

PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS - SUBJECT FILE

MEDALS - AMELIA EARHART PUTNAM, JUNE-JULY 1932

31-hhp2-sub-b227-f02

TELEPHONE  
RECATUR 4400

CABLE ADDRESS  
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT

June 2, 1932

The President

The White House

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the members of the National Geographic Society,  
I respectfully invite you to present to Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam a  
Special Gold Medal which the Board of Trustees of the National  
Geographic Society have unanimously voted her, in recognition of her  
flights across the Atlantic and her many years of service in promoting  
aviation.

*(Tuesday, June 21) 8:30 or in afternoon (Prefer Evening)*  
On ~~Friday evening, June 17~~, at 8:30 o'clock, The Society  
will give a reception for Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam in Constitution Hall  
of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The ceremonies will be  
very brief.

The fact that you have kindly honored the National Geographic  
Society on previous occasions encourages us to hope that you and  
Mrs. Hoover would again honor the membership by your presence and make  
the presentation at this reception.

Very respectfully,

*Gilbert Grosvenor*  
*Before or after ceremony*

MR. MELVILLE BELL GROSVENOR

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF ILLUSTRATIONS DIVISION  
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE  
WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

TELEPHONE  
DECATUR 4400

CABLE ADDRESS  
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT

June 6, 1932

*File -  
Approved by  
plum  
J. G. J.*

Honorable Theodore G. Joslin,  
Secretary to The President  
The White House

Dear Mr. Joslin:

*257*

Have I your permission to release to the  
press associations the enclosed statement? Of course we will revise  
it in any way that you desire.

*June 21*

Following this release, special stories of the  
presentation by President Hoover will be prepared and given to the  
six hundred and more daily newspapers, etc., to which the National  
Geographic Society regularly supplies material at the request of these  
newspapers.

Deeply appreciating your cooperation, I am

Yours sincerely,

*Gilbert Grosvenor*

enclosure

*P.P. 7,  
1862*

Memorandum Regarding Presentation of Geographic Medal to Mrs. Putnam

On behalf of the National Geographic Society President Hoover will present Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam with The Society's Special Gold Medal for her solo flight across the Atlantic at Constitution Hall Tuesday evening, June 21.

Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society, will preside and, following the presentation of the medal by The President of the United States, Mrs. Putnam will relate to Geographic Society members the vivid narrative of her noteworthy flight.

The medal presented to Mrs. Putnam will be the sixteenth presented by The Society for unusual geographic achievements since the first presentation, in 1906, of a medal to Peary for his Arctic explorations. Presentation of that medal was made by President Roosevelt.

Other recipients of Geographic Medals include Sir Ernest H. Shackleton, for his Antarctic discoveries, which presentation was made by President Taft; Colonel Goethals, of Panama Canal fame, presentation by President Wilson; Colonel Lindbergh, for his transatlantic flight, presentation by President Coolidge; and Rear-Admiral Byrd, who received one of The Society's medals for his flight to the North Pole from the hands of President Coolidge, and another for his Antarctic explorations and flight to the South Pole, which presentation was made by President Hoover.

Mrs. Putnam's account of her aerial voyage will add another name to the noteworthy roll of explorers, scientists and world travelers who have appeared before The Society's members or written for The Society first accounts of their findings and discoveries — such as Amundsen, de Pinedo, Eckener, Dargue, Kingsford-Smith, Ross Smith, Macready and Cobham, and, among statesmen, Taft, Roosevelt, Bryce, Coolidge, Curzon, Jusserand, and also, among naturalists

and scientists, Alexander Graham Bell, Langley, Beebe, Morley, Shiras, Griggs, Andrews, Rock, Murphy and Wetmore.

The National Geographic Society has been outstanding in its attention to the rapid progress of aeronautics, beginning with publication in 1903 with an article by its former president, Alexander Graham Bell, on "Tetrahedral Kites," which article foreshadowed aviation's practical application to exploration, travel, and commerce.

Since that year The Geographic has published 62 articles on practical flight. Articles by Lindbergh, Byrd, Ross Smith, Cobham, Eckener, Macready, Dargue, Street, and Stevens have marked practical milestones in progress of aviation and, latterly it has been a pioneer in utilizing the airplane in exploration and in aerial photography. In 1930 it published the first successful color photographs taken from the air; and it also published the first aerial photograph, which attracted world scientific interest, showing the curvature of the earth.

TELEPHONE  
DECATUR 4400

CABLE ADDRESS  
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT

*Aug 6/10/32*

*357*  
*Putnam*

June 13, 1932

Honorable Theodore G. Joslin,  
Secretary to The President  
The White House

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In regard to the arrival of Miss Amelia Earhart in Washington on the morning of June 21: Miss Earhart will, of course, pay her respects first to the President at the hour that you designate, and will then call upon the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Department of Commerce, these calls to be followed by other official calls.

I understand that at the request of the president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and in order that they may have available the Red Network, The President has consented to move the hour of the ceremonies up to eight o'clock, and if that be so decided I should be glad to have your confirmation.

I shall be very glad if you will advise me at your convenience at what hour you wish Miss Earhart to call at the White House. With this information, the other engagements can then be made.

With appreciation of your kind cooperation, and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Gilbert Grosvenor*

X

June 14, 1932.

Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor,  
President, National Geographic Society,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Grosvenor:

I want to thank you for your letter of June 13th regarding the arrival of Mrs. Putnam. The President has consented to the change in the hour, advancing it from eight thirty to eight o'clock. I would suggest that Mrs. Putnam call at the Executive Offices at twelve-thirty that day.

Yours most sincerely,

Theodore G. Joslin,  
Secretary to the President.

TGJ-E.

X  
July 8th, 1932.

Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam,  
2 West 45th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Putnam:

Enclosed is a copy of the Joint Resolution of Congress granting you the Distinguished Flying Cross, which was approved by the President on July 2nd, 1932.

The War Department has been requested to secure the Cross and hold it pending the arrangements for the presentation. I am sure the President would be glad to conform to your wishes should you care to come to Washington in order that he may personally present the Cross. On the other hand, if you prefer to have the presentation made on the West Coast, the President could have appropriate arrangements made by the military authorities out there, a suitable officer being designated to represent him at the ceremony.

Before taking any further steps the President desired me to find out, informally, your wishes in the matter.

Yours very sincerely,

Campbell B. Hedges,  
Lt-Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President.

J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N

\*\*\*\*\*

Authorizing the President of the United States to Present  
The Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam

\*\*\*

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That the President of the United States  
is authorized to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart  
Putnam for displaying heroic courage and skill as a navigator, at the risk  
of her life, by her non-stop flight in her plane, unnamed, from Harbor  
Grace, Newfoundland to Londonderry, Ireland, on May 20, 1932 by which she  
became the first and only woman, and the second person, to cross the  
Atlantic Ocean in a plane solo flight, and also established new records  
for speed and elapsed time between the two continents.

\*

Approved by the President July 2nd, 1932.

July 8th, 1932.

Memorandum for Colonel Adams:

Enclosed is a copy of the Joint Resolution, granting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam.

It is requested that the War Department secure the cross and hold it pending arrangements for the making of the presentation.

Campbell B. Hodges,  
Lt-Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President.

Lt-Colonel Emory S. Adams, A.G.D.,  
Room 254, State, War and Navy Bldg.,  
Washington, D. C.



# The Ambassador

LOS ANGELES

July 11, 1932.

Campbell B. Hodges,  
Lt-Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Colonel:

My wife, Amelia Earhart, has asked me to acknowledge your letter of July 8, as she herself is taking off today on a transcontinental hop.

As Miss Earhart will return to the Pacific Coast almost immediately, it might be better to arrange for the presentation of the Distinguished Flying Cross out here, if, as you graciously suggest, this meets the approval of the President. Miss Earhart expects to be available at Los Angeles between July 25 and August 10. Any date in that period which would meet the convenience of the West Coast military authorities would be satisfactory to Miss Earhart.

Kindly address her, or me, at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles.

Very truly yours,

*G. P. Putnam*

GPP:EBL

X

July 13th, 1932.

Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam,  
2 West 45th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Putnam:

The enclosed copy of a letter recently mailed to you on the West Coast explains itself. The morning newspapers bring news of your flight back to this side of the Continent, which may probably make inapplicable the suggestions contained in the enclosed letter.

However, the presentation of the Distinguished Flying Cross can be arranged in accordance with your wishes.

Hoping that you are having a splendid record-breaking flight, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Campbell B. Hodges,  
Lt-Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President.

July 16th, 1932.

Mr. Geo. P. Putnam,  
The Ambassador Hotel,  
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. Putnam:

Your letter of July 11th just received and I am glad to let you know that the President is asking the Secretary of War to have the military authorities on the West Coast arrange for the presentation of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Miss Earhart as may be mutually convenient for them, some time between July 25 and August 10.

Miss Earhart may expect an inquiry at an early date from the military authorities out there as to her wishes in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Campbell B. Hodges,  
Lt-Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President.

X

July 16th, 1932.

The Honorable Patrick J. Hurley,  
The Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

A Joint Resolution of Congress, approved July 2nd, 1932 authorizes the President to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam. She expects to be at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California between July 25th and August 10th. The President will be obliged if you will have the presentation made in his behalf by the military authorities on the West Coast, the time and place being arranged as nearly as possible in accord with her wishes, and a suitable officer being designated to represent the President at the ceremony.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to the President.

orig. deliv. to Sec. War's office in person,  
and name of officer requested - July 16/32  
E.H.

July 16, 1932.

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:**

Herewith is the Distinguished Flying Cross which the President was authorized by Joint Resolution of Congress, approved July 2, 1932, to present to Amelia Earhart Putnam.

The President has requested the Secretary of War to designate an officer on the West Coast to represent him in presenting this Cross to Miss Earhart, who expects to be at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, between July 25th and August 10th.

It is requested that the Cross be transmitted to the designated officer.

C. B. HODGES,  
Lieut. Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

X  
*Not sent - changed  
to read July 18th, 1932.  
"The Vice Pres."*

Miss Amelia Earhart,  
The Ambassador Hotel,  
Los Angeles, California.

357

My dear Miss Earhart:

*The Vice President has been requested to*  
~~General Craig has been requested to~~ represent  
me in presenting to you the Distinguished Flying Cross  
authorized by the Congress in a Joint Resolution which  
was approved on July 2nd, 1932.

At the presentation ceremony, I am asking him  
to hand you this message of congratulations upon the  
many and well-deserved honors which your knowledge of  
the science and art of aviation, and your great skill  
and courageous spirit as a pilot and navigator have  
brought to you, and through you, to the womanhood of  
America.

Faithfully yours,

H. H.

~~Original letter, with some photostat copies,  
delivered by me to the Vice Pres. before  
his departure for Los Angeles.~~

*Orig. of letter, with some photostat copies,  
delivered by me to the Vice Pres. before  
his departure for Los Angeles. - C.H.H.*

*Not Marked*

July 18th, 1932.

Miss Amelia Earhart,  
The Ambassador Hotel,  
Los Angeles, California.

*7/18/32*  
*over*

My dear Miss Earhart:

General Craig has been requested to represent me in presenting to you the Distinguished Flying Cross authorized by the Congress in a Joint Resolution which was approved on July 2nd, 1932.

At the presentation ceremony, I am asking him to hand you this message of congratulations upon the many and well-deserved honors which your knowledge of the science and art of aviation, and your great skill and courageous spirit as a pilot and navigator have brought to you and through you to the womanhood of America.

Faithfully yours,

War Department  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington

AG 095 Putnam, Amelia Earhart  
(7-8-32) Ex

July 18, 1932.

Subject: Distinguished Flying Cross.

To: The Commanding General,  
Ninth Corps Area,  
Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

1. Under the provisions of an Act of Congress approved July 2, 1932 (Public Resolution No. 31, 72d Congress), copy inclosed, a Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam. There are being forwarded to you, under separate registered covers, a Distinguished Flying Cross and engraved certificate pertinent thereto.

2. By direction of the President this Distinguished Flying Cross will be presented to Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam under your direction.

3. Mrs. Putnam will be at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif., between July 25th and August 10th, 1932.

4. The Honorable F. Trubee Davison, Assistant Secretary of War expects to be in Los Angeles during the period mentioned above and in this event he will be the party designated to represent the President at the ceremony. Should Mr. Davison be unable to proceed to Los Angeles, a suitable officer from your command will be designated to represent the President at the ceremony and his name will be reported to this office by radio.

5. Mr. Davison's decision regarding attendance at Los Angeles will be communicated to you by radio at the earliest possible date.

By order of the Secretary of War:

1 Incl:  
copy of Pub. Res. #31.

Sgd: E. S. Adams  
Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

July 20, 1932.

Honorable Lawrence Richey,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House.

Dear Mr. Richey:

Reference is made to your letter of the 16th instant, relative to the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam by the Act of Congress approved July 2, 1932.

For your information I am pleased to inclose a copy of a letter dated July 18, 1932, addressed to the Commanding General, Ninth Corps Area, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., concerning arrangements for the presentation of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Mrs. Putnam while in Los Angeles, Calif., between July 25th and August 10th, 1932.

Sincerely yours,

*Patrick J. Hurley*  
Secretary of War.

1 Incl:  
cy. of letter 7-18-32.

P.P.F.

July 22, 1932.

1862

Miss Amelia Earhart,<sup>9</sup>  
The Ambassador Hotel,  
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Miss Earhart:

The Vice President has been requested to represent me in presenting to you the Distinguished Flying Cross authorized by the Congress in a Joint Resolution which was approved on July 2nd, 1932.

At the presentation ceremony, I am asking him to hand you this message of congratulations upon the many and well-deserved honors which your knowledge of the science and art of aviation, and your great skill and courageous spirit as a pilot and navigator have brought to you, and through you, to the womanhood of America.

Faithfully yours,

Amelia Earhart Putnam,  
Ambassador Hotel,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

The Vice President will be in Los Angeles representing the President  
July twenty-ninth and thirtieth. Will it be convenient for you to have  
Distinguished Flying Cross presented then question Please wire reply.

Colonel Hodges  
Military Aide...

Telegram sent 12<sup>10</sup> July 22, 1935

Confirmation Copy sent July 22, 1935

Vice Pres. departs 6:01 p.m., July 25<sup>th</sup> (Monday) - arrives Los Angeles  
morning of 29<sup>th</sup> (Fri), departs Sunday evening (July 31<sup>st</sup>).

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGES

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTER UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, PI

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination  
**Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.**

KA28 32 NM=LOSANGELES CALIF 22

COLONEL HODGES=



WHITE HOUSE WASHN=

EITHER JULY TWENTY NINTH OR THIRTIETH V

FOR ANY ARRANGEMENTS THE VICE PRESIDENT

FOR MEDAL PRESENTATION AT LOSANGELES ST

TELEGRAM TO: COMMANDING GENERAL NINTH CORPS AREA (MAJOR GENERAL MALIN CRAIG)

FROM: THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Vice President arrives Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles via Union Pacific eight  
thirty Friday morning July twenty-ninth to represent President at opening Olympic  
Games; also presentation Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart July twenty-ninth or thirtieth  
agreeable to him and Miss Earhart for ceremony. Please arrange suitable ceremony not  
conflicting with Vice President's functions at Games. Advise Miss Earhart at Ambassador  
Hotel Los Angeles and Vice President upon his arrival regarding plans. Detail Military  
Aide for Vice President during his three-day stay in Los Angeles. This supercedes previous  
instructions.

Sent 7/23/32 ✓

TELEGRAM

Miss Amelia Earhart,  
Ambassador Hotel,  
Los Angeles, California.

COMMANDING GENERAL NINTH CORPS AREA IS CHARGED WITH ARRANGING PRESENTATION  
CROSS BY VICE PRESIDENT JULY TWENTY-NINTH OR THIRTIETH AND WILL ADVISE YOU  
OF PLANS.

C. B. RODGES

Sent 7/23/32



# *The Ambassador*

LOS ANGELES

July 25, 1932.

Campbell B. Hodges,  
Lt-Colonel, Infantry,  
Military Aide to the President,  
The White House, Washington, D.C.

My dear Colonel Hodges:

Thank you for your letter  
of the 23rd, in further reference to the presen-  
tation of the Distinguished Flying Cross to  
Miss Earhart in Los Angeles.

Colonel Yates, on behalf  
of General Craig, has already been in communica-  
tion with me in the premises. I understand his  
plans for ceremony on the 30th are being worked  
out.

Thank you for your courteous  
cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

GPP:EBL