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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
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Point of Light - Bedford Stuyvesant 9/12/91 [OA 8327]

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<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

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September 6, 1991

**MEMORANDUM FOR JOE DUGGAN**

**FROM: MICHELE NIX** 

**RE: POINT OF LIGHT BEDFORD-STUYVESANT VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS**

Here's some information about the POL. The POL office said that due to the recent racial tensions in the Brooklyn area (see editorial), there's a question as to whether we should go ahead with this. POL said they are fairly sure that Bedford will be a point of light; they're just not exactly sure when the video will be made and what number POL they will be. The POL office is waiting to hear from Barry Tron of Sig Rogich's office. POL said it's probably going to happen, but they couldn't get a hold of Barry when I went to go pick up the info. I'll check Monday morning to see what Rogich's office decided.

The video message should be 60 seconds--no longer.

The information POL offered includes an editorial about Bedford, fact sheet info from a Bedford brochure, a feature advertisement (which has some good anecdotes/people quotes) and info about POL criteria and background.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT NAMING THE  
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS AS  
THE 572nd POINT OF LIGHT

SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

THE PRESIDENT: Today, job opportunities abound and emergency services are widely available in a Brooklyn, New York neighborhood that once wrestled with unemployment and a lack of medical care. Members of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community are utilizing their greatest resource - their own people - to save lives and create jobs.

For their efforts in meeting the needs of their community, I am naming the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps as our 572nd Daily Point of Light. This corps of volunteers, including the founders James Robinson and Joe Perez, are shining examples of what's at the heart of the Points of Light movement: people reaching out and serving people to make a difference in their community. They encourage and inspire us all to light a candle of our own, instead of cursing the darkness...to catch the vision of a future made bright for all Americans - one point of light at a time.

Good things are happening in America's towns and cities today. All across the country, people are talking about the changes they are seeing in their neighborhoods - thanks to the drive and dedication of our volunteers.

Who are these "heroes" that bring light to our lives? They're next-door neighbors, classmates, co-workers and friends. They are the Points of Light that remind us what America is all about.

I salute the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps for making their neighborhood, and our nation, a brighter place to live.



# BEDFORD-STUYVESANT VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

727 Greene Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11221  
Business: (718) 453-4617  
Emergency: (718) 919-1919

Lt. James Robinson, President  
Spec. Joseph Perez, Vice President

A Response to New York's Crisis in Emergency Medical Services

## Background:

The Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps was founded on July 15, 1988 by Lt. James Robinson, a supervisor and 20-year veteran with the New York City Emergency Medical Service ("EMS"), and Specialist Joe Perez, a registered health care instructor and 10-year veteran with EMS. At the time, both Robinson and Perez were stationed at Woodhull Hospital located in Bedford-Stuyvesant. As a result of their years of service with EMS and their assignment at Woodhull Hospital, Robinson and Perez were familiar with the crisis in emergency medical services affecting minority communities in New York. They were able to observe the unavailability of New York City EMS ambulance service (the service that responds to 911 calls) in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community and in other minority communities such as Harlem, Brownsville, East New York, and the South Bronx. Research by Robinson and Perez confirmed that 75 percent of all EMS calls to 911 originate from such communities, yet these communities are inadequately serviced by EMS.

Robinson and Perez identified two critical factors underlying the emergency medical services crisis. First there are too few EMS ambulance stations located in or near minority communities and as a result, response time for such communities is higher than for other communities. Secondly, the racial composition of EMS itself contributes to the crisis. The current racial composition of EMS is the result of the systematic expulsion and exclusion of minority employees. Twelve years ago, when EMS was not considered a choice assignment, minorities comprised approximately 85 percent of EMS personnel; by 1988, with improved salary and status making EMS a

*Saving lives today.... building lives for tomorrow*

more desirable assignment, minorities comprise less than 20 percent of EMS employees. Robinson and Perez conducted studies that confirmed that response time was affected not only by the number and deployment of ambulances but also by the motivation of EMS personnel. Unfortunately, the systematic elimination of minorities from EMS over the past 12 years has had a very negative impact on the motivation of EMS personnel responding to calls from minority communities.

Robinson and Perez determined that any solution to the emergency medical services crisis must include placing more ambulance stations in minority communities and training community residents in emergency medical skills. Since the existing structure EMS, does not provide adequate emergency medical service or training and employment opportunities to minorities, an alternative structure that relies upon the minority community itself must be established. Thus the vision of a volunteer ambulance corps in Bedford-Stuyvesant was born.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This cooperative effort between the Brooklyn Hospital Center and BSVAC is designed to make the resources of the Hospital available to this innovative and existing community program.

I. The Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corp (BSVAC) is a multi-racial organization that seeks to address a number of critical problems which are interconnected:

1. The crisis in emergency medical services affecting minority communities in New York City.
2. The underemployment affecting minorities. *reach out to minority comm.*
3. The need to improve the quality of life in New York's minority communities, especially in the areas of health, education and social development of our young people.

II. While the availability of affordable, quality health care is of concern to most Americans, minority communities such as Bedford-Stuyvesant are hardest hit. There are several reasons for this:

1. A disproportionate number of minorities are uninsured and thus are unable to purchase quality private medical care.
2. Many low-income New Yorkers have no health insurance. One of every four persons with incomes below the poverty level (\$24,200 for a family of four) has no health insurance.
3. Almost half (48%) of the uninsured are minorities.
4. Persons without health insurance have less access to health care services. They are hospitalized less often for elective medical or surgical services and are hospitalized most often on an emergency basis.
5. Minorities also experience disproportionate death rates: for example, the infant mortality rate. Among African Americans (23.5 per 1,000) is approximately twice the rate suffered among white Americans. Similarly, lung cancer claims the lives of 45% more African American males than white males and African Americans are 5 times more likely than white Americans to die from strokes and heart attacks.

*75 calls a mth  
EMT training*

6. These health problems strain an already over-burdened emergency medical care system. In addition, AIDS is rapidly increasing within the minority community and treatment of these victims most often comes from municipal hospital emergency rooms. Additional pressure arises from incidents of drug abuse and from the disproportionate homicide rate among African American males between the ages of 24 and 44 (1 out of every 22 African American males will be murdered). It is not surprising, therefore, that 75% of all calls to 911, New York City's Emergency Medical Service number ("EMS") originate from minority communities. Due, in large part, to fiscal constraints, EMS and the municipal hospital system are unable to adequately service New York's minority communities.

III. History of Accomplishments - BSVAC is New York City's newest ambulance corps and is the first multi-racial volunteer ambulance corps in the nation. Although founded in July 1988, ~~we have been fully operational~~ only since February 23, 1989. In this short period, our accomplishments include the following:

1. Medical Services: Our ambulance service since July 1989 has a markable track record. We responded to an average of 75 calls per month, now we respond to over 250 calls each month. In addition, our response time (the time that it takes us to reach the patient after receiving the call) is only 4 minutes. (Before BSVAC began operations, response time for Bedford-Stuyvesant by New York EMS was 12 to 20 minutes.)
2. Educational Program -
  - A. EMT Program - BSVAC provides training in Basic and Advanced First Aid and Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") skills to community residents so that they can effectively service as ambulance crew members. Upon completing EMT training, which consists of approximately 120 hours of instruction, graduates are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians by New York State. This certification provides the basis of EMS or other health care services employment. While our volunteers are enrolled in EMT training, they are also required to ride on the ambulance as observers and encouraged to participate in the patient care aspects of training so that they will develop the practical skills necessary to fully reinforce classroom

learning. So far, we have provided training to approximately 80 community residents, all of whom have already completed the entire EMT training program.

BSVAC recently established an affiliation with the New York City Department of Employment. Through this arrangement, students are able to obtain a G.E.D. (high school equivalency diploma) while they work toward EMT certification in our training program. We have also arranged for the students to receive a small weekly stipend through the Brooklyn-based Community Associates Development Corporation.

- B. Adult Training Program - Short Term Employment Program (S.T.E.P.) Concept - S.T.E.P. is a progressive program that will the coordinated efforts of Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps and S.T.E.P. is designed to reach out to minority communities in an effort to stimulate and accelerate the numbers of minorities entering at the ground floor level of the 911 system.

- **First S.T.E.P.: Volunteerism at the BSVAC**

Through volunteerism at BSVAC, the members learn the operation of a volunteer ambulance corps which include:

- . Dispatching (phones) (10-code)
- . Clerical Work
- . Vital signs and First Aide

- **Second S.T.E.P.: Emergency Medical Tech Training Program**

At this step, the participants are sent to our affiliated Community Associates Development Corporation for an intense 10 week training program which includes the following:

- . EMT Training
- . GED Course

- . Observation time on actual ambulance calls at the BSVAC
- . E.R. Rotation

Upon being certified as an EMT by the New York State Health Department, the students are ready for a work based, short term employment training program. This training program is proposed on a per-diem basis for a three month period. The project is intended to move an increasing number of EMTs through the program per year.

Client students will receive compensation in the form of a stipend from the BSVAC. Rates are to be negotiated with the New York State Department of Health.

- C. Hospital Supervision/Field Work - The two campuses of the Brooklyn Hospital Center will serve as the sole resource for the required field work experience of the EMTs in training and for support of volunteer experience within the framework of the STEP program. Since the Hospital currently sponsors a fully certified academic training program in emergency service medicine for physicians at the residency level and since the faculty and other teaching resources are in place as a result, the approach will be to allocate some modest time of selected faculty (in most instances, no more than a 5% time allocation) to this supervisor function. The pressure of this resource already in place provides an excellent "fit" with the goals of the BSVAC education programs.

## YOUTH CORPS PROJECT

### INTRODUCTION

The crises facing our great city -- crime, drugs, AIDS and homelessness -- can clearly be seen at any emergency room in New York City's hospitals. This is because an overcrowded emergency room is the only available alternative for many victims of these crises. Minority communities, such as Bedford-Stuyvesant, are especially affected. To reverse this tragic situation, we must start with our youth.

At Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps ("BSVAC") we encounter these problems on a daily basis and understand that they are due, in large part, to unemployment and the absence of positive role models for our youth. Through our Youth Corps program we instill proper values and ethics in youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17 -- the most crucial stage in a young person's development. (Most drug and alcohol abuse in young people begins between the ages of 12 and 14.) In addition, we emphasize the importance of staying in school and seek to inspire our youngsters to pursue higher education. (There is currently a 50% high school drop out rate among minorities between 15 and 17 years of age.)

Unfortunately, advising young people to just say "no" to drugs is not enough. What has been proven to work is involvement by youngsters in positive activities. BSVAC provides youngsters with role models and the opportunity, under well-supervised controlled circumstances, to see the ravages of crime, drugs and violence -- not as a passive spectator but as an active participant in rescue and treatment efforts. By training our youth today to enter the health care professions we can also address the critical shortage of American doctors and nurses, especially among minorities.

Through our Youth Corps program, we not only help to save our youth but also prepare them to help save others. In this way we can save lives today and build lives for tomorrow.

### PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

The BSVAC Youth Corps program is designed to address a number of problems. The program provides basic

emergency medical skills training to minority teenagers and is primarily intended to motivate and enable minority youth to successfully pursue higher education in health and sciences (including medical school) and to secure employment in the health care professions. The program also provides basic clerical and communications training. Thus the Youth Corps project addresses the problems of undereducation<sup>1</sup> and unemployment among minority youth.

The Youth Corps also helps prepare youngsters for active volunteer duty with BSVAC's ambulance service. The program therefore constitutes a vital component of BSVAC's response to the crisis in emergency medical services afflicting New York's minority communities.<sup>2</sup>

Members of the Youth Corps also provide volunteer outreach services to local senior citizens, many of whom are housebound and require assistance with meeting basic needs (grocery shopping, picking up prescription drugs, etc.) Thus the program helps to serve our senior citizens.

Finally, members of the Youth Corps serve as important positive role models for neighborhood youngsters, showing that volunteerism, community service, and working to build better lives is an attractive alternative to drugs.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Herbert Nickens of the Association of American Medical Colleges recently pointed out that the number of American minority students entering medical schools has remained "virtually stagnant" in the last decade. From 1978 to 1988 the percentage of African American, Native American, Puerto Rican and Mexican first-year medical students increased only slightly -- from 8.7 percent to 10.1 percent of overall enrollment. Since 15 percent of all college-aged individuals in the U.S. are African Americans alone, the medical school enrollment of minorities is obviously disproportionately low. The New York Times, October 24, 1989, Metropolitan Section (pp. B1 and B10).

<sup>2</sup> In New York City 75 percent of all calls to 911 originate from minority communities. Due primarily to municipal budgetary pressures, however, such communities are inadequately serviced by the New York Emergency Medical Service ("EMS") and the existing hospital system.



SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

*A Nation of Neighbors*

# BROOKLYN VOLUNTEERS SAVE NEIGHBORS' LIVES

**W**hen James Robinson and Joe Perez formed Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps in 1988, it was the first of its kind in a New York City minority neighborhood.

Robinson and Perez—both experienced Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals—had three goals: save lives, help people get jobs and assist other communities in starting similar programs. Today they're doing all three.

### Off and Running

"At first, we didn't even have an ambulance," says Robinson. "Our headquarters were in an abandoned building with no electricity. Volunteers monitored police calls and responded on foot to emergencies."

On February 24, 1989, the Bed-Stuy Volunteer Ambulance Corps acquired its first ambulance, a gift from the Williamsburg Volunteer Corps in another part of Brooklyn. The next day, the ambulance was used to save ten people trapped in a burning building.

"People in emergency services are constantly on an emotional

roller coaster," Perez explains. "One minute we're out on the streets trying to save a life and minutes later we can be up on a roof delivering a baby."

The Corps now owns three ambulances and answers more than 300 calls a month for emergencies ranging from heart attacks to gunshot wounds. Most volunteers are on public assistance. Some are senior citizens. Many attend or teach classes given by the Corps.

### To the Rescue

Vivian Lomacang works in the Corps office during the day and rides the ambulances as a volunteer from 4 p.m. to midnight. One morning, after a late-night shift, she helped save a man's life by applying pressure to a knife wound and flag-

ging down an EMS vehicle that rushed him to the hospital. Lomacang says, "When I help someone like that, I realize how much we're needed here."

After on-the-job

training with the Corps, Sharima Johnson passed the state certification test for emergency medical technician (EMT). Today, she has a full-time job with a private ambulance company, but still comes back to do volunteer service in Bed-Stuy. "During my training I fell in love with the idea of taking care of people right here in my neighborhood."

Perez understands this kind of dedication and more. "Saving lives is an important part of what we're doing. But we're also helping our own volunteers get jobs... get off the welfare rolls... and find some deeply needed self-esteem."



From left: Theodora Goodman, Raymond Johnson and Sharima Johnson respond to an emergency.

20th in a series of self-reliant communities improving the quality of life in their own backyards

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT

The President recognizes a "Daily Point of Light" six days a week. Daily Points of Light are those who successfully address our most pressing social problems through direct and consequential acts of community service. Individuals, families, businesses, groups, and organizations of every conceivable type are taking successful action to combat drug abuse, illiteracy, inadequate education, environmental decay, homelessness, hunger, AIDS, and other critical ills.

By reclaiming a drug-plagued, crime-ridden neighborhood, tutoring those who are illiterate, mentoring a troubled young person, befriending a lonely senior citizen, providing housing for the homeless, or protecting our environment, Americans have enriched their communities and, in doing so, have brought meaning and fulfillment to their own lives.

Daily Points of Light recognition is intended not only to honor those who are making a difference in the lives of those in need, but more importantly to urge every individual, family, business, union, school, place of worship, club, group, and other institution in America to make serving others central to their life and work. As the President has said, "If you have a hammer, find a nail. If you know how to read, find someone who can't. If you're not in trouble, seek out someone who is..."

"The growth and magnification of Points of Light must now become an American mission... it is increasingly clear to more and more Americans that our greatest social problems — drugs, education reform, the environment, crime — will be solved only by the active engagement of tens of millions 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."

Points of Light demonstrate that problems in America can be solved. The President believes that every American wants to be a Point of Light to those in need, if only they are shown how they can make a difference. We therefore strongly encourage not only every newspaper, magazine, television and radio station, but also every other business, group, and other institution in America, to communicate in their own way the story of Daily Points of Light to the entire Nation.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

POINTS OF LIGHT

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

President George Bush  
June 22, 1989

**What is a "Point of Light"?**

A "Point of Light" is an individual, business, union, school, place of worship, club, group or organization voluntarily taking direct and consequential action to solve drug abuse, illiteracy, inadequate education, homelessness, hunger, AIDS or other serious social problems in their own community.

**Can every American be a "Point of Light"?**

Every American, regardless of age, gender, race, economic circumstance, background or physical ability has a gift to give to someone else in need. In Polk, Nebraska, each third grade child in Ms. Dian Wurst's class is assigned a homebound senior citizen to telephone each day to offer words of comfort and cheer. In Houston, Texas, sexually abused teenagers like Shelley Spell counsel other young victims. In San Diego, California, Bob McElroy's partnership of concerned citizens, ranging from retired carpenters to college students, teach homeless people carpentry, budgeting, administration and other employment skills, pay them to work on construction projects and provide them with food, shelter and clothing free of charge until they earn enough money to become independent.

**Why are people turning to Points of Light?**

Points of Light are the only solution to our social problems. Effective government programs and a growing economy are essential to addressing social needs. However, news reports and polls today indicate almost universal disillusionment with the incapacity of government to solve social problems. And those Americans who believe that "a rising tide lifts all boats" are equally disillusioned by the fact that our nation's unparalleled recent prosperity has coexisted with widespread pockets of poverty and social disintegration. More and more people are forgetting Washington, their state capitols and city halls and forging their own solutions to social problems in their own backyards. The growth and magnification of these Points of Light must now become America's mission.

### **What core beliefs underlie the Points of Light movement?**

- o Every social problem in America is being solved somewhere in the country by Points of Light.
- o Every American has an innate desire to be a Point of Light.
- o If every American were shown how to be of help to someone in need, every American would be drawn to serve as a Point of Light.

### **Are Points of Light a substitute for government?**

The government has a critical role to play in addressing social problems. There is no substitute for effective government action. But without Points of Light, no social problem in America can be solved. Effective government programs can and do treat the drug-dependent, teach the illiterate, feed the hungry and house the homeless. But drug abuse, illiteracy, hunger, homelessness and other social problems are really symptoms of larger, more fundamental problems that programs cannot solve: the breakdown of the traditional family structure; the disintegration of communities; the loss of self-respect and, most importantly, hope. What the millions of Americans who live in darkness need most is not a program, but a web of family-like relationships that impart the values, habits, skills and self-confidence that result in the conviction that one's future is not limited by present circumstances.

### **Why are Americans responding to the Points of Light call?**

- o Direct and consequential engagement in the lives of those in need brings the fulfillment and satisfaction that each of us seeks in life.
- o America's continued political, economic and military strength and global competitiveness demand that we successfully address our most serious social problems.
- o Americans recognize that they have a moral obligation to help those among us in need.

### **When will more people become Points of Light in their communities?**

First, people must be assured that meaningful engagement in the lives of those in need is relatively easy and non-threatening. While some Americans have the courage to walk into a homeless shelter, soup kitchen or drug-plagued neighborhood on their own, most Americans will do so only if they can serve in groups or teams with others with whom they feel comfortable and compatible.

Accordingly, a principal aim of the Points of Light movement is to motivate Americans to serve with their family members, friends, co-workers, or fellow church or club members.

**Second**, people must be made aware of simple and appealing ideas for community service that they can implement in their own way.

**Third**, people must be convinced of their potential as leaders of community problem solving initiatives.

**What is our strategy for making Points of Light a nationwide movement?**

**First**, we must change attitudes about community service so that every individual, group and organization in America wants service to be central to their life and work.

**Second**, we must focus on what is working by identifying, enlarging and multiplying Points of Light across the country.

**Third**, we must discover, encourage and develop the countless number of people with untapped leadership potential within every organization and community.

### **Volume**

Every business, union, school, place of worship, club, group and organization should develop community service projects in which every employee or member is urged to participate. Every individual in America should participate in some regular community service activity, either as an individual or through the workplace, the school, the place of worship or any one of the other groups and organizations of which he or she is a part.

### **Distinctive Competence**

Every individual and institution should take stock of their particular gifts and talents and employ them in social problem solving. Individuals who have an interest in reading can spend time teaching those who are illiterate. Mothers can teach parenting skills to unwed pregnant teens. Law firms and doctors' offices can form mentoring relationships with young people, stimulating their interest in education and professional careers. Home builders can make low-cost housing available to the homeless. Restaurants and grocery stores can supply surplus food to the hungry each day.

### **Collaboration**

Individuals and institutions working on their own can have an impact on social problems facing their community. But when individuals and institutions form partnerships with others,

especially those with whom they may never have worked together before, the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. This pooling and channeling of communities' collective capabilities is the only way to attack comprehensively the multiple problems of individuals in need. Accordingly, a special effort must be made to promote collaborative community problem solving among disparate groups.

### **Light from Light**

Too many Americans believe that there is little or nothing they can do to make a difference. Yet millions of Americans of every age, gender, race, socioeconomic level, educational background and degree of physical ability are finding ways to address social problems in their communities. By identifying and spreading information about Points of Light to their peers in similar businesses, schools, unions, places of worship, groups, neighborhoods in other communities, we can show every American that there is a compelling role for all to play in solving society's most serious problems.

### **Leaders**

In every community there are those of every age and background with untapped leadership potential. We must discover people with the courage and vision to craft solutions to the problems of their communities, recognize and recruit them to this cause, and conspicuously honor them for their work. These leaders are a community's "antibodies", its indigenous and potent natural defense against decay and destruction and its important source of renewal.

### **What is the Office of National Service?**

To demonstrate the centrality of service to both his Presidency and the nation's future, President Bush became the first President to establish an office in the White House exclusively devoted to placing direct and consequential community service at the top of the national agenda. The Office performs the following functions:

- o Advises the President on community service policy and proposes ways for him to call the nation to service (Daily Point of Light recognition, Honorary Chairmanship of The Points of Light Foundation, recruitment of community service leaders, speeches, statements, meetings, visits);
- o Communicates the President's community service call to the nation (liaison to The Points of Light Foundation, periodic progress report mailings, briefings);

- o Proposes legislative initiatives to support community service (National and Community Service Act of 1990, tax policy, volunteer liability protection); and
- o Assists Cabinet departments and agencies in becoming model community service institutions.

#### **What is The Points of Light Foundation?**

**The Points of Light Foundation** is a private, non-profit, non-partisan corporation established in March, 1990. The role of the Foundation is to help to call the nation to engage in direct and consequential service focused on serious social problems and to translate this call into action through a variety of specific catalytic strategies and programs. Following a comprehensive planning process, the Foundation became operational in September, 1990. A list of the directors of the Foundation, of which the President serves as Honorary Chairman, is attached. For further information about the Foundation, please contact:

**The Points of Light Foundation  
736 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503  
(202)408-5162**

#### **How will Points of Light transform our future?**

We envision a new America, one in which every business, union, school, place of worship, club, group and organization in every community is a Point of Light. It is a nation in which every American finds personal fulfillment through direct and consequential service to those in need.

We see an America where all people are aware of the benefit to themselves, their community and the nation of engagement in community service and act on this awareness. Leaders in organizations of every size and at every level of society make service a part of what they are and do. All people have ready access to service ideas that work and are stimulated to build on these ideas. Communities have the capacity to support the active engagement of all their citizens in effective service initiatives. And, both young and old lead the rest of the nation in a renewed and enduring commitment to service.

For further information, please write or call:

**The Office of National Service  
(The White House Points of Light Office)  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
(202) 456-6266**

(Duggan/Nix)  
September 9, 1991  
Draft One  
Bedford

*VIDEO*  
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: Bedford-Stuyvesant Video  
~~PLACE~~ *Sept 12, 1991*  
~~DATE~~  
~~TIME~~

I am proud to salute the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps as one of America's shining points of light. America marvels at your sheer physical courage, braving flames and gunfire to carry your mission to the loneliest alleys and the neediest of the needy.

You turn ~~many~~ of our comfortable assumptions on their heads. Many of you require public assistance to meet your own families' needs, but still you sacrifice to bring care to the neediest of your neighbors. Some of you are senior citizens.

Where racial and ethnic rivalries still scar our communities, you you give new definition to brotherhood. You have created the first multi-racial volunteer ambulance corps in the nation and even now are reaching out your helping hand beyond Bedford-Stuyvesant to other Brooklyn neighborhoods tormented by racial violence.

*Almost eight*  
Seven centuries ago St. Francis of Assisi first voiced his famous prayer for peace. Today, you give new life and flesh to his prayer. ~~You seek not to be consoled but to console.~~ Where there is hatred, you sow love; where there is darkness, light.

*Change*  
*Bed-Stuy Rec Sheet*  
*info as received by*  
*from FOI*  
*office*  
*NY Times*  
*Aug 28, 1991*  
*St. Francis lived*  
*1181-1226*  
*Respectfully*  
*Quoted*  
*by Cong.*  
*Research*  
*Service*

May God richly bless the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and may He bless America with many more such examples of selfless love and courage.

# # #

To Michelle

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M Tracy Taylor

of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 6266 in NS  
Area Code      Number      Extension

TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT	

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Bed-Stuy 572 will be - DPoL  
*named on*  
Thurs. Sept. 26

Holley  
Operator

To Michelle

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M Joe Dugan

of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code      Number      Extension

TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT	

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message \_\_\_\_\_

Point of light due today  
1/2 room today  
doing it  
add if you want

Pen  
Operator