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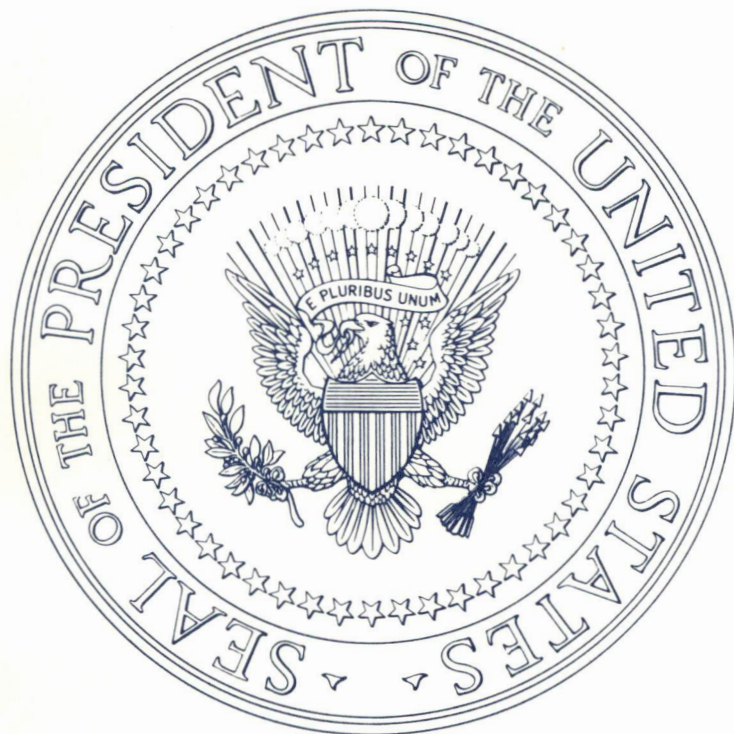
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Selected Presidential Statements
on the
Points of Light Initiative

The White House
Office of National Service

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

SELECTED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

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SELECTED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

It's the volunteer who delivers meals to the home of the elderly. And these are a Thousand Points of Light -- everyone who pitches in and builds up. This is America's greatness. Ladies and gentlemen, it is the ambition of my Presidency to make these Thousand Points of Light shine brighter than ever before.

-- January 1989
Opening Ceremony of Inauguration Week
Quote #1

I have spoken of a Thousand Points of Light -- of all the community organizations that are spread like stars throughout the nation, doing good. We will work hand in hand, encouraging, sometimes leading, sometimes being led, rewarding. We will work on this in the White House, in the Cabinet agencies. I will go to the people and the programs that are the brighter Points of Light, and I'll ask every member of my government to become involved.

-- January 20, 1989
Inaugural Address
Quote #2

My friends, we are not the sum of our possessions. They are not the measure of our lives. In our hearts we know what matters. We cannot hope only to leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend, a loving parent, a citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood, and town better than he found it.

And what do we want the men and women who work with us to say when we are no longer there? That we were more driven to succeed than anyone around us? Or that we stopped to ask if a sick child had gotten better, and stayed a moment there to trade a word of friendship?

-- January 20, 1989
Inaugural Address
Quote #3

My friends, we have work to do. There are the homeless, lost and roaming. There are the children who have nothing -- no love and no normalcy -- there are those who cannot free themselves of enslavement to whatever addiction -- drugs, welfare, the demoralization that rules the slums. There is crime to be conquered, the rough crime of the streets. There are young women to be helped who are about to become mothers of children they can't care for and might not love. They need our care, our guidance...

-- January 20, 1989
Inaugural Address
Quote #4

I am speaking of a new engagement in the lives of others -- a new activism, hands-on and involved, that gets the job done. We must bring in the generations, harnessing the unused talent of the elderly and the unfocused energy of the young. For not only leadership is passed from generation to generation, but so is stewardship.

-- January 20, 1989
Inaugural Address
Quote #5

In just three days, we mark the birthday of Abraham Lincoln -- the man who saved our Union, and gave new meaning to the word opportunity. Lincoln once said: 'I hold that while man exists, it is his duty to improve not only his own condition, but to assist in ameliorating that of mankind.'

-- February 9, 1989
Remarks to the Joint Session of Congress
Quote #6

...let all Americans remember that no problem of human-making is too great to be overcome by human ingenuity, human energy, and the untiring hope of the human spirit. I believe this. I would not have asked to be your President if I didn't.

-- February 9, 1989
Remarks to the Joint Session of Congress
Quote #7

And to the young people of America, who sometimes feel left out -
- I ask you tonight to give to us the benefit of your talent and energy...

-- February 9, 1989
Remarks to the Joint Session of Congress
Quote #8

Together, we can show that what matters in the end are not possessions. What matters is engaging in the high moral principle of serving one another. That's the story of America that we can write through voluntary service.

-- February 28, 1989
Remarks to Students at Washington
University
Quote #9

...our efforts must reach beyond government, to care about communities and to assist our neighbor.

-- February 28, 1989
Remarks to Students at Washington
University
Quote #10

As we look around us today, we see signs of truly successful lives. We see neighbor helping neighbor, Americans serving Americans. Today nearly half of all adult Americans are active as volunteers. We know them well: the grandmother at church or temple who cares for infants so their parents can attend services, the cook at the local soup kitchen, the tutor who helps the illiterate learn to read, the teen who visits nursing homes...and the family that opens its home to unwed mothers or foster children.

-- April 10, 1989
National Volunteer Week Proclamation
Quote #11

Our forefathers' sacrifices have helped the United States to become a great and prosperous nation. For the sake of generations to come, our own generation must likewise accept the obligation to serve others.

-- April 10, 1989
National Volunteer Week Proclamation
Quote #12

You're taking on the most difficult challenges that we face as a nation. You're fighting poverty, drug abuse, illiteracy, teen pregnancy, the alienation of young and old. And you're winning because you refuse to believe that it can't be done. And so I'm here to thank you. You've lived up to an ideal once given voice by Horace Mann that I've always admired. 'Be ashamed to die', he said, 'until you have won some victory for humanity'...

-- April 10, 1989
Remarks to National Volunteer
Organizations
Quote #13

I challenge every American who cares about the future of this country to get involved. Find a place or an organization or even a single life where you can make a difference for someone else.

-- April 10, 1989
Remarks to National Volunteer
Organizations
Quote #14

It is individuals doing their part to make America a better place in which to live. It is the student who stays after school to tutor a classmate...It's the businessman who adopts a school and pays the college tuition of every student who has made the grade.

...we recognize all those Americans who generously donate their time and energy to the service of others. These selfless individuals have a profound influence upon the life of their communities and the character of our Nation.

-- April 10, 1989
National Volunteer Week Proclamation
Quote #15

It's not simply volunteering, but the personal act of helping another individual in need, which gives us membership in a community. Giving and expecting nothing in return is what it means to be a citizen. When you volunteer you confirm your citizenship. Volunteering is an act. It's an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds. You might say it puts the unity in community.

-- April 10, 1989
Remarks to National Volunteer
Organizations
Quote #16

...there is no exercise better for the human heart than reaching down and lifting someone else up. You understand that helping the less fortunate is in everyone's best interest; that the most powerful gift we can offer anyone is a sense of purpose -- a path to self-esteem; that the fabric of the family, like that of society, must forever be renewed and rewoven.

-- April 10, 1989
Remarks to the National Volunteer
Organizations
Quote #17

I'm told that over half of adult Americans -- 80 million -- actively volunteer in some way in their communities. And last year that was worth almost \$150 billion in man-and-woman-hours. But what you're doing goes above and beyond dollars and cents. Your work and the work of many others as motivated as yourselves is a testament to a powerful idea that, along with the many rights and privileges that distinguish us as Americans, is the shared responsibility to look after one another.

-- April 10, 1989
Remarks to the National Volunteer
Organizations
Quote #18

To serve others, to enrich your community -- this truly defines a successful life. For success is personal, and it is charitable -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we help our neighbors.

-- April 11, 1989
Remarks at Volunteer Action Awards
Ceremony
Quote #19

...government can and should be a catalyst for caring. Its role is critical. But we have surpassed -- far surpassed -- the limits of what government alone can do.

-- April 11, 1989
Remarks to Volunteer Action Awards
Ceremony
Quote #20

Volunteerism says that individuals, like communities, can join hands and exchange talents for the good of America. One person can tutor an inner-city student; that boy or girl can someday become an engineer or an artist. The child-turned-adult will then become a role model to others...

-- April 11, 1989
Remarks at Volunteer Action Awards
Ceremony
Quote #21

...as President, I want to promote...basic values...And that is why we have opened the Office of National Service, which is leading our administration's national service movement. This office will encourage partnerships between all levels of government, private enterprise, and the voluntary organizations. It's going to take things that work and carry them to the nation. And it will enlist new volunteers in community-based efforts to combat urgent social needs.

-- April 11, 1989
Remarks at Volunteer Action Awards
Ceremony
Quote #22

By saving lives, you have defined a successful life.

-- April 12, 1989
Remarks at Fire Service Dinner
Quote #23

And some of you may know, Teddy Roosevelt is among my favorite Presidents...his dad said to him on the eve of his 16th birthday: 'All that gives me most pleasure in the retrospect is connected with others. We are not placed here to live exclusively for ourselves.'

-- April 12, 1989
Remarks at Fire Service Dinner
Quote #24

In a recent Gallup Poll, nearly 50 percent of the population was involved in community service. And today, millions of people are lending a hand, tending a wound, helping the less fortunate -- in a homeless shelter, in an inner-city school, or in our fire and emergency services.

-- April 12, 1989
Remarks at Fire Service Dinner
Quote #25

We've done much. But we must do more...And that's why I have opened, at the White House, the Office of National Service. This office is leading my administration's community and national service efforts.

-- April 12, 1989
Remarks at Fire Service Dinner
Quote #26

You've heard me talk about a Thousand Points of Light, a metaphor that I've used to celebrate the extraordinary selflessness of Americans who give so much to the service of others.

-- April 21, 1989
Remarks at Congressional Gold Medal Award
Ceremony
Quote #27

Nearly one year ago, we announced one of the nation's chief goals --to make service to others central to the life and work of every individual and institution in America, from our largest corporations to our smallest neighborhood group. This goal requires leadership, and leadership certainly comes by example.

-- April 24, 1990
Remarks During the Signing of the
National Volunteer Week, 1990 Proclamation
Quote #28

...success...cannot, be measured by the sum of our possessions, but by the good we do for others...whatever life, and health, and love we have within us, we must share with others.

-- April 27, 1989
Remarks at the Dedication of The Michael
Bilirakis Alzheimer's Center, Florida
Quote #29

In New York City, my wife Barbara met with a group helping young Cambodians learn English. While she was there, one older lady told Barbara how desperately lonely she had been, before she volunteered. Her eyes filled with tears at remembering it. And then her face lit up, as she told Barbara, 'I've never been lonely a day since.'

-- April 27, 1989
Remarks at the Dedication of The Michael
Bilirakis Alzheimer's Center, Florida
Quote #30

Older Americans represent a phenomenal reserve of talent and experience, qualities this country can use right now...I would ask all of you who have the health and inclination, to consider how much we gain, when we give of ourselves.

-- April 27, 1989
Remarks at the Dedication of The Michael
Bilirakis Alzheimer's Center, Florida
Quote #31

So, first, YES is voluntary, truly voluntary. You don't need to be bribed with incentives and threatened with penalties to get engaged in community service. And that's not what the idea of service is all about anyway. Service is its own reward, satisfaction guaranteed.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks Announcing the Youth Engaged in
Service to America Initiative.
Quote #32

When it comes right down to it,...what all of us want out of life -- are two things: meaning and adventure...you can find what you're looking for in helping others. If you walk this path with me, I promise you a life full of meaning and adventure.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks on Youth Engaged in Service
Quote #33

It's a time of need for millions of Americans. The storm clouds of war fortunately are not on the horizon -- but you and I know that the storm clouds of a different kind are gathering. A simple fact in America today is that too many people are free falling through society with no prospect of landing on their feet. No one, young, old, white, brown or black, should be permitted to go through life unclaimed.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks on Youth Engaged in Service
Quote #34

I'm not talking about another government program. Another bureaucracy is the last thing we need. Believe me, I understand that. Youth Engaged in Service is a movement, a way of looking at life.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks Announcing the Youth Engaged in
Service to America Initiative.
Quote #35

...Serving others shouldn't be a detour on your career path. It's not something that you do when you're young and then outgrow when you're a little bit older. It's a way of life, something you start when you are young and stick with it, all life long.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks Announcing the Youth Engaged in
Service to America Initiative.
Quote #36

...regardless of the life that you are living, there is something special about each and every one of you...your gifts are all different. But you each have a gift that America needs and I'm asking you to give that gift now.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks on Youth Engaged in Service
Quote #37

Even the youngest of us have gifts to give...Don't worry about whether it's a lot or a little. Do what you can. Get in the habit of helping others -- and that's one habit that you'll never ever break.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks on Youth Engaged in Service
Quote #38

We need you...Your commitment can convince yourselves and your nation that you're not the problem -- you are the solution...And so today, I call on you to commit yourselves...make it your mission to make a difference in somebody else's life...Make a commitment. Reach out a hand to people in need. Build a better future for yourselves -- a better future for America.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks on Youth Engaged in Service
Quote #39

You heard their message, how much it means to know that someone cares, and how much it means to care for someone else. And you can carry that message across the country -- from the inner city out to farm country, and every community in between. You can let the phrase "one-to-one" symbolize all America's commitment to each other.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks on Youth Engaged in Service
Quote #40

YES means getting involved where you know you can make a difference in your own community. I want service organizations in the cities and towns where you live to open their doors, to make room for people your age to contribute.

-- June 21, 1989
Remarks Announcing the Youth Engaged in Service to America Initiative.
Quote #41

From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

-- June 22, 1989
Speech to The New York Partnership
Quote #42

Our challenge, then, is to [engage] each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. For this is what I mean when I talk of a "Thousand Points of Light" -- that vast galaxy of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own backyard.

-- June 22, 1989
Speech to The New York Partnership
Quote #43

There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

-- June 22, 1989
Speech to The New York Partnership
Quote #44

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at anytime in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse. Most Americans...know that those who say, 'It's government's problem,' are really part of the problem themselves.

-- June 22, 1989
Speech to The New York Partnership
Quote #45

So today, I ask all Americans and all American institutions, large and small, to make service central to your life and work. I urge all business leaders to consider community service in hiring, compensation, and promotion decisions. I call upon non-profit and service groups to open your doors to all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background or level of experience. And leaders of high schools and colleges, I urge you to uphold the values of community service and to encourage students, faculty, and personnel to serve others.

-- June 22, 1989
Speech to The New York Partnership
Quote #46

To every corporation, large and small, I say: Begin a literacy program that teaches each employee how to read. And to every member of a body of higher learning: Start a Big Brother or Big Sister program for kids in your neighborhood. Of every church and synagogue, I ask: Become an around-the-clock community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store: Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and local shelters.

-- June 22, 1989
Speech to The New York Partnership
Quote #47

We are enjoying prosperous years. But not all Americans are a part of that prosperity, and I ask that business do its part. Prosperity cannot be truly enjoyed unless the Points of Light about which I've spoken shine on every American in need.

-- June 26, 1989
Remarks at The Wall Street Journal's 100th
Anniversary Dinner
Quote #48

...we do have people in need -- problems that cause immeasurable pain and suffering. The breakdown of the family. Teenage pregnancy. Housing unaffordable to the poor. Homelessness. The locked door of illiteracy. AIDS and other cruel diseases. And perhaps the worst scourge of all: drug use.

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks in Video Message for The United
Way
Quote #49

I know that government's role is critically important, but government alone cannot overcome our problems.

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks in Video Message for The United
Way
Quote #50

...I'm asking you to think about what you can do to make a difference for someone else.

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks to Students on Drug Abuse
Quote #51

You know -- all of you in a classroom know -- who's got a problem. Today I am not just asking you to get help. I'm asking you to find someone who needs you, and offer to help. I'll say it again: If you're not in trouble, help someone who is.

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks to Students on Drug Abuse
Quote #52

You're here to make a difference -- for yourself and those around you. So learn to count on each other. Take care of each other. Give someone else another chance...And make the days mean something.

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks to Students
Quote #53

I would like to call on all of you to reach out to people in your community -- to go to them one-to-one. I'm asking you to join with me to initiate a new era of volunteerism.

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks in Video Message for The United Way
Quote #54

We celebrate this spirit in many ways. We see it in the smile of a senior citizen when there's a warm meal and someone who cares. I've seen it in the faces of children when they know they have a home and love. That spirit lives everyday, wherever they have a home and love. That spirit lives every day, wherever volunteers work with the sick, the poor, the handicapped -- whenever one of us reaches out a helping hand, or a quiet voice says to someone in need, 'I'm here.' 'I'll help.' 'I care.'

-- September 12, 1989
Remarks in Video Message for The United Way
Quote #55

The grassroots movement that we've called "a Thousand Points of Light" must reach out to America's hurting where they are, in the classroom as well as the courtroom, and in church basements, street corners and lonely apartments.

-- September 23, 1989
Remarks to Catholic Lawyers Guild
Quote #56

We must devote special attention to the problems of those on the margins, those lacking adequate food or shelter, those addicted or mentally ill, those whose neighborhoods have been decimated by crime. And we must remember the unremembered. Protect the unprotected. Stand up for those who live in a world of pain -- the hungry and the homeless, the haunted and the hurting.

-- September 23, 1989
Remarks to Catholic Lawyers Guild
Quote #57

Make community service central to your life and work...somewhere in your own community there is an illiterate man yearning for the gift most of you have enjoyed since childhood --the ability to read. Somewhere in your own community there's a homeless family that needs food and clothing and shelter. And somewhere in your own community there is a scared little kid tempted to buy crack or join a gang -- a kid who needs love and guidance of a Big Brother. There are countless unmet needs, countless ways in which you can make a difference for the better.

-- September 23, 1989
Remarks to Catholic Lawyers Guild
Quote #58

...one of the first points that we all agreed on was the need for schools and communities to work together...Every school here today represents a successful community of businessmen, businesswomen, civic groups and parents. And no one had to tell you how to do this -- not Washington, not your state government. You set your own high goals and then you met them.

-- September 28, 1989
Remarks Upon Arrival at the White House
from the Education Summit
Quote #59

We are a compassionate people, a nation of neighbors and neighborhoods -- and America will never sleep well so long as a single man, woman or child goes to sleep hungry or homeless, haunted or hurting.

-- October 16, 1989
Remarks at the End Hunger Awards Ceremony
Quote #60

...our schools and our communities prosper most when they join together in common cause, when one of the lessons are children learn is community consciousness -- the importance of getting out of the classroom and getting involved in community service. And, of course, every community is a rich source of expertise and support for our schools.

-- October 18, 1989
Remarks to Distinguished School Principals
Quote #61

This past summer when I announced my Points of Light community service initiative, I said that my aim was to make community service central to the life and work of every individual and institution in America; from the largest corporations right down to the neighborhood softball team.

-- October 25, 1989
Remarks to Prime Time to End Hunger
Campaign
Quote #62

...we recognize and salute the outstanding work done by members of our Nation's philanthropic organizations. Through their schools, churches, local museums, cultural centers, youth groups, hospitals, research institutions, and many other organizations, millions of concerned Americans are generously serving others.

Whether bringing aid and comfort to the sick, the elderly, and the disadvantaged, or providing rewarding educational and recreational opportunities for everyone, these individuals are illustrating that there is no better excuse for the human heart than reaching out and lifting someone else up.

-- November 15, 1989
National Philanthropy Day, 1989
Proclamation
Quote #63

Throughout our Nation's history, individual Americans have voluntarily joined together to meet important needs in their communities. This generosity, this willingness to work together toward a common goal, is a hallmark of the American character.

-- November 15, 1989
Community Foundation Week, 1989
Proclamation
Quote #64

...another American tradition...helping others less fortunate than ourselves may be the best way we have of giving thanks.

-- November 17, 1989
Remarks at the Thanksgiving Day
Proclamation Signing Ceremony
Quote #65

And this is important because people think the President of the United States -- he can do everything. A lot of people think that. But there are certain limits on what you can do. And this one (the drug war) is not going to be won unless it starts in the classroom or in the home and it goes into the city.

-- November 20, 1989
Remarks and a Question-and-Answer
Session With Fifth-Grade Students at
Pickard Elementary School in Chicago,
Illinois
Quote #66

Each year more than 50,000 American children are adopted into new families to be loved and cherished. And each child returns one hundredfold the special joy that comes from belonging, from caring, and from sharing together. Yet thousands more continue to wait. This year an estimated 30,000 children, available for adoption, will spend their Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays without a permanent family. Most of these kids, about 60 percent, are special needs children. Some have disabilities. But they all have special love to give.

-- November 21, 1989
Remarks on Signing the National
Adoption Week Proclamation
Quote #67

Adoption is a generous and loving act that benefits everyone involved: the little ones who need a permanent home, the couples hoping to become parents, and the young women who face a crisis pregnancy. Each year many, many babies are given the chance to be loved when their mothers choose adoption over abortion. Each year, some 60,000 children in the United States are adopted. However, some 30,000 children who are legally available for adoption still wait in foster care for a family of their own. Many of these are children with special needs -- children who have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities; older children; minority children; and children with siblings who need to be adopted by the same family. All of these children, however, have a wealth of love to share with their adoptive families. Encouraging their adoption is worthy of our greatest commitment.

-- November 21, 1989
Proclamation 6076: National Adoption
Week, 1989
Quote #68

Adoption provides a loving family and a lasting home to children who may have neither. It also can help address some of the most pressing issues facing our nation today: issues such as teen pregnancy, welfare dependency, drug addiction and child abuse.

-- November 21, 1989
Proclamation 6076: National Adoption
Week, 1989
Quote #69

We cannot give our students one message while they're in elementary and high school and another when they start to college. No school can afford to remain diffident when it comes to drugs because in the war on drugs there are no noncombatants.

-- November 21, 1989
Remarks at the Annual Meeting of the
National Association of State
Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
Quote #70

We must make adoption a true national concern and alternative.

-- November 21, 1989
Remarks on Signing the National
Adoption Week Proclamation
Quote #71

...let us also recognize the many Americans who work to place needy children in loving homes. These concerned individuals include thousands of foster parents, child welfare workers, pregnancy counselors, judges, lawyers, physicians, members of the clergy, legislators, volunteers, and adoptive family support groups. This week, let us also renew our determination to support both the courageous women who choose life for their children and the generous adoptive families who welcome needy children into their homes.

-- November 21, 1989
Proclamation 6076: National Adoption
Week, 1989
Quote #72

And especially touching is that so many Americans have answered the call for community service, the Thousand Points of Light, by rolling up their sleeves and pitching in for the hopeless, the helpless -- each volunteer, a beacon of light for someone who has lost his way.

-- November 22, 1989
Advanced Text of the Thanksgiving
Address to the Nation
Quote #73

...the "Points of Light" initiative...its goal is to make community service central to the life and work of every individual and every institution in America.

-- November 22, 1989
Remarks at the Commercial Appeal's
Thanksgiving Celebration in Memphis,
Tennessee
Quote #74

For the news media, I made a special request because no other institution in America has the unique ability of the media to shape public attitudes, to heighten awareness, to mobilize people for action. And I ask members of the media to remind Americans that illiteracy, drug abuse, homelessness, hunger, and other social problems do have solutions...Just imagine an America where service to others is a fact of life, part of everyone's everyday thinking. Imagine the impact if every single newspaper and magazine and television and radio station and cable system found and recognized a thousand Points of Light.

-- November 22, 1989
Remarks at the Commercial Appeal's
Thanksgiving Celebration in Memphis,
Tennessee
Quote #75

So let it be a decade with no dark corners, no forgotten people, no forgotten places...And so, if you've got a hammer, find a nail. If you can read, find someone who can't. If you're well, do it [sic] like the volunteers I just saw at St. Jude's. Help someone who isn't well. If you're not in trouble, seek out someone who is. Because everywhere there is a need in America, there is a way to fill it. And everywhere there is a dream in America, there's a way to make it come true.

-- November 22, 1989
Remarks at the Commercial Appeal's
Thanksgiving Celebration in Memphis,
Tennessee
Quote #76

Everyone has a gift to give. And every one of us has a special talent that can help solve America's problems.

-- November 22, 1989
Remarks at the Commercial Appeal's
Thanksgiving Celebration in Memphis,
Tennessee
Quote #77

Imagine if every institution, from the airlines to dry cleaners to high schools to neighborhood softball teams, were to join us in regularly honoring as heroes those who are engaged in the war against drug abuse or illiteracy, AIDS, homelessness, hunger, and the other problems.

-- November 22, 1989
Remarks at the Commercial Appeal's
Thanksgiving Celebration in Memphis, TN
Quote #78

Rendering service without pay, and often in addition to meeting the demands of their own careers and immediate families, these men and women provide a powerful example of faithfulness and generosity.

-- November 22, 1989
Proclamation 6077: National Family
Caregivers Week, 1989
Quote #79

All of us owe a debt of gratitude to the hardworking men and women who give older members of our society the love, respect, comfort, and assistance they need and deserve. More important, however, these men and women merit our recognition and support.

-- November 22, 1989
Proclamation 6077: National Family
Caregivers Week, 1989
Quote #80

Ultimately, it is the actions of concerned Americans that will win the war on drugs...This week, we salute those Americans in cities all across our nation who are serving as full partners in this all-important campaign. They are helping to build a better future for our nation -- a future that is drug-free.

-- December 6, 1989
Proclamation 6081: National Cities
Fight Back Against Drugs Week, 1989
Quote #81

And so, we've got to work together to protect this heritage, work together as leaders in government and business, as men and women concerned with the future. Nothing less than a national effort will suffice...The corporate leaders here today understand that supporting education and training is good business as well as good citizenship...By contributing to the many programs... that advance the cause of Hispanic youth, you have truly made an investment in this generation and in the future of our country.

-- December 6, 1989
Remarks to Hispanic Leaders
Quote #82

Fortunately, however, this terrible problem is not going unchallenged. In every area of the country, cities are fighting back. Today, concerned residents of our Nation's cities are working together to regain control of their streets, their parks, their schools, and their lives.

-- December 6, 1989
Proclamation 6081: National Cities
Fight Back Against Drugs Week, 1989
Quote #83

In the finest tradition of democratic government and voluntary association, individual citizens are standing shoulder to shoulder with local authorities as they confront the merchants of death who deal drugs. They are marching in the streets, asserting their right to live without fear in secure homes and neighborhoods...They are also remaining vigilant against suspicious activity in their communities while encouraging young people to resist the temptation to try drugs. These determined men and women are behaving as responsible citizens in a free and just society by working closely with their local representatives and law enforcement agencies.

-- December 6, 1989
Proclamation 6081: National Cities
Fight Back Against Drugs Week, 1989
Quote #84

Thousand Points of Light, that galaxy of individuals and institutions who live not just for themselves but also to serve others, is really what we're talking about here today.

Each day at the White House, I announce now a Daily Point of Light, an individual or group working to rid our communities of drugs or homelessness or hunger or illiteracy, loneliness -- so many other problems.

...each point of light counts; each point of light can mean one life changed, or one life saved...we need thousands, thousands in every city and every neighborhood. And if anyone wants to know just how bright that light can be when a thousand points come together, look around you; look at the home of strong hearts, clear minds, and indomitable wills; look at the people of Winzer Park.

-- December 7, 1989
Remarks at the Acres Homes War on
Drugs Rally in Houston, Texas
Quote #85

Only the American people can make this change in attitude (toward drugs). Only you can cultivate character and a sense of values in our kids. It's not a Federal problem for which there is a simple Federal solution. We can't do it by looking to the Government alone...You, and probably only you, can teach our kids right from wrong. Erma Scales says: 'We need to teach a system of values. Parents need to spend more time with their kids and go back to being parents, not just being buddies.'

-- December 7, 1989
Remarks at the Acres Homes War on
Drugs Rally in Houston, Texas
Quote #86

What's the difference between the wonderful young kids in behind me, this great looking group back there, and the kids who huddle a few blocks from where we stand, using and dealing drugs? Same neighborhood. Same schools. Same Houston. But a different choice. Often a choice made by the parents. Always a choice made by the kids...Roy Douglas Malonson said it right here in Acres Homes the same night I addressed the entire nation on drugs. He said: 'The bottom line is we're going to have to take a stance and quit blaming others for the problem. We need personal accountability.'

-- December 7, 1989
Remarks at the Acres Homes War on
Drugs Rally in Houston, Texas
Quote #87

...we live in dramatic and exciting times, times that present great opportunities for great and historic change. And that's true not just in Eastern Europe but right here...in places like Acres Homes, where brave men and women...have used "People Power" to fight for another kind of freedom: the freedom from fear; the freedom from crime; and the freedom from drugs. And just as with that new freedom in Eastern Europe, freedom from drugs isn't something the Government can give you. You have got to take a stand. You've got to take back the streets.

-- December 7, 1989
Remarks at the Acres Homes War on
Drugs Rally in Houston, Texas
Quote #88

And you not only put the drug dealers out, you put pride back in. And you were among the first to assemble and rally and move forward with a plan to fight drugs, and you were among the first to recognize that community's future is in the hands of the community.

-- December 7, 1989
Remarks at the Acres Homes War on
Drugs Rally in Houston, Texas
Quote #89

And if you have an idea to fight drugs, let's hear it. If you have a plan share it -- with your community leaders and local officials;...Believe me -- an individual can make the difference.

-- December 8, 1989
Remarks at an Anti-drug Rally at
John F. Kennedy High School in
Denver, Colorado
Quote #90

And if someone you know is using drugs, then be a decent friend to the guy. Help him. Talk to him. Talk to her. Just ask your friend to take the problem home. And if that doesn't work, to a counselor or to the church or somewhere...But do something; don't just sit there. Help your friend. Take your friend to someone who will listen.

-- December 8, 1989
Remarks at an Anti-drug Rally at
John F. Kennedy High School in
Denver, Colorado
Quote #91

Each point of light matters. Each time your message gets through can mean one life changed and another life saved...each point of light matters.

-- December 11, 1989
Remarks on Signing the National Drunk
Driving Awareness Week Proclamation
Quote #92

Next, service to others, and this, too, has helped the Church uphold Christ's special mission to mankind. Think of the Catholic charities who illumine what I love to call a Thousand Points of Light, and of individuals, heroes really, like your honoree....

-- December 12, 1989
Remarks at the Catholic University of
America Anniversary Dinner
Quote #93

...in the final analysis, the success of our efforts depends not on what happens inside the White House but what happens inside your house.

-- December 12, 1989
Remarks at the Catholic University of
America Anniversary Dinner
Quote #94

...by helping others, we also help ourselves. This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America that you and I are working to build. You're devoting your lives not only to serving others but also to saving others. And the good that you have done is nothing short of outstanding and astounding.

-- December 12, 1989
Remarks at the Catholic University of
America Anniversary Dinner
Quote #95

...but it is daily acts of goodness and generosity -- performed time and time again throughout the year -- that hold the true meaning of the holy season. Every kind of selfless deed we perform for others can rekindle in our hearts and in our communities the light of that first Christmas.

-- December 18, 1989
Message on the Observance of Christmas
Quote #96

Just as one cruse of oil was able to lift the darkness for eight nights, so, too, can one act of kindness brighten the lives of others.

-- December 18, 1989
Message on the Observance of Hanukkah
Quote #97

But I must say that it's not going to be solved at the Federal level alone, that a lot of it's going to be done right here at the county level, right here at the city level, or right here at the State level.

-- December 27, 1989
Remarks at the Bee County
Presidential Barbecue in Beeville,
Texas
Quote #98

At home, more and more Americans are accepting the challenge to get involved in volunteer projects to assist the needy or in other ways to make a difference for good in their communities.

-- December 27, 1989
Message on the Observance of
New Year's Day
Quote #99

But the Federal Government is only part of the story. It is in the city halls and the State capitals, in schools and in the work place, in this country and around the world that real progress on the environment will be made.

-- January 3, 1990
Remarks on Signing the Earth Day
Proclamation
Quote #100

As a nation, we must acknowledge that our environment and economy are interdependent. We must also go beyond the traditional regulatory role of government and continue to seek solutions that embrace all sectors of society in preventing pollution and ecological damage before they occur.

-- January 3, 1990
Proclamation 6085: Earth Day, 1990
Quote #101

Across the country, millions of people rallied to express their concerns about pollution and to learn how they could help clean up and protect the environment. Thanks to the educational programs and the volunteer programs established since then, many Americans now are more faithful stewards of our precious natural resources.

-- January 3, 1990
Proclamation 6085: Earth Day, 1990
Quote #102

While there is a critical role for government programs and social spending, it is increasingly clear to more and more Americans that our greatest social problems -- drugs, education reform, the environment, crime -- will only be solved by the active engagement of tens of thousands of individuals and millions of groups and institutions who have never been involved before in these problems and who will never be compensated one nickel for their work.

-- January 4, 1990
Remarks to the Presidents Advisory
Committee on the Points of Light
Initiative Foundation
Quote #103

This [Points of Light Initiative] Foundation will help implement my strategy to make community service central to the life and work of every individual and institution in America.

-- January 4, 1990
Remarks to the President's Advisory
Committee on the Points of Light
Initiative Foundation
Quote #104

I am committed to making community service national policy of the highest priority. Drug abuse, illiteracy, homelessness, AIDS, environmental decay, and hunger must no longer be seen as someone else's problems for someone else to solve. To be a "point of light" is to measure your own success by what you do for someone else. Community service must become part of our daily pattern of living.

-- January 4, 1990
Statement on Receiving the Report of
the President's Advisory Committee on
The Points of Light Initiative
Foundation
Quote #105

I keep talking about something called a Thousand Points of Light...And that really means involvement of one person in the lives of others....

-- January 12, 1990
Question-and-Answer Session With
Participants in the Youth
Collaborative Mentor Group in
Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #106

And sure, people have different ideas about success. Some think it's measured by what's parked in your driveway or hanging in your closet. But real success is something else. An educated man or woman gains so much more. With just a pen or pencil and a desire to learn, there are no limits to success. Maybe it has to do with the finding of one's own talents, using them to reach your fullest potential, whatever path you choose, working to make a difference for yourself and those around you. If you stay in school, you'll find that the key to success is right next to you. And if you keep struggling to live up to your own expectations, you'll find the strength to succeed right deep in your heart.

-- January 12, 1990
Remarks to the Students of Robert A.
Taft High School in Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #107

...what you're doing to help somebody -- which is impossible to price because not only do you bring a certain number of hours a day but you bring a dimension for your own dedication that you can't purchase. You're doing it because you believe in something and you want to help somebody.

-- January 12, 1990
Question-and-Answer Session With
Participants in the Youth
Collaborative Mentor Group in
Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #108

. . . programs where individuals involve themselves in the lives of others become even more important. I happen to think that the more involvement we have at the local level, the better.

-- January 12, 1990
Question-and-Answer Session With
Participants in the Youth
Collaborative Mentor Group in
Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #109

It's got to come from peers. It's got to come from family. It's got to come from dedicated volunteers or workers who are saying, Hey, you are somebody. You can amount to something.

-- January 12, 1990
Question-and-Answer Session With
Participants in the Youth
Collaborative Mentor Group in
Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #110

...a lot of it is family. A lot of it has got to be our, in some way, encouraging the strength of a family. . . . I happen to think that some of the despair and some of the discouragement comes from the dissolution or the strains on the American family.

-- January 12, 1990
Question-and-Answer Session With
Participants in the Youth
Collaborative Mentor Group in
Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #111

I think that I can do more to encourage individuals and volunteers all over the country to -- and it's far more than a Federal Government can do, far more in terms of total dollars brought to bear on the program. When you price out what each person here is doing and then try to multiply that, if you could project this program around the country, it would mind-boggle you in terms of Federal budget.

-- January 12, 1990
Question-and-Answer Session With
Participants in the Youth
Collaborative Mentor Group in
Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #112

I understand that every television station in greater Cincinnati, all six broadcasting companies and two cable channels, will be launching a two-hour program called a 'Future-Thon.' It's like a telethon for the schools of Cincinnati. But Future-Thon is asking for something even more precious than money. It's asking people to volunteer their talents and their time to be role models, to help Cincinnati students get the future they deserve. And the kids of Cincinnati deserve the very best.

-- January 12, 1990
Remarks to the Students of Robert A.
Taft High School in Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #113

Every adult in America can gain so much by developing a special relationship with a young person. When you lift the spirits of the young, you raise their horizons to the stars, you give them the promise of a future bright with possibility. I hope the adults here today are just the first of what will soon be thousands like you, helping the young people of your community.

-- January 12, 1990
Remarks to the Students of Robert A.
Taft High School in Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #114

Three years ago business, educational, and community leaders here came together to take on a mighty task; reduce the numbers of students at risk, that staggering 40-percent dropout rate in Cincinnati's public schools. The result was what I saw today: that Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, an intensive people-to-people mentoring program that many of you support. And it's already seen some fantastic, early success...I guess the most moving part of it for me today was the mentoring part -- involvement of one Cincinnatian in the life of another; an older man, an older woman taking under his or her arm a kid, lifting them up, helping them when they're hurt. A beautiful experience.

-- January 12, 1990
Remarks to Members of the Chamber of
Commerce in Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #115

But it offers something even more important, because with every friendship you build with a CYC mentor and with every hour you spend with a tutor you're getting something more than skills: You're gaining power, purpose, a friendship you can count on, somebody to lift you up when you're a little bit down. And once you have that, you can never be stopped, never denied the potential that's yours and the success that's waiting for you.

-- January 12, 1990
Remarks to the Students of Robert A.
Taft High School in Cincinnati, Ohio
Quote #116

...I'm talking about the victims of crime. I hope that each of you, one way or another, will try to help out what I call a Thousand Points of Light, try to learn a little more about these organizations to help the victims of crime.

-- January 19, 1990
Remarks at a Fund-Raising Dinner for
Governor Bob Martinez in Miami, Florida
Quote #117

But our partnership needs a third element: that constellation of volunteers I referred to that I called the Thousand Points of Light.

-- January 19, 1990
Remarks at the Annual Convention of the
National Association of Home Builders in
Atlanta, Georgia
Quote #118

We're all going to have to work in a partnership to solve the problems of the helpless and the homeless...What better Point of Light -- one American helping another have a better life.

-- January 19, 1990
Remarks at the Annual Convention of the
National Association of Home Builders in
Atlanta, Georgia
Quote #119

...all of this ultimately saves the taxpayers money. But this isn't about money, it's about caring. And if it takes love to make a house a home, then perhaps the same could be said of a country.

-- January 19, 1990
Remarks at the Annual Convention of the
National Association of Home Builders in
Atlanta, Georgia
Quote #120

But the real answer for homeless with mental problems or dependent on drugs or alcohol -- the real answer is shelter plus care...And it's not a matter of each individual waging a lonely battle against the impersonal forces of society. We're not alone. The values that I am talking about have a home in the family, in our churches and in our communities.

-- January 22, 1990
Remarks During the American Spectator
Annual Dinner.
Quote #121

...in some ways, our difficulty with dealing with homelessness begins with the label -- a label that tells us what homeless lack is homes...But the problem is far more complex -- more complex because the real problem of homelessness is not one-dimensional. There are homeless families, cases where the husband and wife and children are all together, out on the street. But most often, homelessness is a symptom of a more pervasive problem -- drug or alcohol addiction or chronic joblessness, or mental illness or family problems -- conditions that prevent the unfortunate people that we see on the streets from caring for their children, from keeping a home...If our policy towards the homeless doesn't treat these causes -- if it doesn't combine the basic need for shelter with other support services that reach the real reasons for homelessness -- all the best intentions and all the housing in the world won't get the homeless off the street once and for all and back into society.

-- January 22, 1990
Remarks During the American Spectator
Annual Dinner.
Quote #122

Together -- and that isn't just Federal Government spending and municipal spending. I am talking proudly of the Thousand Points of Light. We need to get more involved. Together let's defeat Public Enemy Number One (Drugs).

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to the United States Conference
of Mayors
Quote #123

To go from fail to pass will require school boards, teachers, and parents to work together with all levels of government.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to the United States Conference
of Mayors
Quote #124

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc group here.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to Members of the Law Enforcement
Community in Kansas City, Missouri
Quote #125

I do believe that as partners we, too, can accomplish what some might deem impossible. So let us assault the drugs and crime that form the first of our challenges.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to the United States Conference
of Mayors
Quote #126

And we know that to help the homeless, like improving education or stopping drugs, will require a combined Federal, State, and local effort.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to the United States Conference
of Mayors
Quote #127

Ad Hoc recognizes early on that the war on drugs meant unconventional warfare, a battle to be fought day by day, house by house, family by family, child by child, because each kid saved is a victory won.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to Members of the Law Enforcement
Community in Kansas City, Missouri
Quote #128

Strong families are an important element in a healthy, respectful society. Many of life's most important lessons are learned within the walls of our own homes, and we must do everything we can to strengthen our families and help them to cultivate character in our children.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to Members of the Law Enforcement
Community in Kansas City, Missouri
Quote #129

The Gordon Black Poll figures mean that Americans are willing to donate more than 500 million hours per week...nationally. They want to serve, they want to give, but they have to be asked before they can do either.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to the United States Conference
of Mayors
Quote #130

First, there are the corporate leaders who have committed to helping children like you find loving homes. For example, how many of you watch cartoons? Do you know the Jetsons? Or the Flintstones? Or Yogi Bear? Well, the people who work at Hanna Barbara created those cartoons. And now they're creating a new character who will encourage families to adopt children.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks at the Celebration of
Children Ceremony
Quote #131

But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart...It's your people. They call it the Kansas City Spirit -- restless, idealistic, determined...And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks to Members of the Law Enforcement
Community in Kansas City, Missouri
Quote #132

And some of you may be aware of TV programs in which children who want to be adopted go on television in cities across America -- it's called 'Wednesday's Child.' And it's very successful. Almost three-quarters of all the kids who appear on this show find families. And so NBC network is going to work with us to get more kids on TV and more stations to show 'Wednesday's Child' so more families will see these children.

-- January 26, 1990
Remarks at the Celebration of
Children Ceremony
Quote #133

Perhaps he believes, like so many...volunteers, that recognizing something greater than ourselves is what really matters...You don't often hear from them because they're too modest to brag. And you don't often notice them at work because theirs is a quiet mission. But together, [sic] helping to move this country forward.

-- January 31, 1990
Remarks at a White House Ceremony
Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of
VISTA
Quote #134

For an individual, dignity comes when he realizes that he's the true author of his destiny; for a troubled community, it comes by finding leadership from within. So, your achievements come as much from the power of self-confidence as they do from the material side -- from material assistance. Sounds like a miracle. Maybe it is. It is a miracle that comes from caring.

-- January 31, 1990
Remarks at a White House Ceremony
Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of
VISTA
Quote #135

Parents: Your children look to you for direction and guidance. Tell them of faith and family. Tell them of all the gifts they can give, the greatest is helping others.

-- January 31, 1990
State of the Union Address
Quote #136

Every effort is important. It all adds up to who we are -- and who we will be.

-- January 31, 1990
State of the Union Address
Quote #137

President Johnson charged the VISTA volunteers with a tough mission, committing you -- and here's what he said -- 'to guide the young, to comfort the sick, to encourage the downtrodden, to teach the skills which may lead to a more rewarding life.' That was your mission then and that certainly is your mission today. Every time a kid learns to read, you make a difference. Every time a homeless family finds shelter, you make a difference. And every time a troubled person stays off drugs, you make a difference for all Americans.

-- January 31, 1990
Remarks at a White House Ceremony
Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of
VISTA
Quote #138

The 'state of the government' does indeed depend on many of us in this very chamber. But the State of the Union depends on all Americans.

-- January 31, 1990
State of the Union Address
Quote #139

The State of the Union depends on whether we help our neighbor - claim the problems of our community as our own. We've got to step forward when there is trouble -- lend a hand, be what I call a point of light to a stranger in need. We've got to take the time after a busy day to sit down and read with our kids, help them with their homework, and pass along the values we learned as children. That's how we sustain the State of the Union.

-- January 31, 1990
State of the Union Address
Quote #140

Each and every one of you have my thanks and admiration for your outstanding commitment to help others. You are all examples of those Thousands Points of Light that I like to talk so much about.

-- February 1990
Video Message to the Visiting Nurses
Associations Annual Meeting
Quote #141

While there is a critical role for government programs and non-profit organizations, these problems can never be solved until each individual and each institution comes to see them as their problems, too. Only active, "hands-on" engagement can reclaim the lost lives of those in need. For what those "left out" need most is a relationship with someone who cares.

-- February 1990
American Bar Association Journal
Quote #142

But America today needs much more from the legal profession...we must devote special attention to those living on the edge, those lacking adequate food or shelter, those addicted or mentally ill, those whose neighborhoods have been decimated by crime and decay.

-- February 1990
American Bar Association Journal
Quote #143

As lawyers, you can play a major role in the evolving community-service movement that I have called a 'Thousand Points of Light.' In every community, there are forgotten children whose lives can be made whole by a mentoring relationship with a caring adult. In every community, there are men and women who cannot read and write. In every community, there are needs to be met and a difference you can make.

-- February 1990
American Bar Association Journal
Quote #144

Alone none of us can change the world. But each one of you can turn darkness into light for someone in need.

-- February 1990
American Bar Association Journal
Quote #145

Thousands of Americans are finding their soul, finding their God, by reaching out to their brothers and sisters in need. You've heard me talk about a Thousand Points of Light across the country. Americans are working through their places of worship, through community programs, or on their own to help the hungry or the homeless, to teach the unskilled, to bring the words of men and the Word of God to those who cannot even read.

-- February 1, 1990
Remarks at the Annual National Prayer
Breakfast
Quote #146

A close friend of mine sent me a poem recently which eloquently embodies this spirit of giving. 'I sought my soul but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother and found all three.'

-- February 1, 1990
Remarks at the Annual National Prayer
Breakfast
Quote #147

It's not the winners trophy at the end of the quest: it's the quest itself.

-- February 2, 1990
Remarks to the Students and Faculty of the
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Quote #148

But as I said...real improvement in our schools is not simply a matter of spending more: it's a matter of asking more -- expecting more -- of our schools, our teachers, our kids and ourselves.

-- February 2, 1990
Remarks to the Students and Faculty of the
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Quote #149

So I thank all of you for your commitment to community. I think people are beginning to understand what I mean when I talk about a Thousand Points of Light...one American pitching in to help another.

-- February 7, 1990
Remarks to the Staff of the Lawrence
Livermore National Laboratory in
San Francisco, California
Quote #150

We know that all the answer are not found in Washington, D.C. And we know about the vital work that gets done at the State level -- in Columbus and in every other city and town...We know the power of the private sector -- the source of growth and jobs. And we know the power of individual citizens -- people in every community across this country who don't wait for word from Washington before they dig in and make a difference.

-- February 8, 1990
Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner for the
Ohio Republican Party
Quote #151

And I'd love to hear from the parents exactly how it all works, how many parents end up getting involved. The more the better we think.

-- February 8, 1990
Remarks at a briefing for Head Start
Volunteers in Columbus, Ohio
Quote #152

And as public servants, you, too, have learned the simple truth -- what we do for ourselves dies with us; what we do for others remains.

-- February 9, 1990
Remarks to the National Conference of
State Legislatures
Quote #153

In education, the solution to the problem is not re-enforcing the federal bureaucracy, but re-enforcing the American tradition of state and local education. Because real improvement in the schools is not simply a question of spending more...where we need to provide more, but we also need to demand more, expect more of our schools, our teachers, our kids and ourselves.

-- February 9, 1990
Remarks to the National Conference of
State Legislatures.
Quote #154

And let me assure you, we're not just talking about interdiction, we're not just talking about anticrime aspects of this in the United States, we're talking about a major effort on the demand side, a major initiative -- and most of it is out in the private sector or in the schools, to educate the people against the use of narcotics....

-- February 12, 1990
The President's News Conference
Quote #155

...It teaches the spirit of serving others and self-respect. And let me make it pure and simple: It teaches lessons that last a lifetime. And so, when I hear about Boy Scouts that are out there helping the homeless or feeding the hungry or cleaning up our cities and towns or helping other kids stay drug-free...when I here about boys as young as 8 and 9, Cub Scouts, doing things like that, I see a glimpse of the future -- what this nation can be like if we follow the lead of the Scouts.

-- February 12, 1990
Remarks Upon Receiving the Boy Scouts of
America Report to the Nation
∴ Quote #156

...volunteers generously bring not only their knowledge and skills but also welcome companionship to homebound Americans in rural and urban communities.

-- February 16, 1990
Proclamation 6096: National Visiting Nurse
Association Week, 1990
Quote #157

I still talk about a Thousand Points of Light. And I think that the American people are beginning to understand that this isn't an escape from the responsibility of the Federal Government; rather, that it is an attempt to enlist the noblest impulses of the American people in one helping another, the concept that you shouldn't measure a successful life without throwing in the equation of doing something for someone else.

-- February 21, 1990
Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session
at the Annual Dinner of the Business
Council
Quote #158

...because there are some marvelous examples of how a corporation can get involved in programs like mentoring. I understand that many companies have agreed to actually take a significant role in working with the localities and freeing up corporate personnel to go in and help some of these programs. And I think that's an important area.

-- February 21, 1990
Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session
at the Annual Dinner of the Business
Council
Quote #159

...in this room, just sitting here, are people that, when they pool their resources -- and I'm not just talking about money; I'm talking about talent and mobilizing people -- can do more in this room combined than the Federal Government can do, particularly in the field of education.

-- February 21, 1990
Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session
at the Annual Dinner of the Business
Council
Quote #160

...I bragged on the work of Jim Burke and others in this room who are out front trying to -- in a private way, no government involvement -- making the American people and the kids, particularly, aware that this use of narcotics cannot be condoned...the reason that I want to mention that subject is because I think the business community has an enormously constructive role to play.

-- February 21, 1990
Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session
at the Annual Dinner of the Business
Council
Quote #161

...I ask you today to avoid the understandable urge to practice defensive medicine...fear of malpractice...has not only hurt medical innovation and treatment, it also hurts medical voluntarism.

-- February 22, 1990
Remarks at the Centennial Celebration of
the Johns Hopkins University Medical
Institution in Baltimore, Maryland
Quote #162

...in our country today, there is a growing awareness that to make this country as healthy as it can be, all of us...must accept a share of the responsibility: government, the health care profession, and the American people themselves.

-- February 22, 1990
Remarks at the Centennial Celebration of
the Johns Hopkins University Medical
Institution in Baltimore, Maryland
Quote #163

Just as for millions of people in need, from that snowbound mountaineer to families made homeless by floods and hurricanes, the Red Cross is what I like to refer to as a brilliant point of light -- part of that vast galaxy of individuals, businesses, schools, churches, synagogues, voluntary associations working together to solve problems.

-- February 23, 1990
Remarks by the President to the
Red Cross
Quote #164

A point of light. A star of hope across the globe...providing light at the end of the tunnel, a rainbow through the clouds.

-- February 23, 1990
Remarks by the President to the
Red Cross
Quote #165

For like you, he [Admiral Grayson, the founder of the Red Cross] believed that we succeed in life only when we make a difference in someone else's life.

-- February 23, 1990
Remarks by the President to the
Red Cross
Quote #166

Schools, churches, synagogues, community groups, law enforcement -- all can help us turn the tide on drug and alcohol abuse, but none can take a parent's place. Drug education must begin at home and in the neighborhood long before the classroom.

-- February 26, 1990

Remarks announcing the Publication of the Guidebook "Growing Up Drug Free: a Parent's Guide to Prevention.

Quote #167

You don't have much time off now...But I urge you to take some of this fame that you have earned and help the kids in this country stay off of drugs and learn to read and grow up to be the kind of sportsman that each and every one of you are.

-- February 27, 1990

Remarks Congratulating the Super Bowl Champion San Francisco 49ers

Quote #168

Even now, you are doing what legislation can't. Changing attitudes. Showing Americans that drugs aren't hip -- they're self-destructive...Through education, treatment, interdiction, and enforcement, we're going to defeat Public Enemy Number One.

-- March, 1990

Video Message to the American Association of Advertising Agencies

Quote #169

It [service] teaches young Americans the spirit of serving others and self respect. Pure and simple -- the lessons learned last a lifetime.

-- March, 1990

Remarks in a PSA for the Boy Scouts of America

Quote #170

I have said this scourge [drugs] must stop. And it will. And it is beginning to stop, through selfless volunteers like you.

-- March, 1990

Video Message to the American Association of Advertising Agencies

Quote #171

And where the most troubling challenge to our communities is concerned, the enslavement of illegal drugs, your members can help us turn the tables against the dealers forever.

-- March 1, 1990
Remarks at the California Chamber of
Commerce Centennial Dinner in Los Angeles
Quote #172

And I believe we can and will win this battle against drugs...Let me encourage all of you: We need to make it very clear to every American that if you do drugs you don't get hired.

-- March 1, 1990
Remarks at the California Chamber of
Commerce Centennial Dinner in Los Angeles
Quote #173

To make sure our educational system gives our kids the skills they need to thrive in the future, new partnerships between schools and yes, businesses need to be expanded.

-- March 1, 1990
Remarks at the California Chamber of
Commerce Centennial Dinner in Los Angeles
Quote #174

...let me also encourage you to get involved with local efforts, at street level. On every block, in every town, in every city in America, there should be a home or a business willing to serve as a safe house for kids, where they can go for help; for refuge from drug dealers; or just for the comfort of somebody who cares, of a caring, listening heart.

-- March 1, 1990
Remarks at the California Chamber of
Commerce Centennial Dinner in Los Angeles
Quote #175

Our schools need your time and talents, and if you are already involved, keep at it, and if you are not, this is your decade to do it.

-- March 1, 1990
Remarks at the California Chamber of
Commerce Centennial Dinner in Los Angeles
Quote #176

And thank goodness the days when popular culture glorified and glamorized drug-use are fading fast. Public opinion is turning around. We used to here that drugs were fashionable and fun and risk-free. Not anymore. Now we're hearing something different. We're hearing that it's okay -- no that it's great, really, to be drug-free.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #177

...I think that change is taking place because we all see the damage that drugs can do. We've seen too many sports stars, too many entertainers, too many of the men and women we look up to, too many of our heroes pulled down, destroyed by drugs. Drugs and success simply do not mix.

And I really want to thank every one of you in this room for smashing that stereotpe. Because the truth is, drugs don't care who you are, how famous you are, how much you earn. Drugs are deadly for everybody.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #178

So this morning, I want to make sure that I'm understood by all the writers and producers and actors in this room. I'm not asking you to compromise your art. I'm not asking TV producers or film makers to portray some kind of fantasy world where drugs don't exist. Sugar-coating isn't going to solve anything. What I'm suggesting is that you have an opportunity to help your country. And I'm with those of you who believe the answer is to treat drugs with the same degree of realism TV brings to so many other subjects. To show what happens in the real world. When someone does drugs, show what happens -- how what starts out as a high turns into the lowest form of self-abasement, where drugs mean more than family, friends, self-respect. To show in the real world how drugs destroy, how drugs kill every single day.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #179

In order to win, America's war on drugs must be total war. Waged from the board room to the classroom. From the White House to your house.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks at 'Drug Use is Life Abuse'
Antidrug Rally in Santa Ana, CA
Quote #180

I came here this morning to make a serious point about a different kind of opportunity. About the tremendous power of television -- and how it can help us meet some of the most pressing social challenges that we face. And I know this industry is more involved than ever in focussing on some of our nation's most serious problems -- whether it's hunger, or homelessness, or drug abuse.

And there's tremendous potential in that because every one of us in this room knows that television does more than entertain. It informs and it educates.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #181

We've got simply to drive down demand -- dry up the market for illegal drugs right here in our country. We do that by increasing awareness. Education, providing people, especially young people, information that helps them separate fact from fiction when the subject is drugs.

That really is why I was so pleased to accept your invitation, Leo and Chuck, to come over here this morning. To thank you -- the leaders in the television industry -- for enlisting the power of the TV as a force for positive change. Each of you is a 'point of light,' with a unique ability to inform and to change attitudes, and to catalyze public action in our fight against drug abuse.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #182

This morning, I want to thank so many of you for the work you're doing with my friend, Jim Burke, the head of Media Advertising Partnership for a Drug-Free America. We see those hard-hitting antidrug commercials every day -- and really, they are hitting home. We're starting to see a shift in attitudes in the regions where those spots are on the air.

But it's not just the commercials that are getting the antidrug message across -- increasingly, it's also your regular programming, the shows themselves. And that's important.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #183

But our kids do face peer pressure from their peers, pressure from the pushers out there to snort coke, or smoke pot, or even a killer called crack cocaine. "Just once can't hurt." "Everybody does it." "It's cool." And that's what our kids hear. That's what they are up against. For too many of our kids, regrettably, that is the real world. And we've got to help our children develop the power to say no, power that comes from self-confidence. We've got to arm our kids with the facts: Drugs aren't part of life in the fast lane; drugs are a dead-end.

And that's why I am so delighted that the Academy is taking the lead in producing a show called 'Cartoon All-Stars To The Rescue.' A story about a boy who, with the help of more than a dozen of today's most popular cartoon characters, learns that he can draw the lines against drugs, that every kid can be drug-free.

-- March 2, 1990
Remarks to the Academy of Television Arts
and Sciences
Quote #184

...not State governments and not really even the Federal Government. Success in education starts with you, from every parent and every teacher who will settle for nothing less than a world-class education for our kids.

-- March 5, 1990
Remarks to Members of the National PTA
Legislative Conference
Quote #185

The story I want to tell you today -- a story that Martin Luther King, Jr. told in his speech he made the night before that terrible day in Memphis, 22 years ago. It's a story about serving others and the courage that it takes. It's a familiar story about the Good Samaritan and the stranger he helped. But there's another part of the story we don't always remember.

Before the Good Samaritan stopped that day, two other men saw the injured stranger and passed him by. And Dr. King thought long and hard about it, and he used to ask himself: Why didn't the others stop to help? And Dr. King came up with some good reasons: They didn't stop because they were too busy, had more important work waiting in Jerusalem of far more consequence than helping one unfortunate man; and so on they went.

And then one day, Martin Luther King put himself in their shoes. At the age of 30, on his very first visit to the Holy Land, he and his wife, Coretta, travelled that road from Jerusalem to Jericho. And Dr. King saw the story of the Good Samaritan in a new light.

That road starts off more than 1000 feet above the sea level and ends in Jericho 2000 feet below sea level. A twisting road, full of blind curves. He imagined the road 2000 years ago, each curve a perfect ambush for robbers. And at that moment, Dr. King realized why the two men didn't stop. It had nothing to do with the reasons he had imagined. They didn't stop because they were afraid.

The way Dr. King imagined it, one asked himself: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' And he went on about his way. But then the Good Samaritan came along, and asked himself a different question: 'If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?' And he asked himself that question and he found the courage to stop; the courage to help; the courage to serve.

So which question, then, do we ask ourselves? About going down to the soup kitchen in that dangerous neighborhood. About stopping on a dark street to help a homeless man. About reaching out to those desperate kids out there -- kids who have no home life, who are hooked on drugs, who live a nightmare we can't begin to imagine. Doing any of these things isn't easy. Every one takes an act of courage. But unlike the Good Samaritan, we don't have to act alone. Each one of you understands the power of collective action -- how much we can get done when we work together, pool our resources, combine our talents.

And don't think that it won't take courage. It's going to take courage to go back to your member organizations, back to their CEOs and Boards of Directors and suggest that they place community service at the center of their agenda. It's going to take courage to insist that community service has a place at the

very heart of every organization. It will take courage to make one believe that from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. But that's just exactly what I'm asking you to do.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #186

Because the fact is, coping with the problems we face is within our power. There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. Think about that. The programs I've just mentioned -- in New York, Atlanta, Portland, Oregon -- and thousands more.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #187

First, build a firm foundation. Find out what's working in your industry -- in your profession -- in your community. Let your members know which community service programs are most effective -- and challenge them to make them the blueprint for their own efforts...Find new ways to use existing assets. I understand that one of the ASAE's great strengths is its Allied Societies structure -- 69 state and local organizations, thousands more association executives. I'm asking each of these Allied Societies to take the lead in their community for solving social problems -- become what we call "Points of Light Action Groups."

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #188

I know most associations are already active in community service -- and I have heard about some of the wonderful work being done. By the Medical Association of Atlanta -- working after-hours to provide free medical care to the homeless. By the Oregon Remodelers Association in Portland -- in Project Pride, a program to do repairs for low-income elderly. By the Hotel Association of New York City -- with its ongoing commitment to donate surplus food to feed the hungry. These are just three of the countless community service projects your associations are engaged in. A priceless commitment of time and talent.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #189

The fact is, government isn't the only organized entity put there with the power to change things, the power to make a difference. Everyone in this room is well aware of the advantages of association. But I don't whether you are really aware of the full extent of your power. Of the resources -- the expertise -- the potential energy -- your organizations can command. Your ability to help solve community problems.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #190

Look around at the problems we face: Drug abuse. Hunger, homelessness. Illiteracy. Despair in our inner cities. The breakdown of the family. There's a role, a critical role, for government finding solutions -- but we know government doesn't have all the answers. If we could eliminate these problems -- solve them once and for all -- with more programs, more bureaucracy -- these problems would have disappeared long ago.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #191

Think about the ways your organization -- everyone of your members -- can make this mission of serving others their own.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #192

So today, I'm asking you: Channel that energy into community service. Tap that power to transform a nation.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #193

...set a target of 100% participation in community service. Challenge your constituents to call on every employee and member at every level of every organization -- from the CEO on down to the newest hire -- to make community service their personal mission.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #194

Find new ways to use existing assets. I understand that one of the ASAE's great strengths is its Allied Societies structure -- 69 state and local organizations, thousands more association executives. I'm asking each of these Allied Societies to take the lead in their community for solving social problems -- become what we call "Points of Light Action Groups."

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #195

One thing more while we're talking about cartoons -- every one of us knows those scenes where a character falls off a cliff or gets hit by a truck and then bounces right back up, dusts himself off and moves right on to the next scene. Kids see that stuff -- and they know it isn't real. But how many kids and young adults today have seen the programs or movies that show a character take drugs and, just like the cartoon characters, survive without a scratch? That isn't real either. And in the real world, whether it is Hollywood or Harlem, or out in the Heartland, small-town America, we know what drugs do. And the simple truth is that they destroy.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #196

Finally, a third challenge. Recognize those members who are what I call 'Points of Light.' I've belonged to many associations in my life, and I know one of the things you do best is to recognize outstanding performance. So I ask you to turn the spotlight on community service -- in your newsletters and magazines, at your annual meetings -- on individuals who give 110% helping people in need -- and on those organizations who demonstrate 100% participation in community service.

-- March 6, 1990
Remarks to the American Society of
Association Executives
Quote #197

A few months ago, Bill Bennett wrote a booklet called "Fighting Back." And many of you here were profiled in that piece.

Almost every story was different. But almost every story began the same way. It began when one man or woman threw down the hat, took off the gloves, stepped forward, armed with the most powerful force known to man -- the force of an idea.

-- March 7, 1990
Remarks by the President During National
Drug Control Policy Luncheon
Quote #198

You are the stars in America's war on drugs. You shine through the dark, you give hope in the night. And we're here today really to say that someone noticed...

-- March 7, 1990
Remarks by the President During National
Drug Control Policy Luncheon
Quote #199

In the past year, I have spent a lot of time praising those involved in service to others. And I am grateful for this opportunity to salute you not only as what we call 'Points of Light,' but as also 'points of courage.'

-- March 7, 1990
Remarks by the President During National
Drug Control Policy Luncheon
Quote #200

So I think you are America's hometown heroes -- unconventional warriors -- but this is an unconventional war [the war on drugs]. You've shown how the communities under siege can be united in a battle for life, and how they can be restored to health and safety. Doing it your way, on your turf.

-- March 7, 1990
Remarks by the President During National
Drug Control Policy Luncheon
Quote #201

...they are taking all these cartoon characters...and working in...in an antidrug message.

-- March 19, 1990
Remarks to the National Association of
Attorneys General
Quote #202

It [the National Tree Trust Foundation] will sound a nationwide call for each American to become a volunteer for the environment. And most of all, plant the trees that clean our air, prevent erosion, consume carbon dioxide, and purify our water.

-- March 22, 1990
Remarks During a Tree Planting Ceremony
Quote #203

Drug abuse, illiteracy, inadequate education, homelessness, hunger, environmental decay and other critical social problems can indeed be solved. In fact, as we demonstrated Monday by naming the 100th Daily Point of Light, these problems are already being solved in every corner of the Nation -- men and women of all ages and organizations of every conceivable type who are tackling these problems in a direct and consequential way.

-- March 30, 1990
Remarks to the Founding Directors of The
Points of Light Initiative Foundation
Quote #204

But the money that's spent by the Federal Government is a tiny percentage of the work that is being done at the State, at the local level, and also at what I think is the "Points of Light" level. The dynamism of individuals participating is fantastic.

-- March 23, 1990
Remarks During a Press Conference With
Regional Media
Quote #205

You, too, are in a powerful, unique position to influence the response to HIV and AIDS. Washing our hands of it won't help solve the problem; rolling up our sleeves will.

-- March 29, 1990
Remarks to the National Leadership
Coalition on AIDS
Quote #206

The growth and the magnification of Points of Light must now become an American mission. Today, we're not creating a program; we're adding a new dimension to a national movement. Block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, life by life, we can reclaim those living in darkness. And with every American's help, we will.

-- March 30, 1990
Remarks to the Founding Directors of The
Points of Light Initiative Foundation
Quote #207

Volunteers helping thousands of new volunteers to learn not only how and where to plant trees, but how to care for them, why we need them, and how they help the environment.

-- March 22, 1990
Remarks During a Tree Planting Ceremony
Quote #208

The Founding Directors and I share the same vision for this foundation [The Points of Light Initiative Foundation] and the aim of it is to make service to others central to the life and work of every individual, group, and institution in America, from our largest corporations to our smallest neighborhood associations.

-- March 30, 1990
Remarks to the Founding Directors of The
Points of Light Initiative Foundation
Quote #209

...[Educational] excellence will be obtained not by spending more and more money but by demanding higher standards, greater accountability, better teachers, and greater involvement by parents and communities.

-- April 3, 1990
Remarks at a Republican Party Fundraiser
in Detroit, Michigan
Quote #210

This urban forestry program will help volunteers show new volunteers not only how and where to plant trees but also how to care for them, why we need them, and how they will help our precious environment.

-- April 3, 1990
Remarks at a Tree Planting Ceremony in
Indianapolis, Indiana
Quote #211

Everywhere I went I found hope. I found people who have had enough of fear, had enough of crime, had enough of dope...so the people of these neighborhoods are rallying together, using people power to fight for another kind of freedom -- freedom from crime and drugs. Freedom from fear. We must march with them in solidarity, side by side, block by block, city by city.

-- April 4, 1990
Remarks to the Joint Center for
Policy Studies
Quote #212

Through their continuous efforts to strengthen and enrich our communities, volunteers not only bring hope to others but also renew our faith in the ideals upon which this Nation was founded. By reaffirming the dignity and worth of the individual and the power of collective action, volunteers help the United States to experience a "new birth of freedom" each day. Time and time again, these generous and hardworking individuals demonstrate that ours is, indeed, a 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people.'

-- April 24, 1990
A Proclamation: National Volunteer
Week, 1990
Quote #213

I ask all Americans to join in saluting and thanking our Nation's volunteers, as well as the organizations that support their efforts.

-- April 24, 1990
A Proclamation: National Volunteer
Week, 1990
Quote #214

...we salute the millions of volunteers who help to ensure that their fellow Americans enjoy freedom from injustice and freedom from fear and want. They are nearly half of our adult citizens who devote their time to uplifting those encumbered by substance abuse, homelessness, and illiteracy. They are older men and women who comfort chemically dependent 'border babies' in our inner-city hospitals. They are young professionals who befriend AIDS victims or disadvantaged children need of positive role models. They are couples who counsel and shelter single mothers or foster children, and they are teenagers who collect canned goods for needy families. Because of dedicated volunteers like these, there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

-- April 24, 1990
A Proclamation: National Volunteer
Week, 1990
Quote #215

Through the combined force of examples like these two women, federal employees have helped lead the advance of volunteerism. The Thousand Points of Light as an ideal all across America. A sort of "Charge of the Light Brigade," if you will. And our Points of Light Initiative is a new effort, but its goals are just as old and as traditional as the values that we cherish.

-- April 24, 1990
Remarks During the Signing of the
National Volunteer Week, 1990 Proclamation
Quote #216

It is with great pride that we salute the 80 million Americans who serve as volunteers. These individuals have moved us all by the strength of their convictions and they've gently challenged us through their example of selflessness and concern for others. And they've shown us -- they really have -- that any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

-- April 24, 1990
Remarks During the Signing of the
National Volunteer Week, 1990 Proclamation
Quote #217

...together there is nothing -- drugs, poverty, loneliness -- that we cannot overcome.

-- April 24, 1990
Remarks During the Signing of the
National Volunteer Week, 1990 Proclamation
Quote #218

Americans everywhere can learn a valuable lesson from the volunteers that are gathered here today. The seal hanging in front of me says, 'E Pluribus Unum', which means 'Out of many, one.'...all of you here are proof of what Americans have always known, that when we band together in service, there is no problem too big, no obstacle too stubborn to overcome.

-- April 24, 1990
Remarks During the Signing of the
National Volunteer Week, 1990 Proclamation
Quote #219

All people, young or old, wealthy or poor, book-smart or street-wise, possess the traits to truly shine. Prejudices and fears must give way to the realization that everyone has value, that every life has meaning.

A pregnant unwed teenager can talk to young girls about teen pregnancy in a way that perhaps we can't. And a prisoner can speak to young men and women about crime and delinquency in a special language that we might not understand. The drug addict can talk tough to those who believe that a little marijuana can't hurt you. And the school-drop-out can tell those who are tempted to skip the books that quitting school is really a dead-end street.

-- April 24, 1990
Remarks During the Signing of the
National Volunteer Week, 1990 Proclamation
Quote #220

Today, more than 100 Oklahoma communities have local private foundations, many inspired by your lead. Think of it: Each of these foundations-I call them Points of Light-each does what the Federal Government cannot do: serve as a wonderful model for other States and localities to emulate.

By increasing private support for public education, you've enriched academic opportunities for students all across the State. If there's any doubt, you've resolved it. When it comes to Oklahoma education, Washington doesn't know best, Oklahomans do.

-- May 4, 1990
Remarks at the Foundation for
Excellence Dinner in Tulsa, Oklahoma
Quote #221

Yet you also know that progress made can't be measured by dollars spent alone. So, you're showing how parents, teachers, administrators, school boards can work together to help our kids-like Oklahoma's fabled pioneers-discover the unlimited frontiers of learning.

-- May 4, 1990
Remarks at the Foundation for Excellence
Dinner in Tulsa, Oklahoma
Quote #222

It is around small businesses that you find communities growing and prospering. It is where women and minorities make their mark as business owners. It is here where you find so many of the Thousand Points of Light that are aiding those in need all across the country.

-- May 8, 1990
Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony
for the Small Business Person of the
Year Award
Quote #223

...a Thousand Points of Light: volunteers who measure life by holding themselves accountable for the well-being of their community.

-- May 12, 1990
Remarks at the Liberty University
Commencement Ceremony in Lynchburg,
Virginia
Quote #224

America's major export has always been generosity. Today, more than ever, we need to use that generosity to combat such global problems as hunger and health care, literacy and helplessness. Remember, individually, we can change a life; collectively, we can change the world. Each of you can reject membership in a 'me' generation, proving that yours is the 'we' generation, and in the process show how a definition of a successful life must include serving others.

...a Thousand Points of Light can become a galaxy of people working to solve problems in their own backyard.

Today the choices for your future are many. Make one of them, just one of them, continued commitment to community service. Be tutors in inner-city schools or candy strippers at local hospitals. Assist those without food to eat or a place to sleep or those coping with AIDS. Help not merely colleagues but strangers, stemming their desperate aloneness to make them feel needed and loved. And if you become a lawyer, ask the firm to do pro bono work. If a teacher, volunteer for counseling. Let the Office of National Service-which our administration formed last year to encourage voluntarism-let it know what you're doing. Serve at day care centers, homes for the elderly, shelters for addicts. Join what Edmund Burke called little, but mighty, platoons. Become a light unto the world.

In this more peaceful time, when our armies can become smaller, we must mold a world where the armies of people-people helping others-can become bigger, using what has been given to us...to give back to ourselves.

-- May 12, 1990
Remarks at the Liberty University
Commencement Ceremony in Lynchburg,
Virginia
Quote #225

We must uphold those ideals through what I call one-to-one caring.

Each of us can make a difference in the life of another.

...the need for involvement in the lives of others is not just a problem outside our borders: empowerment must be for Americans, too.

-- May 12, 1990
Remarks at the Liberty University
Commencement Ceremony in Lynchburg,
Virginia
Quote #226

In a special way, when the first people decided to take back their community, they lit the first candle of hope. When more and more of their neighbors joined them, their unified spirit shone with a light that banished the darkness of despair.

-- May 21, 1990
Remarks to Oakwood Community Members in
Los Angeles, California.
Quote #227

Oakwood proves that no community has to accept things as they are. Americans don't have to live in fear. Crime, drugs, hunger, homelessness, and so many other social problems can be driven from every community if every community cares enough to light the candle of hope.

-- May 21, 1990
Remarks to Oakwood Community Members in
Los Angeles, California
Quote #228

There are so many stories to tell and so many Americans to thank in Head Start centers all around the country. In fact, over 600,000 committed volunteers, each one a Point of Light, are giving their all to make Head Start a national treasure.

-- May 24, 1990
Remarks at a White House Ceremony
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of
Head Start
Quote #229

While government leadership is important, the caring and dedication of parents and volunteers are the key to Head Start's success. Today there are more volunteers than enrolled children in Head Start programs, and there are eight times more volunteers than paid staff members. Thus, Head Start not only serves as a shining example of the good that can be accomplished by concerned individuals working together at the community level, but also demonstrates that income and life circumstances are not barriers to serving others.

-- May 24, 1990
Proclamation 6140-25th Anniversary of
Head Start, 1990
Quote #230

So, this angry father and his friends formed MAD DADS. In the last year, along with more than 550 others who have joined them, they have become the dominant presence on their previously devastated streets. And they're father figures who take a hard line against the drugs and the gangs which are the predators, but speak softly, put their arm around and hug the kids who are the victims.

-- June 8, 1990

Remarks Upon Presenting the Members of MAD DADS With a Point of Light Award in Omaha, Nebraska
Quote #231

The handful of determined neighbors who formed MAD DADS were those voices. They shouted out against this meaningless violence they saw leading today's young men and women into self-destruction, and one by one, others joined them in their cry of protest. And now their world is filled with a lion's roar, supremely strong, fiercely proud, challenging and redeeming.

-- June 8, 1990

Remarks Upon Presenting the Members of MAD DADS With a Point of Light Award in Omaha, Nebraska
Quote #232

If every community could band together as you have, we could see the MAD DADS' spirit of caring spread, street by street, neighborhood by neighborhood, city by city. Crime, drugs, and hopelessness can be and will be banished from the shadows of our great land when each individual cares enough to add his or her own voice to the growing chorus of outrage.

-- June 8, 1990

Remarks Upon Presenting the Members of MAD DADS With a Point of Light Award in Omaha, Nebraska
Quote #233

Yours is also an inspiring message of bravery, sacrifice, and hope that can bring together individuals, political parties, professionals, volunteers, private businesses, and then the Government itself... As brilliant Points of Light in the hard, dark world of battling illness, you've given this rare and loving gift, and you've shown your belief in the shining role which family support plays in the treatment of a sick child.

-- June 21, 1990

Remarks at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the Children's Inn at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland
Quote #234

The lesson of the Inn will show us all that the most important part of life is a very simple one: taking time to hold a hand, share a laugh, wipe away a tear.

-- June 21, 1990

Remarks at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for
the Children's Inn at the National
Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland
Quote #235