



The President of the United States of America

*Awards this*

Presidential Medal of Freedom

*To*

The Apollo XIII Mission Operations Team

*We often speak of scientific "miracles"--forgetting that these are not miraculous happenings at all, but rather the product of hard work, long hours and disciplined intelligence.*

*The men and women of the Apollo XIII mission operations team performed such a miracle, transforming potential tragedy into one of the most dramatic rescues of all time. Years of intense preparation made this rescue possible. The skill, coordination and performance under pressure of the mission operations team made it happen. Three brave astronauts are alive and on Earth because of their dedication, and because at the critical moments the people of that team were wise enough and self-possessed enough to make the right decisions. Their extraordinary feat is a tribute to man's ingenuity, to his resourcefulness and to his courage.*

*The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
April 18, 1970*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon".