



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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REMARKS BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF JOHN A. VOLPE HALL, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1972

As a builder I have seen my name in front of many buildings during their construction. Never before have I been privileged to see my name on the front of a building after its construction. You do me a great honor.

Too often when a man's name is engraved in marble he is not around to relish the compliment. Or he has ventured too far from his hometown and finds himself among strangers rather than friends.

In these respects, certainly I am twice blessed. The "John A. Volpe Hall" has a more vibrant ring than the "John A. Volpe Memorial Hall". And if, by chance, there are any here who are strangers to me, then they must indeed be newcomers to Boston.

I am happy to count myself an alumnus of Northeastern University, if indeed the honorary degree conferred upon me here some years ago entitles me to alumni status. My acquaintance with this University dates back to the late 1920's, when I walked past this campus every day on my way to classes at Wentworth Institute. Little did I imagine then, while I carried my books and drafting tools along Huntington Avenue, that I would one day stand here on an occasion such as this.

Northeastern University has grown tremendously since 1930, not only physically but in academic stature, to become one of Boston's and the Nation's



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great educational assets. Nearly 38,000 men and women are now enrolled in the University's undergraduate and graduate schools, and earn while they learn through the cooperative plan of higher education first adopted here in 1909. Over the years Northeastern has been expanding this highly successful concept, and is now not only the largest private University in the United States but also the largest University offering integrated classroom study and work experiences.

The success of the University is due, certainly in large part, to the inspired leadership of Carl Stephen Ell, a great educator and President of Northeastern for some 18 years; and in no less degree to Dr. Asa Knowles who has presided over this school so brilliantly since 1959. It has been my privilege to know both of these gentlemen quite well -- Dr. Knowles as President here during my terms as Governor of Massachusetts.

The College of Criminal Justice, which this hall houses, is one of the newer additions to the University. I must confess I am not quite sure what my name is doing on this building, since as nearly as I can recall I have not been on either the receiving end or the dispensing end of criminal justice. Neither am I a lawyer, although I have appointed a few judges.

The best reason I can think of for having my name on this building is that I stand forth for what this college embodies: the dignity of justice in these United States, upheld by dedicated men and women schooled and skilled in law enforcement.

There are those today who would write their own rules of criminal justice. But we know that the administration of true justice depends on the precise balance of two values -- the rights of the individual and the rights of society. Liberty without law becomes license; freedom without restraint becomes anarchy. The men and women who graduate from this college go forth well prepared to lay down the law -- not with a heavy hand but with a helping hand; not to constrain freedom but to sustain it; not to inhibit conduct but to protect the right of all to act freely as long as their actions do not infringe upon the rights of others.

I am proud, therefore, to have my name identified with an institution dedicated to the perpetuation of the American principle of justice for all, and the training of young people committed to that profession.

I am proud, too, to be serving in an Administration which, like a good University, is concerned with building a better future for its people. President Nixon wants peace in the world, not just for today's generation but for tomorrow's. He wants to guarantee everybody the opportunity to get an education and a job that will make their days ahead better than today or yesterday. He is working to remove fear from our society -- the fears of inflation and of poverty, of discrimination and prejudice, aggression from abroad and turmoil at home.

Like education, all worthwhile objectives take time. And patience. And a willingness to keep plugging. Ours is the greatest of all social systems, which perhaps is why we are so sensitive to its faults.

Disraeli called justice "Truth in action". The students who learn and discern the truth in this College, and put it into action on the job, can and will do much to correct our Country's faults and develop its opportunities. That has been the pattern for America's growth for nearly two centuries. It is still the hope and the promise and the assurance of our future.

Thank you, again, for linking my name so indelibly with the substance and the spirit of your great University. I am indeed grateful.

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