

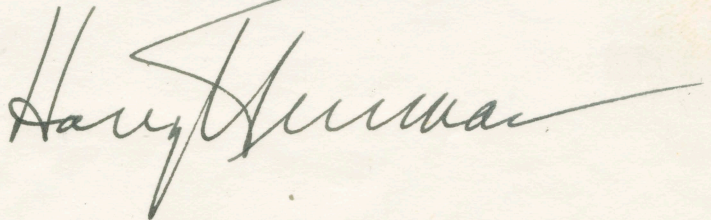
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE MEDAL FOR MERIT

TO

THOMAS E. WILSON

THOMAS E. WILSON, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States. A few days after December 7, 1941, recognizing the critical shortage of fats vitally needed in the manufacture of medicines, munitions, soaps, and other items which would result from the loss of importation of vegetable fats from the Philippine Islands and the Dutch East Indies, Mr. Wilson, with characteristic foresight and vigorous resourcefulness, conceived and, as Assistant Coordinator of Civilian Defense, pioneered in the organization of a Fat Salvage Program for the metropolitan area of the City of Chicago, under which collections were commenced January 19, 1942. The success of the Fat Salvage Program in the Chicago area, under Mr. Wilson's leadership, demonstrated that such a program could be followed with success in metropolitan centers throughout the country; and the War Production Board, with the advice and assistance of Mr. Wilson and with the approval of the Departments of Agriculture, War, and Navy, sponsored a National Fat Salvage Program, which was begun in July, 1942. With the cooperation of the American housewife, related industries, and the press and radio, many millions of pounds of vitally needed fats were collected. Under the Department of Agriculture, the Fat Salvage Program is still being conducted to help meet the continued need for fats during the reconversion period. Mr. Wilson's selfless devotion to his country and his energetic leadership in the Fat Salvage Program have immeasurably contributed to the welfare and security of the United States during the period of the emergency, and the habits of thrift thereby engendered will substantially contribute to the national economy for years to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry Truman", is written over the bottom right portion of the typed text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.