

BIOGRAPHY OF LYNDA BIRD JOHNSON

The "stand-by" hostess at the White House is Lynda Bird Johnson, who celebrated her 20th birthday on March 19, 1964. The oldest daughter of the President and the First Lady, Lynda is a tall, graceful brunette whose dimpled smile and warm greeting has brightened the welcome of dignitaries who have visited the White House since her father assumed the office of President.

She has inherited more than her share of the family vitality and energy and passion for knowing and doing, and manages to combine participation in the activities of her contemporaries with the political and official demands she is often called upon to assume.

Her interests are wide and diverse: in music, they include both popular and classical compositions; in art, they range from Rembrandt to Picasso; in literature, from the Bible to Shakespeare to past and current history and biography. Lynda is an excellent dancer and rates this activity among her favorites. She also enjoys bridge and such active sports as swimming, badminton, riding and bowling, and likes to go hiking.

While she prefers casual living and informal get-togethers to the pomp and circumstance of official functions, she is equally at home at a cookout or a state dinner and has a knack for making others feel at ease. As one of her contemporaries has said, "Lynda has a real gift for meeting people that makes them feel especially welcome."

Lynda has had many occasions here and abroad to use this gift. She has shared in the formal and official visits of her parents here and abroad since she graduated from high school; and she has enjoyed what she has described as "privileged opportunities to broaden my knowledge and understanding of our world."

These "privileged opportunities" include four overseas trips on which she accompanied her parents when her father was Vice President. She did not "just go along for the ride" as one observer commented. Lynda met with her contemporaries, answered their questions and criticisms of the United States frankly and intelligently without rancor or impatience and made an excellent representative of our country and its youth.

She has accompanied her parents on an official trip to the Middle East, which included visits to Iran, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece and Italy. She has visited Puerto Rico where she had an opportunity to observe the activities and training program at the United States Peace Corps camp there and exchange views with the trainees. She also traveled with her parents to Jamaica for that country's independence celebration.

Lynda looks upon her official experience as an extension of her education and a vital part of her learning. She is by natural inclination and preference an ardent student of history and politics and considers knowledge of both highly essential for the pursuit of good government which she believes is every American's business, particularly the young American. She feels deeply that with her generation lies the future and that youth must assume a more active roll in shaping that future.

Her contemporaries, she has said, have the capability for constructive achievement and need only the opportunity to demonstrate their ability. Lynda emphasized this conviction in her address to the Second Little White House Conference on Children and Youth in Hawaii in June, 1964. She said then, "In time of war, the first people called to

serve their country are the young people. Too often in time of peace we have assumed that the important work could only be trusted to older hands. We now have the responsibility and the chance to show what we can do to participate in the important work of the world."

Lynda considers politics the most effective instrument for human betterment and an active political career as the greatest potential for achieving the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Lynda has a genuine love for learning which is reflected by the fact that she is an excellent student. She graduated in the upper level of her class at the National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington, D. C., in June, 1962. That fall she entered the University of Texas where she majored in history. She was elected to Alpha Lambda Delta, the freshman honorary society for women, and made the honor roll every semester during the one and a half years she studied in Texas. In January, 1964, after her father assumed his present office, she transferred to George Washington University in Washington, D. C. where she has continued to maintain a high scholastic average. Like her mother she is an avid reader.

Lynda is working full-time at the White House this summer without compensation in a clerical research capacity. This is in addition to summer studies and her official activities.

She was born in Washington in 1944, while her father was a member of Congress from Texas. She has brown hair, brown eyes and is 5' 9 1/2 " tall, and wears a size 14.

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