

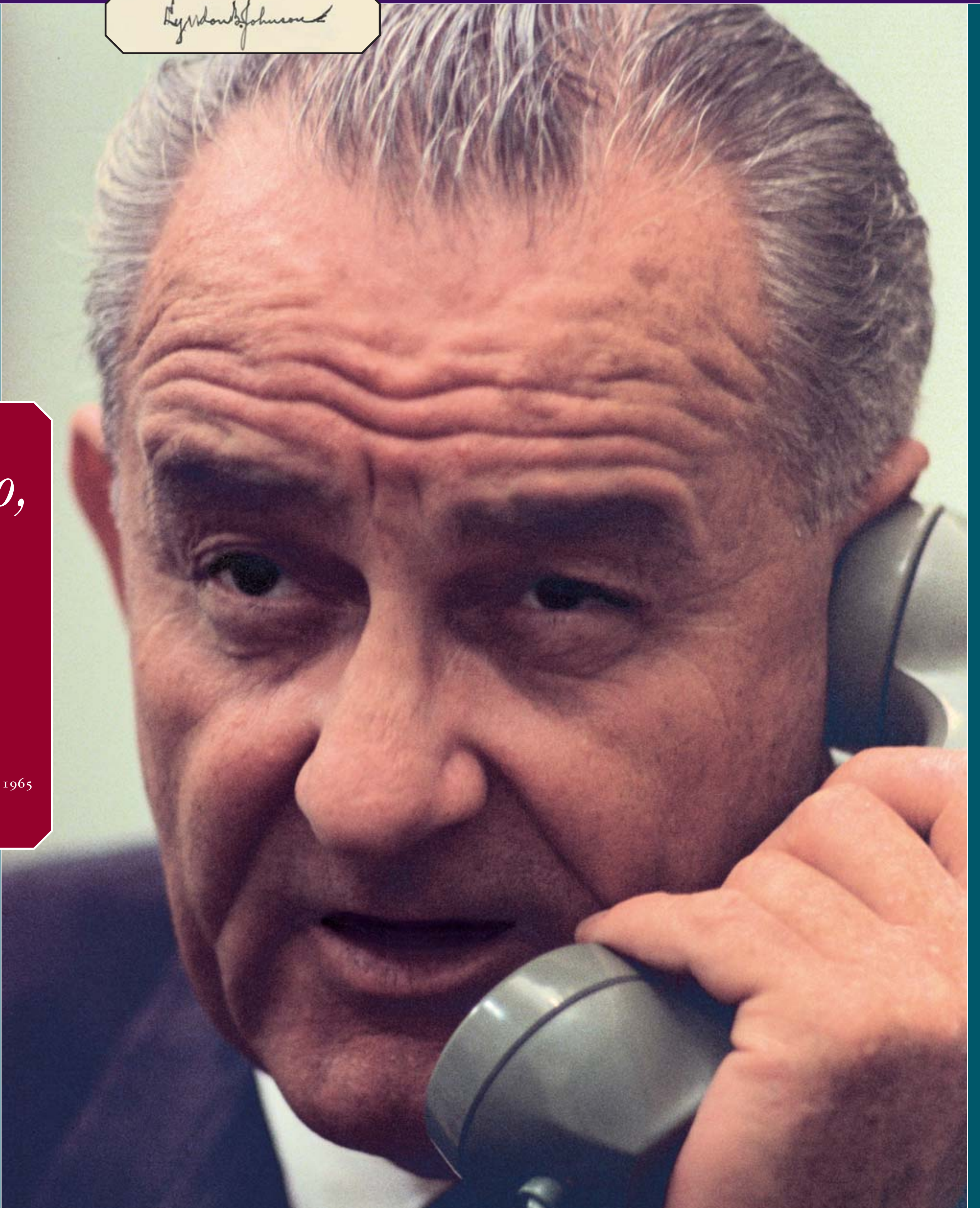
Lyndon Baines Johnson

A P R E S I D E N T ' S V I S I O N

Lyndon B. Johnson

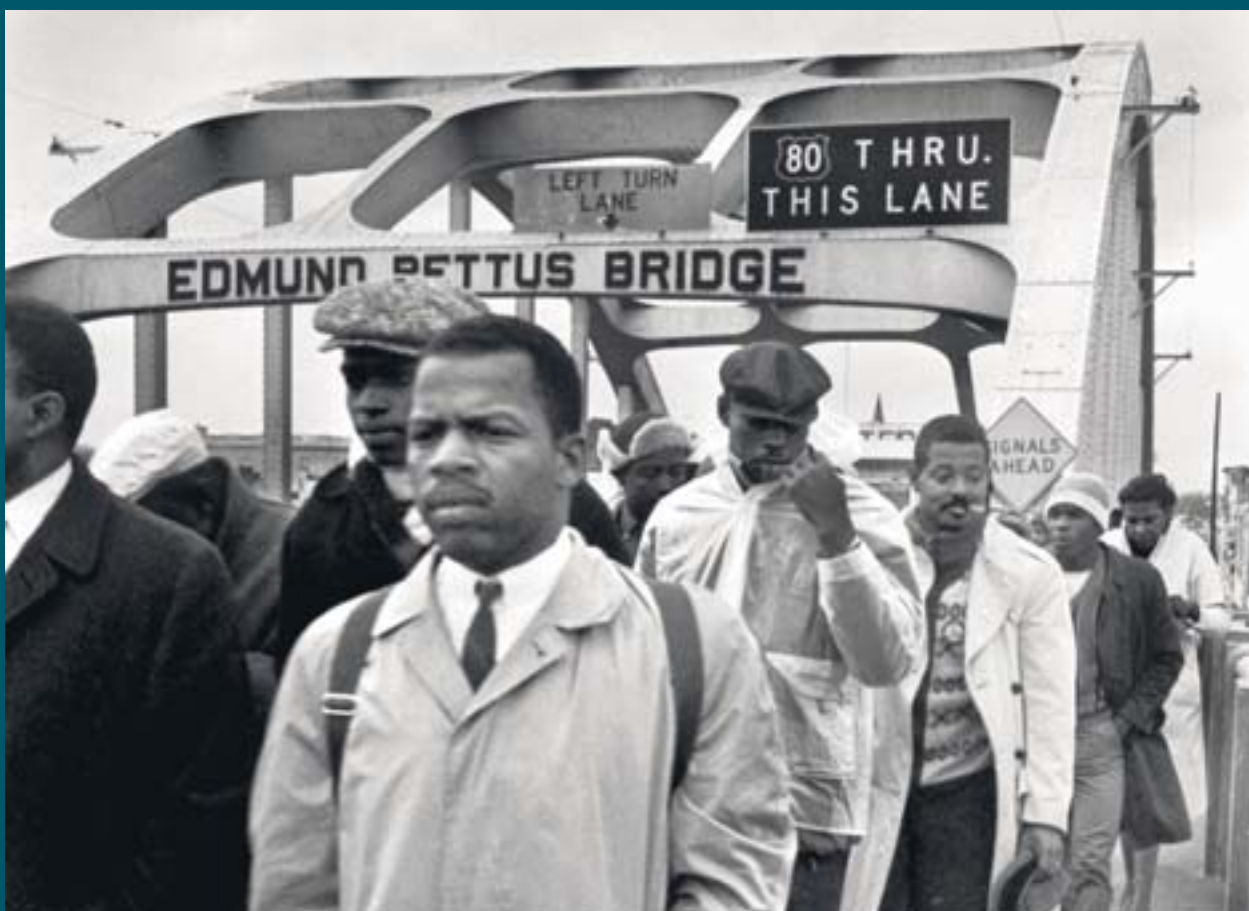


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. talks with President Lyndon B. Johnson in the Oval Office, 1963.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO BY TOICHE R. OKAMOTO



*“And these enemies too,
poverty, disease
and ignorance,
we shall overcome.”*

—SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS, “THE AMERICAN PROMISE,” MARCH 15, 1965



John Lewis leads marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, Alabama, 1965.
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The assassination of John F. Kennedy elevated Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson to the White House during the turbulent 1960s. Determined to alleviate poverty, ignorance, and racial discrimination, the Texan worked tirelessly to enact programs designed to improve life for all citizens and move the nation “not only toward the rich society and the powerful society, but upward to the Great Society.” A persuasive veteran of Capitol Hill, LBJ rallied Democrats and courted Republicans to pass hundreds of laws. His far-reaching accomplishments include three landmark civil rights statutes to eliminate injustice and racial discrimination: the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. In just five years as president, LBJ put government to work on behalf of the people by establishing such programs as Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, and Legal Services and launching initiatives promoting student loans, job training, food stamps, community action, immigration reform, environmental protection, consumer safeguards, and support for the arts, humanities, and education.

After escalating an increasingly divisive war in Vietnam, LBJ ultimately decided not to seek a second term in 1968. Although the war impeded his domestic agenda and eroded his popularity, his visionary Great Society transformed the nation with enduring innovations and reforms.

LBJ shakes hands with supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, 1966.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO BY TOICHE R. OKAMOTO

MAJOR GREAT SOCIETY INITIATIVES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Revenue Act, 1964 | Water Quality Act, 1965 |
| Civil Rights Act, 1964 | Immigration and Nationality Act, 1965 |
| Economic Opportunity Act, 1964 | Higher Education Act, 1965 |
| Food Stamp Act, 1964 | Highway Beautification Act, 1965 |
| Urban Mass Transportation Act, 1964 | Freedom of Information Act, 1966 |
| Appalachian Regional Development Act, 1965 | National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, 1966 |
| Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 1965 | Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act, 1966 |
| Medicare and Medicaid, 1965 | Air Quality Act, 1967 |
| Voting Rights Act, 1965 | Public Broadcasting Act, 1967 |
| Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 1965 | Fair Housing Act, 1968 |
| National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965 | Truth in Lending Act, 1968 |
| | Land and Water Conservation Fund Act Amendments, 1968 |

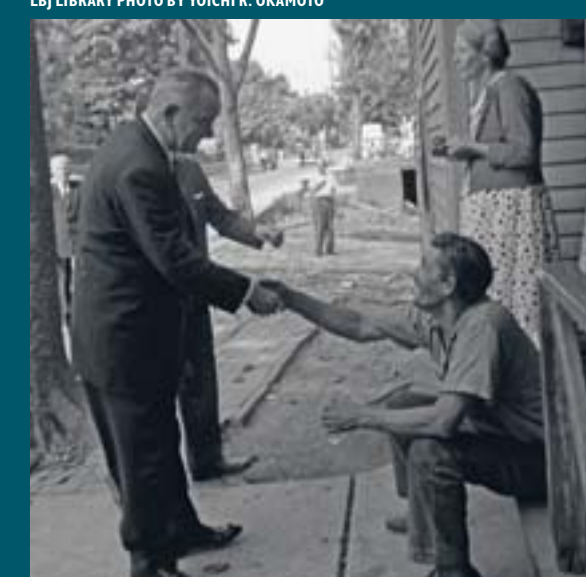
President Lyndon B. Johnson, August 25, 1965.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO, CREDIT UNKNOWN



LBJ signs Medicare Bill with former President Harry Truman, 1965.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO BY TOICHE R. OKAMOTO



LBJ visits Camp Gary Job Corps Center, 1965.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO BY FRANK WOLFE



LBJ shakes the hand of a resident of Appalachia, 1964.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO BY CECIL STOUGHORN



Lady Bird Johnson visits a Head Start classroom, 1968.
LBJ LIBRARY PHOTO BY ROBERT KNUDSEN



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