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THE WHITE HOUSE
(New York City, New York)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP LUNCHEON

New York Hilton Hotel
New York City, New York

1:35 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, Barbara and I appreciate this wonderful turnout -- this generous reception, and let me salute that magnificent film. And thank you, Ray, for putting it together. I just stopped choking up coming from Covenant House, and now I had to go through it again here at lunch. But it was a moving call to action.

What a few weeks it's been. Things are moving on a lot of fronts -- NATO, moving in the right direction; China, we're all very concerned about that. As I say, I just came from Covenant House, so I feel uplifted by that. And yesterday, if I might make a very personal observation before addressing myself to the subject at hand, I want to comment on the Supreme Court decision about our flag.

I understand the legal basis for that decision and I respect the Supreme Court and, as President of the United States, I will see that the law of the land is fully supported, but I have to give you my personal, emotional response. Flag-burning is wrong -- dead-wrong -- and the flag of the United States is very, very special. (Applause.)

It is indeed an honor to address the members and guests of the New York Partnership and also the Association for a Better New York. For already you've enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. And we meet today to go still further -- to join hands and link hearts -- as the film said, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. Think of that.

Today, millions of Americans, the quiet Americans, the selfless Americans, are giving of their time and themselves, and they work at day care centers and inner-city schools, homes for the elderly -- anywhere there's a need, anytime they are needed -- making a difference in the lives of those for whom the American dream seems an impossible dream.

reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that during the past two decades we've spent more money on more social programs than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, some are worse.

Most Americans understand that the key to constructive change is building relationships, not bureaucracies. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

All my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I, like I told Lou and David and Jim Robinson -- it's like preaching to the choir here today -- that Barbara and I, like all of you here, have tried to pitch in in some way, do our small part. Midland, Texas -- I'll never forget it -- it was starting a YMCA working with the United Way. Coaching a little league ball team, helping to build a community theater. And dating back to -- way back to my days in New Haven, raising funds for the United Negro College Fund. And I'm not going to give you equal time because so many of you have done so much more.

We've all done these things, and as we participated, we fulfilled ourselves. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear -- rather, learning that America's greatness rests on the goodness of her people.

And these beliefs are beyond any individual, they're timeless. Today, more than ever, we need community service to help dropouts, pregnant teens, drug abusers, the homeless, AIDS victims, hungry and illiterate. Often they are disadvantaged, and as their communities disintegrate around them, they become disconnected from society.

Our challenge, then, is to raise their spirits and their expectations by engaging each citizen, school and business and church, synagogue and service organization and civic group. For this is what I mean when I talked about a thousand points of light -- that vast galaxy of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own backyard.

I am here today to ask that both sectors, private and public -- and all branches of all levels of government -- join this great movement to extend national service into every corner of America. For it's a movement -- bold and unprecedented. This is not a program, not another bureaucracy.

To every -- let me tell you the strategy of this movement. First, to issue a call to action and to claim problems as your own. Second, to identify, enlarge, and recreate what is working. And third, to discover and encourage new leaders.

First, our call to action. It is individual, and yet, collective. And it begins this afternoon with you.

So today, I ask all Americans and all institutions, large and small, to make service central to your life and work. I urge all

to soup kitchens and local shelters.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.

Yesterday on the South Lawn of the White House, we held a kickoff rally for a key element of our strategy -- the YES Initiative -- or "Youth Engaged In Service" to America. It was attended by thousands of kids -- some of those points of light I like to talk about. And I challenged every young American to fight against self-absorption and to emulate those leaders who have shown that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Their presence reminded me of the saying, "Life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to community service. It summons the young and the old. I believe Americans will listen to that call. Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." Well, today, across our 50 states, groups and individuals are giving of, not to, themselves.

Americans like these are missionaries and they're heroes. And our mission is to achieve nationally what they're doing locally. To complete it will require a catalyst. And so that brings me to the second part of our strategy, and I am proud to announce it now -- a new effort to identify service programs that work and then carry them to America.

We call this catalyst the Points of Light Initiative -- a foundation of which I will serve as honorary chairman and that will help make our movement a reality.

I will soon ask Congress for \$25 million annually to support this initiative, which in turn will seek matching funds from the private sector. But I will also name an advisory committee to report to me within 45 days of its first meeting on the structure, composition and legislation needed to achieve the foundation's goals. And I am very pleased and proud to announce today that Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey, one of this nation's most dedicated and caring public servants, has agreed to head this committee. Tom, thank you very much. (Applause.)

But look, a federal effort alone cannot succeed. And therefore, today we invite each governor, and through them, the mayors of all municipalities, to join our movement by forming state and local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding leaders.

These individuals will become a vehicle to solve problems locally and to help solve problems nationally. The Points of Light Initiative will be a magnet for the best ideas and brightest programs in community service. For while countless service initiatives are already working successfully, they're too often isolated, too often unknown to others. Our foundation will change all that -- by bringing success stories to other communities, we will repeat them across the nation.

We will repeat them through a foundation initiative to be called the "Community Project" --

neighborhoods. Such contact points may be in a place of worship or union hall or library or fire station, a business building, service group headquarters, neighborhood home -- you name it.

Over time, through an initiative called the "ServLink Project," the foundation will stimulate the development through private sector resources of technology links between those who wish to serve and those needing service in the inquirer's own community. And in addition, we will ask banks, credit card users, telephone and utility companies to include in statement envelopes information about how people and their institutions can become engaged in serving others.

And like the foundation itself, these efforts can help individuals and institutions provide new hope to America. And so can the third part of our movement's strategy -- our initiative to discover and encourage new leaders of every age in every town and city, and to inspire them to devote their talents and energies to national service. And then to honor those who excel.

Through the foundation, the YES Initiative will annually select two college-aged youth from each state as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." And they'll spend one year traveling through their regions as service ambassadors, urging other young Americans to get involved, and Points of Light will convene youth and regional Presidential Leadership Forums, uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. And so we'll ask media from small-town weeklies to network television to profile the brightest stars of community service. And our foundation will also recognize successful community initiatives and outstanding leaders through two new presidential awards, the "National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to individuals; and the "Build A Community Award" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to strengthen families and decaying neighborhoods in America.

All of this will help fulfill us as Americans. By asking us to combat problems like loneliness and poverty and drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and we won't. For, as Americans, we know what is at stake.

We know that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society.

We know that as citizens, and institutions, we can use "one-to-one" caring to truly "love thy neighbor."

And we know, finally, that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. And we must resolve to carry this belief to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago just last year Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the presidency. And he wrote him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference."

REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

FILE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS RECEPTION. AND LET ME SALUTE THAT MAGNIFICENT FILM. IT WAS A MOVING CALL TO ACTION.

IT IS INDEED AN HONOR TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR A BETTER NEW YORK.

- 2 -

FOR ALREADY, YOU HAVE ENRICHED FIELDS FROM BUSINESS AND LABOR TO EDUCATION AND THE MEDIA. WE MEET TODAY TO GO STILL FURTHER: TO JOIN HANDS, AND LINK HEARTS, TO LIGHT THE AMERICAN SKY.

I BEGIN WITH A SINGLE, SIMPLE STATEMENT: THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN AMERICA THAT IS NOT BEING SOLVED SOMEWHERE [PAUSE] . . . THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN AMERICA THAT IS NOT BEING SOLVED SOMEWHERE [PAUSE] . . . THINK OF THAT.

TODAY, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS -- THE QUIET AMERICANS, THE SELFLESS AMERICANS -- ARE GIVING OF THEIR TIME AND OF THEMSELVES. THEY WORK AT DAY-CARE CENTERS, INNER-CITY SCHOOLS, HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY. ANYWHERE THERE IS A NEED. ANYTIME THEY ARE NEEDED . . . MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE FOR WHOM THE AMERICAN DREAM SEEMS AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

ALREADY, THIS INVOLVEMENT -- WHAT WE TERM NATIONAL, OR COMMUNITY, SERVICE -- HAS HELPED COUNTLESS AMERICANS FIND SELF-RESPECT AND DIGNITY.

BUT THE JOB IS FAR FROM COMPLETE. TOO MANY AMERICANS STILL ENDURE A LIVING NIGHTMARE OF WANT AND ISOLATION. THAT MUST END. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: WE MUST BRING BACK THOSE WHO FEEL UNWELCOME. WE MUST REAWAKEN THEIR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

- 5 -

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 ANY TIME IN OUR HISTORY. AND SOME PROBLEMS AREN'T BETTER. IN FACT, THEY'RE WORSE.

MOST AMERICANS UNDERSTAND THAT THE KEY TO CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE IS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, NOT BUREAUCRACIES.

- 6 -

AND THEY KNOW THAT THOSE WHO SAY, "IT'S GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEM," ARE REALLY PART OF THE PROBLEM THEMSELVES.

ALL MY LIFE I'VE BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR "DO UNTO OTHERS." BARBARA AND I, LIKE ALL OF YOU HERE, HAVE TRIED TO DO OUR SMALL PART. IN MIDLAND, WITH THE YMCA AND UNITED WAY. COACHING LITTLE LEAGUE, HELPING TO BUILD A THEATER. AND DATING BACK TO MY DAYS AT YALE, RAISING FUNDS FOR THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND.

WE'VE ALL DONE THESE THINGS, AND AS WE PARTICIPATED WE FULFILLED OURSELVES. LEARNING THAT WE ARE NOT WHAT WE DRIVE, OR WHERE WE LIVE, OR WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES WE WEAR. RATHER, LEARNING THAT AMERICA'S GREATNESS RESTS ON THE GOODNESS OF HER PEOPLE.

THESE BELIEFS ARE BEYOND ANY INDIVIDUAL, FOR THEY ARE TIMELESS. TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED COMMUNITY SERVICE TO HELP DROP-OUTS, PREGNANT TEENS, AND DRUG ABUSERS. THE HOMELESS AND AIDS VICTIMS.

THE HUNGRY AND ILLITERATE. OFTEN THEY ARE DISADVANTAGED, AND AS THEIR COMMUNITIES DISINTEGRATE AROUND THEM, THEY BECOME DISCONNECTED FROM SOCIETY.

OUR CHALLENGE, THEN, IS TO RAISE THEIR SPIRITS AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS BY ENGAGING 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 BACK YARD.

I AM HERE TODAY TO ASK THAT BOTH SECTORS, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC -- AND ALL BRANCHES AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT -- JOIN THIS GREAT MOVEMENT TO EXTEND NATIONAL SERVICE INTO EVERY CORNER OF AMERICA.

FOR IT IS A MOVEMENT -- BOLD, AND UNPRECEDENTED. NOT A PROGRAM. NOT ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY.

LET ME TELL YOU THE STRATEGY OF THIS MOVEMENT. FIRST, TO ISSUE A CALL TO ACTION, AND TO CLAIM PROBLEMS AS YOUR OWN. SECOND, TO IDENTIFY, ENLARGE, AND RECREATE WHAT IS WORKING. AND THIRD, TO DISCOVER AND ENCOURAGE NEW LEADERS.

FIRST, OUR CALL TO ACTION. IT IS INDIVIDUAL, AND COLLECTIVE. AND IT BEGINS THIS AFTERNOON, WITH YOU.

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.

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.

AND TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA, I ISSUE A SPECIAL
APPEAL.

YESTERDAY, ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, WE
HELD A KICKOFF RALLY FOR A KEY ELEMENT OF OUR STRATEGY:
THE YES INITIATIVE -- OR "YOUTH ENGAGED IN SERVICE" TO
AMERICA. IT WAS ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS OF KIDS -- SOME
OF THOSE POINTS OF LIGHT I LIKE TO TALK ABOUT. I
CHALLENGED EVERY YOUNG AMERICAN TO FIGHT AGAINST SELF-
ABSORPTION. AND TO EMULATE THOSE LEADERS WHO HAVE
SHOWN THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN AMERICA THAT IS NOT
BEING SOLVED SOMEWHERE.

THEIR PRESENCE REMINDED ME OF THE SAYING, "LIFE IS NOT A STATE OF TIME -- LIFE IS A STATE OF MIND." SO IS OUR CALL TO COMMUNITY SERVICE. IT SUMMONS THE YOUNG, AND THE OLD. I BELIEVE AMERICANS WILL LISTEN TO THAT CALL. THE POET EMERSON ONCE SAID, "THE GREATEST GIFT IS A PORTION OF THYSELF." WELL, TODAY, ACROSS OUR FIFTY STATES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE GIVING OF, NOT TO, THEMSELVES.

AMERICANS LIKE THESE ARE MISSIONARIES, AND THEY ARE HEROES. OUR MISSION IS TO ACHIEVE, NATIONALLY, WHAT THEY ARE DOING, LOCALLY. TO COMPLETE IT WILL REQUIRE A CATALYST. THIS BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND PART OF OUR STRATEGY. AND I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE IT NOW: A NEW EFFORT TO IDENTIFY SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT WORK -- AND CARRY THEM TO AMERICA.

WE CALL THIS CATALYST THE "POINTS OF LIGHT INITIATIVE" -- A FOUNDATION, OF WHICH I WILL SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN, AND THAT WILL HELP MAKE OUR MOVEMENT A REALITY.

I WILL SOON ASK CONGRESS FOR \$25 MILLION ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE, WHICH, IN TURN, WILL SEEK MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

BUT I WILL ALSO NAME AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REPORT TO ME WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF ITS FIRST MEETING ON THE STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION, AND LEGISLATION NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE FOUNDATION'S GOALS. ((AND I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT GOVERNOR TOM KEAN OF NEW JERSEY, ONE OF THIS NATION'S MOST DEDICATED AND CARING PUBLIC SERVANTS, HAS AGREED TO HEAD THIS COMMITTEE))

BUT, A FEDERAL EFFORT ALONE CANNOT SUCCEED.

THEREFORE, TODAY WE INVITE EACH GOVERNOR -- AND, THROUGH THEM, THE MAYORS OF ALL MUNICIPALITIES -- TO JOIN OUR MOVEMENT BY FORMING STATE AND LOCAL POINTS OF LIGHT WORKING GROUPS COMPOSED OF OUTSTANDING LEADERS.

THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL BECOME A VEHICLE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS LOCALLY. AND TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS NATIONALLY, THE "THE POINTS OF LIGHT INITIATIVE" WILL BE A MAGNET FOR THE BEST IDEAS, AND BRIGHTEST PROGRAMS, IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.

FOR WHILE COUNTLESS SERVICE INITIATIVES ARE ALREADY WORKING SUCCESSFULLY, THEY ARE TOO OFTEN ISOLATED AND UNKNOWN TO OTHERS. OUR FOUNDATION WILL CHANGE ALL THAT: BY BRINGING SUCCESS STORIES TO OTHER COMMUNITIES, WE WILL REPEAT THEM ACROSS THE NATION.

- 21 -

WE WILL REPEAT THEM THROUGH A FOUNDATION INITIATIVE TO BE CALLED THE "SERVNET PROJECT." PROFESSIONAL FIRMS, CORPORATIONS, UNIONS, SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS, CIVIC, AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT GROUPS WILL BE ASKED TO DONATE THE SERVICES OF SOME OF THEIR MOST TALENTED AND PROMISING PEOPLE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

THESE EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS WILL FORM AND LEAD PEER-TO-PEER WORKING GROUPS.

- 22 -

FOR EXAMPLE: LAWYERS GOING TO FELLOW LAWYERS, TEACHERS TO FELLOW TEACHERS, UNION MEMBERS TO FELLOW UNION MEMBERS. SERVNET WILL PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE -- SHOWING WHAT WORKS, AND WHAT DOESN'T.

BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO IMPROVE CURRENT METHODS OF MATCHING PEOPLE WITH MEANINGFUL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES.

"VOLUNTEER CENTERS" SHOULD BE DIRECTLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AMERICANS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

SUCH CONTACT POINTS MAY BE IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP, UNION HALL, LIBRARY, FIRE STATION, BUSINESS BUILDING, SERVICE GROUP HEADQUARTERS, OR NEIGHBORHOOD HOME.

OVER TIME, THROUGH AN INITIATIVE CALLED THE "SERVLINK PROJECT," THE FOUNDATION WILL STIMULATE THE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES OF "TECHNOLOGY LINKS" BETWEEN THOSE WHO WISH TO SERVE AND THOSE NEEDING SERVICE IN THE INQUIRER'S OWN COMMUNITY.

AND IN ADDITION, WE WILL ASK BANKS, CREDIT CARD ISSUERS, TELEPHONE AND UTILITY COMPANIES TO INCLUDE IN STATEMENT ENVELOPES INFORMATION ABOUT HOW PEOPLE AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS CAN BECOME ENGAGED IN SERVING OTHERS.

LIKE THE FOUNDATION ITSELF, THESE EFFORTS CAN HELP INDIVIDUALS -- AND INSTITUTIONS -- PROVIDE NEW HOPE TO AMERICA.

AND SO CAN THE THIRD PART OF OUR MOVEMENT'S STRATEGY: OUR INITIATIVE TO DISCOVER AND ENCOURAGE NEW LEADERS OF EVERY AGE IN EVERY TOWN AND CITY. AND TO INSPIRE THEM TO DEVOTE THEIR TALENTS AND ENERGIES TO NATIONAL SERVICE. AND THEN, TO HONOR THOSE WHO EXCEL.

THROUGH THE FOUNDATION, THE YES INITIATIVE WILL ANNUALLY SELECT TWO COLLEGE-AGED YOUTH FROM EACH STATE AS "PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES."

THEY WILL SPEND ONE YEAR TRAVELING THEIR REGIONS AS SERVICE AMBASSADORS -- URGING OTHER YOUNG AMERICANS TO GET INVOLVED. AND "POINTS OF LIGHT" WILL CONVENE YOUTH AND REGIONAL "PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS," UNITING YOUNG PEOPLE, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS.

FROM SUCH ACTION WILL COME ACHIEVEMENT. AND SUCH ACHIEVEMENT SHOULD BE REWARDED. WE WILL ASK MEDIA FROM SMALL-TOWN WEEKLIES TO NETWORK TELEVISION TO PROFILE THE BRIGHTEST STARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

AND OUR FOUNDATION WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND OUTSTANDING LEADERS THROUGH TWO NEW PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS. THE "NATIONAL SERVICE YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS" -- GIVEN EACH YEAR TO INDIVIDUALS. AND THE "BUILD A COMMUNITY AWARDS" -- HONORING "PARTNERSHIPS" WHICH WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND DECAYING NEIGHBORHOODS IN AMERICA.

ALL OF THIS WILL FULFILL US AS AMERICANS. BY ASKING US TO COMBAT PROBLEMS LIKE LONELINESS AND POVERTY, DRUG ABUSE AND HOMELESSNESS. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FAIL, AND WE WON'T. FOR AS AMERICANS, WE KNOW WHAT IS AT STAKE.

WE KNOW THAT SERVICE CAN HELP THOSE FREE-FALLING THROUGH SOCIETY. WE KNOW THAT AS CITIZENS, AND INSTITUTIONS, WE CAN USE "ONE-TO-ONE" CARING TO TRULY "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR."

WE KNOW, FINALLY, THAT FROM NOW ON, ANY DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MUST INCLUDE SERVING OTHERS. AND WE MUST RESOLVE TO CARRY THIS BELIEF TO EVERY PERSON IN THE LAND.

TWO CENTURIES AGO LAST YEAR, ALEXANDER HAMILTON SENT A LETTER URGING GENERAL WASHINGTON TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY. HE WROTE HIM: "THE POINT OF LIGHT IN WHICH YOU STAND. . . WILL MAKE AN INFINITE DIFFERENCE . . ."

MY FRIENDS, NATIONAL SERVICE WILL SUCCEED. IT CAN MAKE "AN INFINITE DIFFERENCE" IN THE LIFE OF THESE UNITED STATES. FOR "A THOUSAND POINTS" CAN LIGHT THE LIVES OF A PEOPLE, AND A NATION.

REMEMBER, THERE IS NO PROBLEM THAT IS NOT BEING SOLVED SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA. YOU -- YOU IN THIS ROOM -- CAN PROVE THAT STATEMENT A THOUSAND TIMES OVER. IT'S IN OUR HANDS.

- 31 -

GOD BLESS YOU -- WE NEED YOUR HELP, AND GOD BLESS
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#

These are doers, builders, participating
this I don't want to
lecture to them (p.4)

(Smith/Blessey)
June 20, 1989
Draft Eight
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a moving call to action.

~~It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."~~

~~And let me also add that~~ it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership and the Association for a Better New York. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE]

. . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement -- Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

where are
serv-link, serv, net foundation
details - - - 77

door one night to see six children. Amazingly, in a land as rich as ours, they were asking for a place to stay.

As word spread, every night young people of every race and creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway kids.

I urge you to visit Covenant House. And others like it -- in Alabama, in Chicago, on the farmlands of Ohio. For there you will find the quiet Americans, the selfless Americans, giving of their time and of themselves.

~~Last year, such Americans contributed an estimated 19.5 billion~~ volunteer hours. They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. Volunteers make a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped countless Americans find self-respect and dignity. ~~Today, America is prosperous and at peace.~~ Even so, many who have secured material success know there must be something more in their lives: The opportunity to do good.

They know the job is far from complete. For another group of Americans still endures a living nightmare of want and isolation. That must stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring in those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

But how?

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that government can't buy understanding and love. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans realize that. They know that the key to constructive change is building relationships, not bureaucracies. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

~~My friends,~~ All my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I, ^{like all of you here have} tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. ~~I~~ remember ^{coaching} digging ditches for a Little League ~~ball field~~, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, ~~a cause~~ ~~I love~~ raising funds for the United Negro College Fund. ^{We've all done these things and as we participated} Like so many others, I found joy and a sense of inner peace ^{we} in ~~helping others~~. For I was also fulfilling ^{and} myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear. Rather, ^{my} I learned that America's greatness rests on the goodness of her people.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. Today, more than ever, we need community service to help drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often

disadvantaged as their communities disintegrate around them, they become disconnected from society.

Our challenge, then, is to raise their spirits and their expectations, ~~and we must.~~ ^{generous} ~~Not by more government~~ ~~but by more~~ ~~caring.~~ ~~Not by more programs~~ ~~but by more people.~~ ~~And by~~ engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most ~~successful people~~ in America. ~~Well, to you I say:~~ ^{you know} ~~A life of ease is a life without reward.~~ ^{Let's show that} From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

They know

Yes

~~The great English statesman, Edmund Burke, once wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other.~~ ~~He was defining successful lives.~~ ^{For this what man} ~~And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own back yard.~~ ^{I am here}

~~My friends, these "thousand points of light" can extend national service into every corner of America.~~ ^{Today, to} ~~By asking that all branches and all levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private --~~ ^{join this great movement to} ~~enlist in our crusade.~~

Is crusade too 'cliche'?

~~I am here today to outline that~~ ^{crusade}. First: A call to action, and to share others' burdens. Next: A catalyst to energize "a thousand points of light." Finally: An initiative to find, and train, leaders to help their fellow man. And to reward those who do. Let's be clear about one thing, though --

People in Congress and
Judges are in service

5

I worry about making
to them and government just
It is a movement

this is not a program, or another bureaucracy.

-- bold, and unprecedented.

the
change

First, our call to action, and, even more, to claim
society's problems as our own. Our call is individual, and
collective. And it begins this afternoon, with you.

Today, I ask ~~leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the~~
Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to devise programs
which involve themselves and their employees in community
service. I commend all business leaders who promote and reward
volunteerism. I ask 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, respectively -- I thank those of you who promote
volunteerism through curricula, and as a criteria for admittance.

But there's more. 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.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.

Today, as part of our call to action, I propose the YES
Initiative -- or "Youth Engaged in Service" to America. I
challenge every young American to fight against self-absorption.

And to emulate those leaders who have shown that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Leaders like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D.C., who works as a candy striper and aid to a cerebral palsy patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

~~These young leaders know that what we are matters more than what we have.~~ And they can help ^{us} reach three of our movement's goals. First: By 1992, we want to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism. Second: We want to double the number of adults involved in youth mentoring projects. And, third: We want to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service.

~~Yesterday, on the South Lawn of the White House, we held a kickoff rally for the "Yes" Initiative, attended by thousands of kids -- some of those points of light I like to talk about.~~ And their presence reminded me of the saying, "Life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to volunteerism. Does it summon the young, and old? You bet. Will Americans listen to that call? I believe they will. The poet Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals are giving of, not to, themselves.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent Delta town. Her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay.

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will require a catalyst. And I am proud to announce it now: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call this catalyst the "Points of Light Initiative" ~~and it includes~~ a Foundation that will help make this movement a reality.

I will soon ask Congress for ^{at 25 million} ~~funds~~ to support this Initiative, with matching funds from the private sector. But I will also name an advisory committee to get the ball rolling ~~while we await Congressional action.~~

"The Points of Light Initiative" will be a strategy center and a clearinghouse for volunteerism's best ideas, and brightest programs. It will seek out, and find, successful efforts --the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by bringing success stories to other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.

non 8 or bi?

~~Our foundation will be bi-partisan:~~ It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form State and local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding private sector leaders. And, at its core, will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help another local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, an experienced mentor can help show a nearby district what works, and what doesn't.

This technical assistance and counseling network will work through a variety of forms. And over time, the Foundation will use technology to link volunteer supply, and community demand. Imagine, for instance, a service where you can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA.

Like the Foundation itself, these acts can help individuals -- and institutions -- lift Americans from despair. Well, so can yet another constellation in "a thousand points of light": Our

9

discover and empower new
initiative to ~~find potential~~ leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to national service. And then, to honor those who excel.

Through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged youth from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as volunteer ambassadors -- urging other kids to get involved. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. We will ask media of every sort to profile volunteerism's brightest stars. And our Foundation will also recognize excellent community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to individuals. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

Yes, a call to action, and to share others' burdens. "A thousand points of light." An initiative to develop the leaders of tomorrow. Not a program, or another bureaucracy. But a movement -- bold, unprecedented.

All of this will test us as Americans. And challenge us to combat problems like hunger and disease, drug abuse and

homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, we know what is at stake.

We know, for instance, that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. ~~And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism.~~

We recognize that as Americans, ~~life is measured not by the sum of our possessions -- but by how we treat our fellow man.~~

We know that as citizens, and institutions, we can use "one-on-one" caring to truly "love thy neighbor." ~~And that prosperity without purpose means nothing.~~ And we ~~must~~ resolve to carry these beliefs to every person in the land.

~~and finally,~~
Two centuries ago last year, Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the Presidency. He wrote him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. ~~For it is as honored as our history.~~ ^{It} National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of a people, and a Nation.

~~I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade.~~ Remember, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. You -- you in this room -- can prove that statement a thousand times over. It's in your hands.

God bless you -- we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: New York Partnership

We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 JUN 27 P 3: 53

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/20/89 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Tuesday, June 20, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

(Smith/Blessey)
June 16, 1989
Draft Six
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate those words of welcome. And let me thank you for your generous reception.

Thirty-five years ago, the City of St. Louis held a "Yogi Berra Day" for its native son and baseball great. And as usual, the noted philosopher proved equal to the occasion.

Yogi began his acceptance speech by saying, "My friends, I want to thank all the people who made this night necessary." Well, my friends, this afternoon I want to thank all of you for making this day necessary.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership. For already, you have enriched fields from business, labor, and religion to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To discuss, specifically, how we can join hands, and link hearts, to build a better America for all.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] .

. . Think of that.

Today, millions of Americans are giving of their time, and of themselves -- at a day-care center, the corner library, their inner-city school. They are selfless. They make a difference. They know that prosperity without purpose means nothing.

Already, their involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped more Americans than ever find self-reliance and self-worth. This month marks the 78th straight month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in our history. Paraphrasing Churchill: Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long.

And yet it's not enough. For millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of isolation and despair. Ladies and gentlemen: We must end that nightmare. Those who feel left out, we must help to bring in.

You know, the story is told of how Tallulah Bankhead once dropped a fifty-dollar bill into a tambourine held out to her by a Salvation Army player. Of course, he was grateful. But she waved aside his thanks. "Don't bother to thank me," she said. "I know what a perfectly ghastly season it's been for you Spanish dancers."

My friends, today such concern can assist the most vulnerable among us. Americans like drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDs victims. The hungry and

illiterate. Often disadvantaged, they feel -- far worse -- disconnected from society. Above all, they lack the hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

We can help these Americans, and must: Not by capital alone, but by caring and sacrifice. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to combat, and outlast, problems in their own backyard.

This belief -- in service to Nation, and neighbor -- led us to create the Office of National Service, which is heading our Administration's community and national service program.

Last year, Americans contributed __ billion volunteer hours. I come to you today to build on that beginning. And to sound a clarion call to further swell the ranks of those who give of, not to, themselves.

Our call to action is individual, and collective. It commences here, and now. For our goal is to propel national service into every corner of America. And to see that all

branches and levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

Soon, for example, as our part of the movement, I will sign an Executive Order directing the members of my Cabinet and the heads of all other Federal departments and agencies to devise programs which involve themselves and their employees in community service. Direct, not ask. This Order will also recognize, and award, the most outstanding Federal volunteers.

All well and good: But this call must go beyond the Federal branch. Therefore, I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to take action similar to our Executive Order. And I call upon each Governor to work with State and local education boards to include community service in primary- and high-school curricula.

Therefore, too: Today, I urge all college and university presidents to require admissions officers to weigh community service as a criteria for admittance. And all business leaders to consider volunteerism in hiring, compensation, and promotion decisions. And non-profit organizations and service groups -- I ask you to utilize all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience.

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.

A clarion call? You bet. Will America heed it? Why not? The poet Emerson once observed: "There is nothing closer to God than the act of giving." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals, are already illuminating the heavens.

My friends, there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent delta town. She treats everything from rat bites to heart attacks. And her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay. "Hope is a gift that has been given me," Anne says. "I want to pass it on."

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will demand an instrument to sound our call to action. Well, today I announce that vehicle: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call it the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will chair. The Foundation will be funded by business in partnership with the Federal government. And act as a strategy center for the best ideas, and brightest

programs, in community service. "Points of Light" will seek out, and find, successful programs --the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by repeating their success in other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.

Will Rogers once said: "I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons." My friends, neither will the "Points of Light Initiative." Too much is at stake.

Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form President's State and local Points of Light Initiating Committees composed of outstanding private-sector leaders. And at its core will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help a local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, having mentored inner-city youths, a teacher can suggest to a nearby district which programs work, and which do not.

We're calling this technical assistance and counseling network ServNet. And it will work through a service dubbed ServLink. Here's how: Any American wishing to serve can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA. The caller will then learn what volunteer opportunities exist in his or her community to help others, and thereby America.

You know, being here reminds me of how that spirit links this community: the City of New York. Well, let me relate a story about a man who embodied it: One of the greatest Mayors in the history of New York.

One bitter, cold day Fiorello LaGuardia was presiding at police court. When in came a trembling old man, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. His family, he said, was starving. "I've got to punish you," mourned the Little Flower. "The law makes no exception." And he sentenced the man to a fine of ten dollars.

But the best was yet to come. For as LaGuardia was passing sentence, he reached into his pocket and added, "Well, here's the ten dollars to pay your fine. And I now I remit it." And then he tossed a ten-dollar bill into his famous fedora.

"Furthermore," he continued, "I'm going to fine everybody in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a man has to steal bread in order to eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to this defendant!" The hat was passed.

Charity triumphed. And when the old man left the courtroom he held in his hand what, to him, must have seemed a fortune: forty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

Fiorello LaGuardia was a leader who practiced the larger public good. An entire city loved him. And its kids adored him. Maybe you recall how during a newspaper strike, LaGuardia took to the radio to read them "Dick Tracy" and other comics. Well, I have a hunch that Fiorello, hearing us today by wireless, would especially like one part of the "Points of Light Initiative."

This part will ask kids to man the front lines of the fight against self-absorption. And it will look to leaders who show that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. Kids like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D. C., who works as a candy striper, a CCD teacher, and aid to a cerebral palsey patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

Kids like these can help reach three of our Foundation's goals. For by 1992, we want to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service; to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism; and to double the number of adults and peer groups involved in youth mentoring projects. And you know what? I believe in America's young people. I have no doubt that they will.

Yesterday, we held a pep rally for this program, attended by thousands of young people on the South Lawn of the White House. And their presence reminded me of how, at the age of ninety-one, Oliver Wendell Holmes resigned from the Supreme Court and spent the following summer at his country house in Massachusetts.

As the former Justice told it, old friends from Boston would come to see him. And they'd invariably bring their grandchildren. Which he relished even more. One day, sitting on his porch, he got to discussing life with a 16-year-old. Said Mr. Justice Holmes: "I won't refrain from talking about anything because you're too young, if you won't because I'm too old."

Justice Holmes believed, as the saying goes, that "life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is volunteerism. It can involve the young, and old. Accordingly, I believe that the "Points of Light Initiative" can become a means to find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to the movement of national service. And then, to honor those who excel. Can, and must.

That is why, through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged kids from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as role models for other kids to get involved in community service. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. So I'm pleased to say that our Foundation will recognize talented community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to up to 1,000 community leaders. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

A call to action. "A thousand points of light." A movement to locate, and repeat, successful programs. To find, and train, leaders who move their fellow man. And to reward those who do.

All of this will test us, challenge us. Test us as Americans. Challenge us to combat issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, certain truths unite us.

We know, for instance, that government spending can't rebuild a family or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. No amount of money can buy understanding, or love.

We know that as Americans, we must accept the sacrifices required of us. For life is measured not by what's in our bank account -- but by holding ourselves to account for the well-being of our community.

We recognize that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism. And we must resolve to carry this idea to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, a few blocks away from here, Alexander Hamilton congratulated General Washington on his election as President. And then he told him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of -- how many? -- million citizens.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. Through the call to action, and to arms, that is community service, let us forever keep it so.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful occasion. God bless you, we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/21/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIPS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

89 JUN 21 PM 12: 01

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JUNE 20, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*

FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT: JUNE 22 NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 22, at 12:30 p.m., you will address members of the New York Partnership at Manhattan's Hilton Hotel. About 1,500 people are expected to attend, mostly leaders from business, labor, civic, non-profit, religious, and education groups.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks (20 minutes, teleprompter) unveil your Administration's "Points of Light Initiative" -- including the Foundation that you will lead. The text includes a call to national service, describes how the Foundation will work, and explains how this movement can "expand volunteerism into every corner of America."

(Smith/Blessey)
June 20, 1989
Draft Eight
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a moving call to action.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership and the Association for a Better New York. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement -- Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

door one night to see six children. Amazingly, in a land as rich as ours, they were asking for a place to stay.

As word spread, every night young people of every race and creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway kids.

I urge you to visit Covenant House. And others like it -- in Alabama, in Chicago, on the farmlands of Ohio. For there you will find the quiet Americans, the selfless Americans, giving of their time and of themselves.

Last year, such Americans contributed an estimated 19.5 billion volunteer hours. They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. Volunteers make a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped countless Americans find self-respect and dignity. Today, America is prosperous and at peace. Even so, many who have secured material success know there must be something more in their lives: The opportunity to do good.

They know the job is far from complete. For another group of Americans still endures a living nightmare of want and isolation. That must stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring in those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

But how?

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that government can't buy understanding and love. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans realize that. They know that the key to constructive change is building relationships, not bureaucracies. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

My friends, all my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. I remember digging ditches for a Little League ball field, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, a cause I love: Raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

Like so many others, I found joy and a sense of inner peace in helping others. For I was also fulfilling myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear. Rather, I learned that America's greatness rests on the goodness of her people.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. Today, more than ever, we need community service to help drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often

disadvantaged as their communities disintegrate around them, they become disconnected from society.

Our challenge, then, is to raise their spirits and their expectations, and we must. Not by more government -- but by more caring. Not by more programs -- but by more people. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: A life of ease is a life without reward. From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

The great English statesman, Edmund Burke, once wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own back yard.

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Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form State and local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding private sector leaders. And, at its core, will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

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All of this will test us as Americans. And challenge us to combat problems like hunger and disease, drug abuse and

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Two centuries ago last year, Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the Presidency. He wrote him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of a people, and a Nation.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Remember, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. You -- you in this room -- can prove that statement a thousand times over. It's in your hands.

God bless you -- we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

COPY

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(Smith/Blessey)
June 20, 1989
Draft Eight
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a moving call to action.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership and the Association for a Better New York. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: **To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.**

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement -- Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

door one night to see six children. Amazingly, in a land as rich as ours, they were asking for a place to stay.

As word spread, every night young people of every race and creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway kids.

I urge you to visit Covenant House. And others like it -- in Alabama, in Chicago, on the farmlands of Ohio. For there you will find the quiet Americans, the selfless Americans, giving of their time and of themselves.

Last year, such Americans contributed an estimated 19.5 billion volunteer hours. They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. Volunteers make a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped countless Americans find self-respect and dignity. Today, America is prosperous and at peace. Even so, many who have secured material success know there must be something more in their lives: The opportunity to do good.

They know the job is far from complete. For another group of Americans still endures a living nightmare of want and isolation. That must stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring in those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

But how?

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that government can't buy understanding and love. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans realize that. They know that the key to constructive change is building relationships, not bureaucracies. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

My friends, all my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. I remember digging ditches for a Little League ball field, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, a cause I love: Raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

Like so many others, I found joy and a sense of inner peace in helping others. For I was also fulfilling myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear. Rather, I learned that America's greatness rests on the goodness of her people.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. Today, more than ever, we need community service to help drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often

disadvantaged as their communities disintegrate around them, they become disconnected from society.

Our challenge, then, is to raise their spirits and their expectations, and we must. Not by more government -- but by more caring. Not by more programs -- but by more people. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: A life of ease is a life without reward. From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

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God bless you -- we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

89 JUN 20 P1:27

June 20, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton 

Subject: New York Partnership Speech Draft

We suggest making use of the poetic image of the thousand points of light, which is largely missing from the national service speeches this week. See, for example, the comments at Pg. 5, paragraph 2, line 4 below.

Pg. 1, para. 3, lines 1-4 Notwithstanding the President's favoring of Yogi Berra lines, this one seems to serve more to simply use a Yogi-ism than to make a light comment that frames the later remarks. In other words, we could use this line in just about any speech. Why not have an "ice-breaker" that's relevant to the topic and locale?

2,1,1-2 "There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere," is a brave thought but seems a little over-optimistic. There are many problems that cannot be "solved" in the usual sense of eliminating them, e.g., crime. Therefore, we suggest instead of "solved" words such as "addressed," or even "effectively addressed."

This point should not be confused with a broader philosophical point that we do not see in the draft: the President, if you read his Acceptance Speech closely, clearly believes that the 1000 points of light already exist in America. Thus, our goal is to energize, and possibly connect, that which already exists, spread across the vastness of America.

2,5 The Tallulah Bankhead story has the connotation of privileged-but-out-of-touch noblesse oblige that is just what we should avoid in speaking about Y.E.S., since there will be a certain tendency among the press to attribute these Tallulah Bankhead motives to the President's program, and

2,6,1 therefore, we should especially not say that "such concern" as Bankhead's "can assist the most vulnerable among us."

2,6,2 In the interests of clarity -- we're speaking of examples, not affection -- say "such as" instead of like.

(more)

2-2-2

3,2,5 "In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say...." Since the President is not speaking only to the successful, and, for the reasons stated above, we should avoid conveying that impression, we suggest omitting "to you."

3,3,2 "Little platoons" was said by Edmund Burke, not de Tocqueville. The precise quote is:

To be attached to the subdivision, to love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ as it were) of public affections. It is the first link in the series by which we proceed towards a love to our country, and to mankind."

-- from Burke, Reflections On the Revolution In France (London: J. M. Dent, 1960), at 44 [emphasis added]

3,5,3 "[S]ound a clarion call," like "swell the ranks" is cliché. A fresher image would be better.

3,5,3 "[T]hose who give of, not to themselves," does not take into account that giving of oneself is also, in an unselfish sense, giving to oneself. The President has made the point before that we become better people individually by giving to others. We suggest, to preserve the parallelism, a phrase such as "those who enoble themselves by giving of themselves."

3,6,1 "[C]ollective" has a statist connotation. We suggest instead words such as "cooperative," "in concert," "combined," "united," or "collaborative."

3,6,2 "propel national service" One of the points which we need to emphasize is that the spirit of national service -- the 1000 points of light -- already exists. Therefore, it is not correct -- indeed, insulting -- to suggest that action from on high will spur the very good works and selflessness that have traditionally trickled up, not down.

4,2,5 "Direct, not ask," is slightly too chest-beating in tone. This is voluntarism, after all. We should assume that the President's handpicked appointees don't have to be ordered around like children. We suggest simply omitting.

4,4,2 "require" This sort of command language is not necessary or appropriate.

(more)

3-3-3

4,4,4 "consider volunteerism" We suggest refining this point into "weigh the significance of voluntary commitment in evaluating an employee or a potential employee."

4,5,1 Change "say" to "ask," or perhaps "urge."

5,2,1 Again, it would be more effective to use a recurring phrase that is less cliché than "clarion call." Also, to answer "Will America heed it?" with "Why not?" is a bit too devil-may-care. If the President is to express his confidence in the American spirit of voluntarism, we should say something more emphatic, such as "Of course!" or "All of our history suggests it will."

5,2,4 "[I]lluminating the heavens," as a play of words on "thousands points of light," needs to be more closely connected with the original image. In neither of our national service speeches this week is the poetic image of points of light used, until this point, where the effectiveness is lost by the lack of any nearby reference to the underlying image.

5,4,5 Capitalize "delta."

5,4,7 This line puts the emphasis on the wrong thing. We should focus on Dr. Brooks' charity, not her patients' poverty.

5,5,3-4 "[I]t will demand an instrument to sound our call to action. Well, today I announce that vehicle." These two sentences mix the incompatible images of a sounding instrument with a vehicle. We suggest simply repeating "instrument" in the second sentence.

5,6,4 This line is a sentence fragment that either needs to be joined to the previous sentence, or made a complete sentence with the addition of "And it will act...."

7,1,2-3 I repeat my objection to "Servnet" and "ServLink" -- not only the policy, but also the word choice, which sounds technical and inhuman; the precise opposite of what we are aiming to achieve.

8,3,7 "[A]n aid" rather than "and aid."

9,1,1 "Pep rally" only emphasizes the juvenile quality and diminishes the seriousness of the program.

(more)

4-4-4

9,3 As long as we are including the older citizen in the idea of national service, we suggest including all Americans who, unlike the young, are not naturally thought of as volunteers -- for example, those who might be more usually thought of as objects of volunteerism, e.g., the disabled. This notion is the gist of Milton's famous line: "They also serve who only stand and wait."

9,4,2 "[C]ollege-aged kids" probably should not be referred to as "kids," but as "Americans." Likewise, at 9,4,4, we suggest "other young people" instead of "other kids."

10,3,2 "[C]ombat issues like hunger and health care...." Since you cannot combat health care, we suggest "disease."

11,1,3 "And then he told him...." We are suggesting here that Hamilton congratulated Washington and then spoke these words to his face, whereas, in fact, the words were apparently from a letter to George Washington. Also, isn't there an ellipsis in this quotation? It needs to be checked.

#

(Smith/Blessey)
June 20, 1989
Draft Seven
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your generous reception. And let me salute that magnificent film. It was a moving call to action, ~~and to arms.~~

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

I have just come from a place which embodies that statement -- Covenant House -- a mirror of how, as Lincoln said, we can "bind up the Nation's wounds."

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village of New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his

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As word spread, every night young people of every race and creed came to this small apartment. And eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway kids.

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Last year, such Americans contributed an estimated 19.5 billion volunteer hours. ~~And more than 21 million volunteered 5 hours or more per week.~~ They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. ~~Volunteers are selfless.~~ They make a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped ~~more~~ ^{countless} Americans ~~than ever~~ find self-respect and dignity. This month marks the 78th straight month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in our history. Paraphrasing Churchill: Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long.

~~And yet~~ the job is far from complete. Millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of want and isolation. That must

stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring in those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

But how?

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that government can't buy understanding, and love. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans realize that. They know that the key to change is building relationships, not ~~programs~~ ^{bureaucratic}. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

My friends, all my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. I remember digging ditches for a Little League ball field, helping to build a theatre. And dating back to my days at Yale, a cause I love: Raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

[All the while, I believed in the capacity of groups, and individuals, to realize great and generous deeds. Deeds that could supplement, not supplant, the role of government.] Like so many others, I found joy and a sense of inner peace in helping others. For I was also fulfilling myself. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we

wear. Rather, I learned that America is great because America is good.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. ~~And yet as timely as 1989.~~ ^{Today,} More than ever, we need community service to ^{help} ~~assist Americans like~~ drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often disadvantaged, they feel ~~//~~ far worse -- disconnected from society, ~~with no hope for a better~~ tomorrow.

~~We can~~ raise their spirits and their expectations, and we must. Not by more government, and capital -- but by more people, and caring. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own back yard.

My friends, these "thousand points of light" can extend national service into every corner of America. By asking that all branches and all levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

I am here today to outline that crusade. First: A call to action, and ~~to~~ share ^{another's} ~~other's~~ burdens. Next: A catalyst to energize "a thousand points of light." Finally: An initiative to find, and train, leaders to help their fellow man. And to reward those who do. Let's be clear about one thing, though -- this is not ^a ~~another~~ program, or bureaucracy. It is a movement -- bold, and unprecedented.

First, our call to action, and, even more, to claim society's problems as our own. Our call is individual, and collective. And it begins this afternoon, with you.

~~Therefore~~, today I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to devise programs which involve themselves and their employees in community service. I commend all business leaders who ^{promote} ~~consider~~ and ~~reward~~ ^{in their decisions} ~~in their decisions~~ volunteerism. ~~Non-profit organizations and service groups~~ ^{groups} -- I ask you to utilize all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience. And leaders of high schools and colleges, respectively -- I thank those of you who ^{promote} ~~are using~~ volunteerism ^{through} ~~in your~~ curricula, and as a criteria for admittance.

^{Specifically} 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.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.

Today, as part of our call to action, I propose the YES Initiative -- or "Youth Engaged in Service" to America -- challenging the young to ~~man the front lines in the~~ fight against self-absorption. And to emulate those leaders who have shown that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Leaders like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D.C., who works as a candy striper, a Sunday school teacher, and aid to a cerebral palsy patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

These leaders show that what we are matters more than what we have. And they can help reach three of our movement's goals.

bullet
First ~~For~~ by 1992, we want to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism; *second* to double the number of adults involved in youth mentoring projects; and *third* to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service.

Yesterday, on the South Lawn of the White House, we held a kickoff rally for the "Yes" Initiative, attended by thousands of kids -- some of those points of light I like to talk about. And their presence reminded me of the saying, "Life is not a state of

time -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to volunteerism. Does it summon the young, and old? You bet. Will Americans listen to that call? I believe they will. The poet Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals are giving of, not to, themselves.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent delta town. Her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay. "Hope is a gift that has been given me," Anne says. "I want to pass it on."

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will require a catalyst. And I am proud to announce it now: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call this catalyst the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will lead. Not as a figure-head. But daily, actively, with the full power of the Presidency.

I will soon ask Congress for funds to support this Initiative, with matching funds from the private sector. But until Congress acts, I will also name an advisory committee to get the ball rolling.

"The Points of Light Initiative" will be a strategy center and a clearinghouse for the best ideas, and brightest programs, in community service. It will seek out, and find, successful ~~programs~~ ^{efforts} --the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by bringing success stories to other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.

Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form State and local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding private sector leaders. And, at its core, will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help another local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, an experienced mentor can help show a nearby district ~~which programs work~~ ^{what?} and ~~which do not~~ ^{what doesn't.}

This technical assistance and counseling network will work through a variety of forms. Each community will be asked to

create a "volunteer center": Here, anyone can learn what volunteer opportunities exist in his or her locality to help others. And over time, the Foundation will use technology to link volunteer supply, and community demand. Imagine, for instance, a service where you can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA.

Moreover, we will ask every bank, credit card issuer, telephone, and utility company to include in billing and statement envelopes information about where help is needed.

Like the Foundation itself, these acts can help individuals -- and institutions -- lift Americans from the Death Valley of despair. Well, so can yet another constellation in the "Points of Light Initiative": Our effort to find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to national service. And then, to honor those who excel.

Through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged youth from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as volunteer ambassadors -- urging other kids to get involved. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. We will ask media of every sort to profile the best and the brightest of community service. And our Foundation will also recognize excellent community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to individuals. And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.

Yes, a call to action, and to share others' burden. "A thousand points of light." An initiative to develop the leaders of tomorrow. Not another program, or bureaucracy. But a movement -- bold, unprecedented.

All of this will test us as Americans. And challenge us to combat problems like hunger and disease, drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, we know what is at stake.

We know, for instance, that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism.

We recognize that as Americans, life is measured not by the sum of our possessions -- but by the sum of how we conduct ourselves.

We know that as citizens, and institutions, we can use "one-on-one" caring to truly "Love thy neighbor." And that prosperity

without purpose means nothing. And we must resolve to carry these beliefs to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the Presidency. He wrote him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of -- how many? -- million citizens.

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America.

God bless you -- we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/19/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/20/89 9:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 9:00 AM, Tuesday, June 20, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

Delete all reference to "Community Service" Executive order on page 4. The President did not approve this executive order.

RESPONSE:

Needs to put foundation and Executive Order in context that he is calling forth a national movement and he will use the "bully pulpit" to guide it and promote it. Needs more vision, cohesion, and organization through the President's principles, less nuts and bolts.

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

(Smith/Blessey)
June 16, 1989
Draft Six
PART

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate those words of welcome. And let me thank you for your generous reception.

Thirty-five years ago, the City of St. Louis held a "Yogi Berra Day" for its native son and baseball great. And as usual, the noted philosopher proved equal to the occasion.

Yogi began his acceptance speech by saying, "My friends, I want to thank all the people who made this night necessary." Well, my friends, this afternoon I want to thank all of you for making this day necessary.

It is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been described as "the noblest of the American symbols" and, yes, "the capital of the world."

And let me also add that it is indeed an honor to address the members of the New York Partnership. For already, you have enriched fields from business, labor, and religion to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: To discuss, specifically, how we can join hands, and link hearts, to build a better America for all.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere [PAUSE] . . . Think of that.

Today, millions of Americans are giving of their time, and of themselves -- at a day-care center, the corner library, their inner-city school. They are selfless. They make a difference. They know that prosperity without purpose means nothing.

Already, their involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped more Americans than ever find self-reliance and self-worth. This month marks the 78th straight month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in our history. Paraphrasing Churchill: Never have so many enjoyed so much for so long.

And yet it's not enough. For millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of isolation and despair. Ladies and gentlemen: We must end that nightmare. Those who feel left out, we must help to bring in.

You know, the story is told of how Tallulah Bankhead once dropped a fifty-dollar bill into a tambourine held out to her by a Salvation Army player. Of course, he was grateful. But she waved aside his thanks. "Don't bother to thank me," she said. "I know what a perfectly ghastly season it's been for you Spanish dancers."

My friends, today ^{our} ~~such~~ concern can assist the most vulnerable among us. Americans like drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDs victims. The hungry and ✓

illiterate. Often disadvantaged, they feel -- far worse -- disconnected from society. Above all, they lack the hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

We can help these Americans, and must: Not by capital alone, but by caring and sacrifice. And by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. In this room sit some of the most successful people in America. Well, to you I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, helping each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations of people and institutions working together to combat, and outlast, problems in their own backyard.

This belief -- in service to Nation, and neighbor -- led us to create the Office of National Service, ^{in the Executive Office of the President,} which is heading our Administration's community and national service program. Sweeney
x7362

Last year, Americans contributed __ billion volunteer hours. I come to you today to build on that beginning. And to sound a clarion call to further swell the ranks of those who give of, not to, themselves.

Our call to action is individual, and collective. It commences here, and now. For our goal is to ^{extend} ~~propel~~ national service ~~in~~ into every corner of America. And to see ~~that~~ all encourage

Delete all references to "Community Service" Executive Order. President did not approve the Order. Read x 5600

The order will not order employees to do anything -- my angry heads. Damm x 5044

^{all} branches and ^A levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- enlist in our crusade.

Soon, for example, as our part of the movement, I will sign an Executive Order directing the members of my Cabinet and the heads of all other Federal departments and agencies to devise programs which ~~involve themselves~~ ^{encourage} and their employees ^{to engage in} in community service. ~~Direct, not ask.~~ This Order will also ~~call for~~ ^{to recognize and award} recognize, and award, the most outstanding Federal volunteers.

Damm x 5044
The order itself will not do a word, change needed

Damm x 5044

Sweeney x 7362

All well and good: But ^{should} this call ~~must~~ go beyond the ^{Executive} Federal branch. Therefore, I ask leaders of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each State and municipality to take action similar to our Executive Order. And I call upon each Governor to work with State and local education boards to include community service in primary- and high-school curricula.

Damm x 5044
This is not being requested of Fed in E.O.

Therefore, too: Today, I urge all college and university presidents to ^{ask} ~~require~~ admissions officers to weigh community service as a criteria for admittance. And all business leaders to consider volunteerism ^{as a goal in their} ~~in hiring, compensation, and promotion~~ decisions. And non-profit organizations and service groups -- I ask you to utilize all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience.

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.

A clarion call? You bet. Will America heed it? Why not? The poet Emerson once observed: "There is nothing closer to God than the act of giving." Well, today, across our fifty States, groups, and individuals, are already illuminating the heavens.

My friends, there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

In Gaston County, North Carolina, where one out of five adults is illiterate, Olna Daves has founded a Literacy Council. And in Tucson, Kathleen Clark runs a nursery for up to 150 abused children per month. In Mississippi, Dr. Anne Brooks set up practice in an indigent delta town. She treats everything from rat bites to heart attacks. And her care is, literally, priceless -- many patients can't afford to pay. "Hope is a gift that has been given me," Anne says. "I want to pass it on."

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will demand an instrument to sound our call to action. Well, today I announce that vehicle: A new effort to identify volunteer programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call it the "Points of Light Initiative" -- and it includes a Foundation I will ^{lead} chair. The Foundation will be funded by business in partnership with the Federal government. And act as a strategy center for the best ideas, and brightest

he is actually
honorary

(ex officio)

Danner
x5044

programs, in community service. "Points of Light" will seek out, and find, successful programs --the elementary school, for instance, whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; or the consortium where banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by repeating their success in other communities, we will spread them across the Nation.

Will Rogers once said: "I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons." My friends, neither will the "Points of Light Initiative." Too much is at stake.

Our foundation will be bi-partisan: It will ask each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to form President's State and local Points of Light ~~Initiating~~ ^{Initiative} ^{Sweeney} ^{x7362} Committees composed of outstanding private-sector leaders. And at its core will be our request -- I submit, your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Civic to corporate, union to educational. And they will act as peer-to-peer counselors: to wit, journalist-to-journalist, or one clergyman to another [PAUSE] . . . after all, both professions need prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a lawyer in Chicago can help a local law firm devise a pro bono program for the low-income and handicapped. Or in Wilmington, having mentored inner-city youths, a teacher can suggest to a nearby district which programs work, and which do not.

We're calling this technical assistance and counseling network ServNet. And it will work through a service dubbed ServLink. Here's how: Any American wishing to serve can call a hot-line phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- the Goodwill or March of Dimes; the corner YMCA. The caller will then learn what volunteer opportunities exist in his or her community to help others, and thereby America.

You know, being here reminds me of how that spirit links this community: the City of New York. Well, let me relate a story about a man who embodied it: One of the greatest Mayors in the history of New York.

One bitter, cold day Fiorello LaGuardia was presiding at police court. When in came a trembling old man, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. His family, he said, was starving. "I've got to punish you," mourned the Little Flower. "The law makes no exception." And he sentenced the man to a fine of ten dollars.

But the best was yet to come. For as LaGuardia was passing sentence, he reached into his pocket and added, "Well, here's the ten dollars to pay your fine. And I now I remit it." And then he tossed a ten-dollar bill into his famous fedora.

"Furthermore," he continued, "I'm going to fine everybody in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a man has to steal bread in order to eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to this defendant!" The hat was passed.

Charity triumphed. And when the old man left the courtroom he held in his hand what, to him, must have seemed a fortune: forty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

Ex 100 II
 Fiorello LaGuardia was a leader who practiced the larger public good. An entire city loved him. And its kids adored him. Maybe you recall how during a newspaper strike, LaGuardia took to the radio to read them "Dick Tracy" and other comics. Well, I have a hunch that Fiorello, hearing us today by wireless, would especially like one part of the "Points of Light Initiative."

This part will ask kids to man the front lines of the fight against self-absorption. And it will look to leaders who show that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. Kids like Sean Fox, 20, who began the Toledo Community Food Bank to feed the hungry of his town. Or Eileen Cole, 17, of Washington, D. C., who works as a candy striper, a CCD teacher, and aid to a cerebral palsey patient. Or Carissa Griesinger of Florida, a former drug user and seller, who now, at 15, devotes hours each week to counseling troubled teenagers and tutoring handicapped children.

Kids like these can help reach three of our Foundation's goals. For by 1992, we want to triple the number of institutions engaged in youth development through community service; to double the number of kids engaged in volunteerism; and to double the number of adults and peer groups involved in youth mentoring projects. And you know what? I believe in America's young people. I have no doubt that they will.

Yesterday, we held a pep rally for this program, attended by thousands of young people on the South Lawn of the White House. And their presence reminded me of how, at the age of ninety-one, Oliver Wendell Holmes resigned from the Supreme Court and spent the following summer at his country house in Massachusetts.

As the former Justice told it, old friends from Boston would come to see him. And they'd invariably bring their grandchildren. Which he relished even more. One day, sitting on his porch, he got to discussing life with a 16-year-old. Said Mr. Justice Holmes: "I won't refrain from talking about anything because you're too young, if you won't because I'm too old."

Justice Holmes believed, as the saying goes, that "life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is volunteerism. It can involve the young, and old. Accordingly, I believe that the "Points of Light Initiative" can become a means to find potential leaders of every age in every State and locality. And to train them to devote their talents and energies to the movement of national service. And then, to honor those who excel. Can, and must.

That is why, through the Foundation, I will annually select two college-aged^s kids from every State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as role models for other kids to get involved in community service. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists. ✓

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. So I'm pleased to say that our Foundation will recognize ^{excellent} ~~talented~~ community programs and leaders. Specifically, through the "President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to up to 1,000 community leaders. ~~And the "President's Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to "build" surrogate families and rebuild decaying areas.~~

A call to action. "A thousand points of light." A movement to locate, and repeat, successful programs. To find, and train, leaders who move their fellow man. And to reward those who do.

All of this will test us, challenge us. Test us as Americans. Challenge us to combat ^{problems} ~~issues~~ like hunger and ^{inadequate} ~~health~~ care, drug abuse and homelessness. We cannot afford to fail, and won't. For as Americans, certain truths unite us.

We know, for instance, that government spending can't rebuild a family or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. No amount of money can buy understanding, or love.

We know that as Americans, we must accept the sacrifices required of us. For life is measured not by what's in our bank account -- but by holding ourselves to account for the well-being of our community.

We recognize that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism. And we must resolve to carry this idea to every person in the land.

*Danna x5044
This is not
the
current
legislation*

*Clark is
checking
the
legislation*

x3060

Two centuries ago last year, a few blocks away from here, Alexander Hamilton congratulated General Washington on his election as President. And then he told him: "The point of light in which you stand will make an infinite difference in the respectability in which the government will begin its operations."

My friends, national service will work. For it is as honored as our history. National service can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of -- how many? -- ^a million citizens. ^{x3060}
X

I say to you, then: Join up, link hands, and march in our crusade. Today, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. Through the call to action, and to arms, that is community service, let us forever keep it so.

Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful occasion. ^{x3060} God bless you, ^g we need your help, and God bless the United States of America.

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