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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13650
Folder ID Number: 13650-007

Folder Title:
Points of Light Celebration 1/14/93 [OA 8485]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	6	2

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 12, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAN MCGROARTY *DM*
FROM: JENNIFER GROSSMAN *JAG*
SUBJECT: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION

On Thursday, January 14th, at 1:30 p.m. in the East Room, you will deliver remarks (8 mins./cards) to over 100 Points of Light representatives from all 50 states, plus roughly 50 board members and representatives from National Service's various affiliated organizations.

Your remarks congratulate all Points of Light for their magnificent contributions their country and communities, while reflecting on the larger mission of this movement. You exhort them to continue their work, while expressing hopes that a legacy of volunteer service lives on beyond your retirement from the public arena.

(Grossman)
January 8, 1993
Draft One
LIGHT

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION
JANUARY 14, 1993

[Acknowledgements.]

You know, lots of folks ask me about the phrase "Points of Light." Some say it's religious, others say it's patriotic like the flag, others think it's an image of hope. I think Points of Light are all of these things, and yet still something more: it's what happens when ordinary people claim the problems of their community as their own. It's the inspiration and awakening to the God-given light lit from within. It's the promise of America.

We've got Points of Light here today from [50] states -- shining all the way from Anchorage to Harlem and from Miami to Maine. Never before has there been so much light in this house. Each of you here today knows what I mean. Each of you found within yourselves your own special genius for helping others. And each discovered the imagination to see things others could not: the human dignity in the eyes of a homeless man, the musicians and business leaders in an inner-city gang, the light and laughter in the shadows of a shattered life.

I have always believed that in each individual there is a point of light waiting to be revealed -- in each community a thousand miracles, waiting to happen. And when I assumed this great office, I pledged to do all I could to honor, encourage,

and increase volunteer efforts until their light filled every dark corner of our country.

We began with a national strategy, and if you'll bear with me a moment, I'd like to remind you what that strategy is. First, changing attitudes, so that all Americans define a successful life as one that includes serving others. Second, identifying what is already working, so that those efforts can be multiplied and enlarged. Third, encouraging leaders to help others become Points of Light. Fourth, reducing volunteer liability, because I believe that it's time we started caring for each other more and suing each other less. Fifth and finally, within every community, linking people to ways they can help.

Everything I have done as President has supported this strategy. That's why, we've worked together to create the Points of Light Foundation, the Commission on National and Community Service, and the National Center for Community Risk Management and Insurance. We envisioned National Service -- not as a government program or even a White House initiative -- but as a grass-roots movement, a movement that makes full use of the many different ways that Americans want to help.

This strategy is significant, not because it indicates Washington's role -- but because it illuminates yours. And this is something where it's easy to miss the constellation for the stars. You see, it's not just Points of Light that are important. It's the idea that every community in America could be filled with light. America could become like this room. You

are only a fraction of the stories we have told, and those stories are only a fraction of those that could be told.

Look around this room, then picture what would happen throughout America if every former gang-member discovered the Rodney Dailey within, and offered young people good alternatives to life on the streets. Imagine if every member of a club, like the Rotary Readers, filled someone's life with the wonder of reading. Or what if every little girl found the imagination to follow Isis Johnson, to clothe the cold and feed the hungry in her little corner of America. Imagine what that America would look like.

Regardless of what we believe government should do, all of us agree that no serious social problem in this country is going to be solved without the active engagement of millions of citizens and tens of thousands of institutions: Schools \ Businesses \ Churches \ Clubs -- armies of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Government has a critical role in helping people and so does solid, sustainable economic growth. But people -- not programs -- solve problems. And somewhere in America, every serious social problem is being solved through voluntary service.

For therein lies the greatest national resource of all. It doesn't matter who you are -- everybody's got something to give: a job skill, a free hour, a pair of strong arms. That's what I mean when I say that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

Let me tell you another story about success. Today I have recognized the 1,014th Daily Point of Light the Lakeland Middle School Eighth Grade Volunteers. These remarkable young people from Baltimore have overcome their own challenges to become tutors and role models for younger students in Special Education.

Their special courage reminds me of the words of a poet who said that "generosity lies not in giving me that which I need more than you do...but in that which you need more than I do." That courage has made the Lakeland Eighth Graders into the wonderful and confident young people who grace our lives today.

Because I know that America is filled with young people who want to help, I signed an Executive Order last October that created the President's Youth Service Award. As with the President's Physical Fitness Award, young people in voluntary service will be able to receive Presidential recognition in their local communities. I want to thank the Boards of the Commission, the Foundation, and the American Institute for Public Service for their help in implementing this program.

What all of us seek in our life is meaning and adventure. It is through service that all of us can find both. Barbara and I will soon start making our way back home to Texas, and I'd like to leave you with one thought. If I could leave but one legacy to my country, it would not be found in policy papers, treaties signed, or even wars won. It would be a return to the moral compass that must guide America through the next century -- the changeless values that can and must guide change. I'm talking

about a respect for the goodness that made this country great, a rekindling of that light lit from within to reveal America as it truly is -- a country of millions of Points of Light.

I want to thank The Points of Light in this room and everywhere. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 12, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

DAN MCGROARTY



FROM:

JENNIFER GROSSMAN JAG

SUBJECT:

POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/11/93 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUES. 1/12 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION

SUBJECT: JANUARY 14, 1993 -- EAST ROOM -- 1:30 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	× MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	× MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST <i>n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELLICK <i>n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY <i>n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, RM. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., TUESDAY, JAN. 12, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

called 9:00

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Grossman)
January 8, 1992
Draft One
LIGHT

JUN 11 AIO: 53

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION
JANUARY 14, 1993

[Acknowledgements.]

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We've got Points of Light here today from [50] states -- shining all the way from Juneau to Jacksonville. Each of you here today know what I mean. Each of you found within yourselves your own special genius for helping others. And each discovered the imagination to see things others could not: the human dignity in the eyes of a homeless man, the basketball team in an inner-city gang, the light and laughter in the shadows of a shattered life.

I have always believed that in each individual there is a point of light waiting to be lit -- in each community a miracle, waiting to happen. And when I assumed this great office, I pledged to do all I could to honor, encourage, and increase volunteer efforts until their light filled every dark corner of our country.

In the past four years, we've worked together to create the Points of Light Foundation, the Commission on National and

Community Service, and the National Center for Community Risk. But we envisioned National Service -- not as another government mandate -- but as a grass-roots movement. Our strategy: first, to recognize that each citizen has a gift America needs and to ask them to give it; second, to identify and recreate what works; and third, to discover, recruit, and encourage new leaders.

This strategy is significant, not because it indicates Washington's role -- but because it illuminates yours. And this is something where the media, if you'll forgive me, missed the constellation for the stars. You see, we identified Points of Light -- not just to honor them in some ceremonial spotlight -- but to let their shining example educate and ignite other potential points of light nationwide.

Look around this room, then picture what would happen -- if every former gang-member discovered the Rodney Dailey within, and used their inner-city experience to put dead-end lives back on track. Imagine if every grandmother awakened to the Sweet Alice inside, and filled her empty nest with every needy soul she could find. Or what if every little girl found the imagination to follow Isis Johnson, to clothe the cold and feed the hungry in her little corner of America. Imagine what that America would look like.

It's my honest belief, that no serious social problem in this country is going to be solved without the personal involvement of millions of citizens and tens of thousands of institutions: Schools \ Businesses \ Churches \ Clubs -- an army

of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. There isn't a single social problem that isn't being solved somewhere by someone right now.

Government has a role in improving peoples' lives -- by broadening choices and promoting security. But generosity is not something you do with other peoples' money. People -- not programs -- solve problems. Promoting volunteer service does not provide an excuse for government inaction -- but government must never provide an excuse for cynical complacency, nor, in its expansive enthusiasm, extinguish the generous impulses of its citizenry.

For therein lies the greatest national resource of all. It doesn't matter who you are -- everybody's got something to give: a job skill, a free hour, a pair of strong arms. And if God helps those who help themselves -- he truly helps those who help their neighbor. Joe Thompson knows just what I mean. He sent me an old Swahili proverb that says: "when the right hand washes the left, the right hand gets cleansed too." That's what I mean when I say that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

There's a young lady here today who's got a headstart on that successful life. Jenny Thompson was six when she lost her dad in a violent accident. Now Jenny wasn't an adult, she wasn't rich, and she certainly wasn't happy. But somehow, in the pieces of her broken heart, she found the tools for helping others -- to counsel and comfort other little kids who'd lost a mom or dad.

Her special courage reminds me of the words of a poet who said that "generosity lies not in giving me that which I need more than you do...but in that which you need more than I do." That courage has made Jenny into the beautiful and confident young woman who graces our lives today.

[[Actually, Jenny, you've been quite an inspiration to me. I was thinking of maybe starting my own support-group for ex-presidents.]] In any case, Barbara and I will soon start making our way back home to Texas, and I'd like to leave you with one thought. If I could leave but one legacy to my country, it would not be found in policy papers, treaties signed, or even wars won. It would simply be a return to the moral compass that must guide America through the next century -- the changeless values that can and must guide change. I'm talking about a respect for the goodness that made this country great, and a rekindling of that light lit from within.

With your help, we've made a start. Keep doing the terrific job you've done. Thank you all, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/11/93 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUES. 1/12 10:00 a.m.

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 SUBJECT: JANUARY 14, 1993 -- EAST ROOM -- 1:30 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELLICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

No comments

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 Assistant to the President
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 Ext. 2702

(Grossman)
January 8, 1992
Draft One
LIGHT

SECRET AIO: 53

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ZOELLICK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3 JAN 12 P3:26

January 12, 1993

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For therein lies the greatest national resource of all. It doesn't matter who you are -- everybody's got something to give: a job skill, a free hour, a pair of strong arms. That's what I mean when I say that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

Let me tell you another story about success. Today I have recognized the 1,014th Daily Point of Light the Lakeland Middle School Eighth Grade Volunteers. These remarkable young people from Baltimore have overcome their own challenges to become tutors and role models for younger students in Special Education.

Their special courage reminds me of the words of a poet who said that "generosity lies not in giving me that which I need more than you do...but in that which you need more than I do." That courage has made the Lakeland Eighth Graders into the wonderful and confident young people who grace our lives today.

Because I know that America is filled with young people who want to help, I signed an Executive Order last October that created the President's Youth Service Award. As with the President's Physical Fitness Award, young people in voluntary service will be able to receive Presidential recognition in their local communities. I want to thank the Boards of the Commission, the Foundation, and the American Institute for Public Service for their help in implementing this program.

What all of us seek in our life is meaning and adventure. It is through service that all of us can find both. Barbara and I will soon start making our way back home to Texas, and I'd like to leave you with one thought. If I could leave but one legacy to my country, it would not be found in policy papers, treaties signed, or even wars won. It would be a return to the moral compass that must guide America through the next century -- the changeless values that can and must guide change. I'm talking

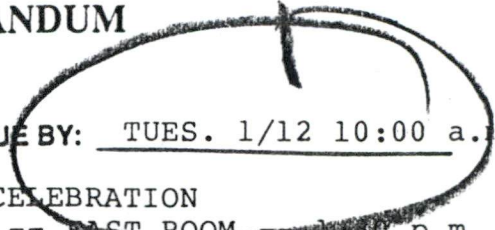
about a respect for the goodness that made this country great, a rekindling of that light lit from within to reveal America as it truly is -- a country of millions of Points of Light.

I want to thank The Points of Light in this room and everywhere. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

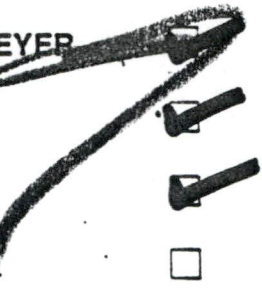
WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/11/93 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUES. 1/12 10:00 a.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION
JANUARY 14, 1993 -- EAST ROOM -- 1:30 p.m.



	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELLICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, RM. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., TUESDAY, JAN. 12, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Please see comments.
Thank you.*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

NOV 11 10:53

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POINTS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION
JANUARY 14, 1992

[Acknowledgements.]

You know, lots of folks ask me ^{about the phrase,} ~~where the name~~ "Points of Light" ~~came from.~~ Some say it's religious, others say it's patriotic like the flag, others ^{an image of hope.} ~~just think it's a nice name.~~ I think Points of Light are all of these things, and yet still something more: It's the inspiration and awakening to the God-given light ~~lit~~ from within. It's the promise of America.

it's what happens when ordinary people claim the problems of their community as their own.

and from Miami to Irvine

We've got Points of Light here today from [50] states -- ^{Amherst} ~~Juneau~~ ^{Harlem} ~~to Jacksonville~~. Each of you here today knows what I mean. Each of you found within yourselves your own special genius for helping others. And each discovered the imagination to see things others could not: the human dignity in the eyes of a homeless man, the ^{musicians and business leaders} ~~basketball team~~ in an inner-city gang, the light and laughter in the shadows of a shattered life.

Never before has there been so much light in this house.

I have always believed that in each individual there is a point of light waiting to be ^{revealed} ~~lit~~ -- in each community a ^{thousand} ~~miracles~~, waiting to happen. And when I assumed this great office, I pledged to do all I could to honor, encourage, and increase volunteer efforts until their light filled every dark corner of our country.

INSERT
H A
(attached)

^{That's why} ~~In the past four years,~~ we've worked together to create the Points of Light Foundation, the Commission on National and

Community Service, and the National Center for Community Risk Management and Insurance.

~~But~~ We envisioned National Service -- not as ^a ~~another~~ government program or even a White House initiative ~~mandate~~ -- but as a grass-roots movement, ^{a movement that makes full use} ~~Our strategy: first,~~ ^{of the many different ways that Americans want to help.} ~~to recognize that each citizen has a gift America needs and to ask them to give it; second, to identify and recreate what works; and third, to discover, recruit, and encourage new leaders.~~

Our movement is not about
~~This strategy is significant, not because it indicates~~

^{original sentence} ~~Washington's role -- but because it illuminates yours.~~ ^{about} And this

^{it's easy to} is something where ~~the media, if you'll forgive me, missed the constellation for the stars. You see, we identified Points of~~

^{That are important. It's the idea that every community in America could be filled} ~~Light -- not just to honor them in some ceremonial spotlight with light. America could become like this room. You are only a fraction of the stories but to let their shining example educate and ignite other~~ ^{we have told, and those stories are only a fraction of those that could be told.} ~~potential points of light nationwide.~~

Look around this room, then picture what would happen ^{throughout America} ~~if~~

every former gang-member discovered the Rodney Dailey within, and ~~helped others see that voluntary service is the fastest route to a life filled with~~ ^{offered} ~~used their inner-city experience to put dead-end lives back on~~ ^{young people good alternatives to life on the streets.} ~~track. Imagine if every~~ ^{member of a club, like the Rotary Readers, filled} ~~grandmother awakened to the Sweet Alice~~ ~~inside, and filled her empty nest with every needy soul she could~~ ^{Someone's life with the wonder of reading.}

~~find.~~ Or what if every little girl found the imagination to follow Isis Johnson, to clothe the cold and feed the hungry in her little corner of America. Imagine what that America would look like.

^{Regardless of what we believe government should do, all of us agree that no} ~~It's my honest belief, that~~ ^{no} serious social problem in this country is going to be solved without the ^{active engagement} ~~personal~~

~~involvement~~ of millions of citizens and tens of thousands of institutions: Schools \ Businesses \ Churches \ Clubs -- ^{armies} ~~an army~~

of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. ~~There isn't a single social problem that isn't being solved somewhere by someone right now.~~

Government has a ^{critical} role in ^{helping} improving peoples' lives ^{and so does solid, sustainable} ~~by broadening choices and promoting security. But generosity is not something you do with other peoples' money. People -- not programs -- solve problems. Promoting volunteer service does not provide an excuse for government inaction -- but government must never provide an excuse for cynical complacency, nor, in its expansive enthusiasm, extinguish the generous impulses of its citizenry.~~

For therein lies the greatest national resource of all. It doesn't matter who you are -- everybody's got something to give: a job skill, a free hour, a pair of strong arms. ~~And if God helps those who help themselves -- he truly helps those who help their neighbor. Joe Thompson knows just what I mean. He sent me an old Swahili proverb that says: "when the right hand washes the left, the right hand gets cleansed too."~~ That's what I mean when I say that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

~~Let me tell you another story about success. Today I have recognized the 1,014th There's a young lady here today who's got a headstart on Daily Point of Light, the Lakeland Middle School Eighth Grade Volunteers. These remarkable that successful life. Jenny Thompson was six when she lost her young people from Baltimore have overcome their own challenges to become tutors and dad in a violent accident. Now Jenny wasn't an adult, she wasn't role models for younger students in Special Education, rich, and she certainly wasn't happy. But somehow, in the pieces of her broken heart, she found the tools for helping others -- to counsel and comfort other little kids who'd lost a mom or dad.~~

Their

Her special courage reminds me of the words of a poet who said that "generosity lies not in giving me that which I need more than you do...but in that which you need more than I do." That courage has made ^{The Lakeland Eighth graders} Jenny into the ^{wonderful} beautiful and confident young ^{people} woman who graces our lives today.

Insert P B (attached)

~~[[Actually, Jenny, you've been quite an inspiration to me.~~

~~I was thinking of maybe starting my own support-group for ex-~~

~~presidents.]] In any case, Barbara and I will soon start making~~

our way back home to Texas, and I'd like to leave you with one

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It would ~~simply~~ be a return to the moral compass that must guide

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goodness that made this country great, ~~and~~ a rekindling of that

light ~~lit~~ from within ^{to reveal America as it truly is — a country of millions of Points of Light.}

~~With your help, we've made a start. Keep doing the terrific~~

~~I want to Thank The Points of Light in This room and everywhere. job you've done. Thank you all, God bless you, and God bless the~~

United States of America.

(NOTE: This may trivialize Jenny's father's death.)

? What all of us seek in our life is meaning and adventure. Ex is through service that all of can find both.

A

We began with a national strategy, and if you'll bear with me a moment, I'd like to remind you what that strategy is. First, changing attitudes, so that all Americans define a successful life as one that includes serving others. Second, identifying what is already working, so that those efforts can be multiplied and enlarged. Third, encouraging leaders to help others become Points of Light. Fourth, reducing volunteer liability, because I believe that it's time we started caring for each other more and suing each other less. ~~And~~ ^{Finally} finally, within every community, linking people to ways they can help.

Everything I have done as President has supported this strategy.

3

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Community Service, and the National Center for Community Risk. But we envisioned National Service -- not as another government mandate -- but as a grass-roots movement. Our strategy: first, to recognize that each citizen has a gift America needs and to ask them to give it; second, to identify and recreate what works; and third, to discover, recruit, and encourage new leaders.

This strategy is significant, not because it indicates Washington's role -- but because it illuminates yours. And this is something where the media, if you'll forgive me, missed the constellation for the stars. You see, we identified Points of Light -- not just to honor them in some ceremonial spotlight -- but to let their shining example educate and ignite other potential points of light nationwide.

Look around this room, then picture what would happen -- if every former gang-member discovered the Rodney Dailey within, and used their inner-city experience to put dead-end lives back on track. Imagine if every grandmother awakened to the Sweet Alice inside, and filled her empty nest with every needy soul she could find. Or what if every little girl found the imagination to follow Isis Johnson, to clothe the cold and feed the hungry in her little corner of America. Imagine what that America would look like.

It's my honest belief, that no serious social problem in this country is going to be solved without the personal involvement of millions of citizens and tens of thousands of institutions: Schools \ Businesses \ Churches \ Clubs -- an army

of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. There isn't a single social problem that isn't being solved somewhere by someone right now.

Government has a role in improving peoples' lives -- by broadening choices and promoting security. But generosity is not something you do with other peoples' money. People -- not programs -- solve problems. Promoting volunteer service does not provide an excuse for government inaction -- but government must never provide an excuse for cynical complacency, nor, in its expansive enthusiasm, extinguish the generous impulses of its citizenry.

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