlement is due substantially to the perseverance, leadership, initiative and unremitting energy of Julia Vadala Taft.

Mrs. Taft provided skillful oversight and policy direction in the organization of the reception centers and the effective and humane processing of the refugees through these centers. In numerous public appearances she reminded Americans of their own immigrant and refugee heritage and achieved significant public support for this program. Her accessibility to the press and her honest and forthright response to criticism in the media provided for this effort a degree of public credibility which is unusual for a Federal program.

The effectiveness and success of the Indochina refugee resettlement program has been dependent upon the active participation of numerous public and private American institutions. Mrs. Taft's outstanding ability has been to successfully achieve the participation, cooperation and active interest of these institutions.

Throughout the entire resettlement process, Mrs. Taft's leadership, high standards, humanitarian concerns, and ability to inspire the cooperation of diverse public and private interests on behalf of this complex endeavor have been in the finest tradition of public service.

The number and diversity of the organizations whose participation Mrs. Taft successfully obtained and effectively coordinated on behalf of this program is extraordinary -- the four United States military services, 12 Federal departments and agencies, 15 Voluntary resettlement agencies, State and local governments and agencies of the United Nations. In addition, there was daily contact with and frequent presentation of legislative and oversight testimony to the Congress of the United States.

Mrs. Taft's ability to coordinate the diverse interests of these groups and to achieve harmony in working toward the specific goal of effective refugee resettlement has been exceptional. Her performance in achieving this cooperation has been equally remarkable since she has received the highest praise for her abilities from her colleagues within these organizations. This is high praise indeed, since the possibility of failing in such a multi-institutional endeavor has been historically greater than the possibility of succeeding.

Mrs. Taft's leadership, persistence and ability to inspire cooperation among diverse organizations have, without question, been the catalytic force behind the success of this program.

2. Additional Details

As Director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees, Mrs. Taft has had the unique and substantial responsibility for coordinating the activities of 12 Federal departments and agencies and 15 Voluntary resettlement agencies, and for establishing policy and guidance on all aspects of the refugee resettlement program.

Some of her specific duties were:

1. Operational responsibility for staging areas at Guam and Wake Island and for the four refugee reception centers in the United States. These centers were located at Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and Indianatown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania.
2. The reception into these centers of over 140,000 Indochinese refugees.
3. The organization and coordination of health, social security, immigration status and security check procedures, as well as organizing education, acculturation and broad counselling programs.
4. Provision of testimony to the Congress which led to the enactment of "The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975" authorizing the refugee program. This act was signed by the President on May 24, 1975.
5. The negotiation of contracts with voluntary resettlement agencies. The work of these agencies has been critical in arranging sponsors and resettlement for the refugees.
6. Negotiations with interested State and local governments for special resettlement programs in their communities.
7. Organization of special programs with private American business organizations to provide jobs and housing for refugees.
8. The establishment of guidelines for the States which explain the nature of Federal government financial support in the fields of health and medical services, education, and welfare services.
9. The special attention and planning which was required for nearly 2,000 evacuees who preferred repatriation to their homeland.
10. The phase down and closure of the reception centers with transfer of on-going responsibilities to the Department of State and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The principal tangible benefit of this program was the effective and humane resettlement into American society of the Indochina refugees. It is becoming increasingly apparent that they too will make substantial contributions to their communities and to the nation just as other refugee populations have. A further tangible benefit to the Government is the effectiveness with which the program was managed. Despite the chaotic conditions under which this program began, it has been concluded after only nine months. In addition, \$25 million of unexpended appropriated funds have been earmarked for transfer to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to supplement the refugee social services activities which are now the responsibility of the HEW Refugee Task Force, and approximately \$27 million will be available for further refugee operations or will be returned to the United States Treasury. The successful completion of a Federal program and the potential return of substantial appropriated monies to the Treasury is a rare, if not unparalleled program conclusion in the recent annals of Federal program management.

The most significant intangible benefit of this program is that it has shown that the institutions of the Federal Government do work; they work together creatively, they work in the public interest, and they work effectively with State governments and private institutions. If the effects of this program have served in part to modify the apprehension with which the American public has come to regard its public and private institutions in recent years, this is a significant intangible benefit indeed.

D. OTHER SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

1. Secretary's Special Citation - 1973
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
2. Nominated by the Secretary of Health, Education,
and Welfare for the 1976 Arthur S. Flemming Award
for the Ten Outstanding Young Men and Women in
the Federal Government

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: February 26, 1976

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Phil Buchen

Douglas P. Bennett

Jim Cannon

Jim Lynn

Bob Hartmann

Jack Marsh

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date:

Monday,

March 1

Time:

10 A. M.

SUBJECT:

Memorandum from Secretary Kissinger &
Secretary Mathews re: Nomination of Julia
Vadala Taft for Distinguished Federal
Civilian Service

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks


REMARKS:

Counsel's Office concurs in the recommendation.

Ken Lazarus for Phil Buchen 3/1/76

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.


James E. Connor
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN
JACK MARSH
From Jack Marsh

SUBJECT: JULIA TAFT PROPOSED AWARD

I would like to arrange an awards ceremony with representatives from the inter-departmental task force and the members of the White House Staff who supported Julia in this effort.

She earned an award at this level for the unique accomplishments of doing this job with a minimum of adverse publicity or Congressional complication.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Enclosures



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201


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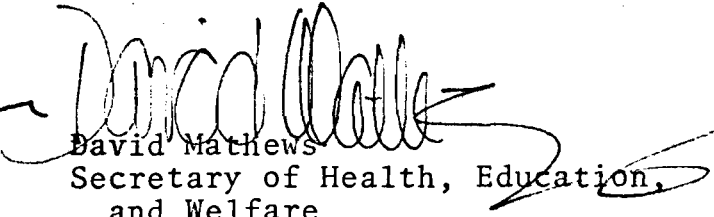
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