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(Smith/Blessey)
June 12, 1989
Draft One
PART

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

Mr. __, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. __, I appreciate that ^{gracious} introduction. And let me thank you ^{for} ~~all~~ for the generosity of your welcome.

You know, __ years ago the City of St. Louis held a "Yogi Berra Day" for its native son and noted philosopher. And as usual, the former Yankee great proved equal to the occasion.

He 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 ~~take the chance to~~ thank all the people who made this day necessary.

Let me first say that it is a pleasure, as always, to be back in Barbara's home State. And in a city that has been variously described as "the insecurity center of America," "surrounded on all sides by Bridgeport," and, yes, "the capital of the world."

Let me also add that it is indeed an honor to ~~be here, and~~ ~~to~~ address the members of the New York City Partnership. For already, you have enriched fields from business, labor, and religion to education and the media. (We meet today to go still

Long,

further: To discuss, specifically, how we can join hands, and link hearts, to build a "Field of Dreams" for America.

More than a century ago, the Austrian statesman Metternich vowed that, "It is useless to close the gates against ideas . . . they overlap them."

Well, it is an idea that founded the New York City Partnership. And that today will color my remarks. [It is an idea that can catch those free-falling through society.] ^{is a idea} And that can overlap the gates of ignorance, inequality, and fear.

This idea says that, yes, government can be a catalyst for caring. But that we have surpassed the limits of what government alone can do. It says that America's future lies in cooperative ventures between government, private enterprise, and voluntary organizations. And that such citizen action can help those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this idea -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped more Americans than ever taste the flower of liberty, opportunity, and the dignity of work. This month marks the 78th straight month of economic growth -- the longest peacetime expansion in American history. Paraphrasing Churchill: Never had so many enjoyed so much for so long.

And yet it's not enough -- it never is. For millions of Americans still endure a living nightmare of poverty and despair. My friends: We must end that nightmare. Those left outside the American family, we must help to bring in.

You know, the story is told of how Tallulah Bankhead once dropped a fifty-dollar bill into the 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 allowed, "I know what a perfectly ghastly season it's been for you Spanish dancers."

Well, for the people I'm talking about -- Spanish or otherwise -- every season is ghastly. For drop-outs and pregnant teens, drug abusers, the illiterate. For AIDs victims and the homeless, the hungry and ill-clad. Often disadvantaged, they feel -- far worse -- severed from society, disaffected and alone. Above all, they lack the hope as old as America: The hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

We ~~must~~^{can} help these Americans, and we ~~will~~^{will}. And you can ~~enlist in our crusade, 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, today, I say: From now on, the definition of a successful life must include serving others.

In his book, _____, ~~that great observer of democracy,~~ Alexis ~~de~~ Tocqueville, wrote of America's "little platoons" -- groups, and individuals, tending, helping, and enriching each other. He was defining successful lives. And so am I when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast constellation of

Democracy In America

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 in February to the creation of the Office of National Service, which is heading our Administration's community and national service initiative.

Last year, Americans contributed billion volunteer hours. Our Office seeks to expand their ranks. And to assist the more than 85 per cent of all Americans -- according to a Newsweek poll -- who expect to spend as much or more time in the future doing community service. And yesterday, we acted ^{to} further ~~to~~ swell the roll of volunteers. For by announcing our new YES or Yes to America program -- Youth Entering Service -- I challenged America's youth to give of, not to, themselves.

You know, yesterday's ceremonies were attended by thousands of young people on the South Lawn on the White House. And their presence reminded me of the story 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 he'd ^{and} always enjoy their company. And they'd invariably bring their grand-children. 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."

My friends, like conversation, volunteerism ~~is timeless~~; it spans the generations. In Miami, for instance, Allison Stieglitz is 15 years old. But she was only 12 when she asked her parents to use the money they had planned to spend on her Bat [BOT] Mitzvah to provide Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. The YES Program seeks to do, nationally, what Allison has done locally: To help our youth become a "We," not "Me," Generation. And you know what? I know ^{I believe in} America's young people. ~~I believe in them.~~ I have no doubt that they will.

YES to America, and to national service: The idea that we are not the sum of our possessions -- but of how we treat our fellow man; the idea that life is not a celebration of self -- and that prosperity without purpose means nothing.

Our youth initiative will assist this idea. As will the Office of National Service. And so will ~~the following~~ ^{four} concrete steps I am proud to announce today: ^{by example, as well}

o First, I am sounding a clarion call to volunteerism. ~~For~~ on June __, 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 engage themselves and their employees in community service. Direct, not ask. This Order will also recognize, and award, the most outstanding Federal volunteers.

~~Yet~~ ^{but} our call goes beyond the Federal branch. For when it comes to national service, all branches of government -- all

levels of government -- and both sectors, public and private -- must speak with a single voice.

Therefore: Today, I ask the 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. In Atlanta, for instance, a minimum number of volunteer hours is recommended as a condition for high-school graduation.

Next: Today, I also urge all college and university presidents to require admissions officers to weigh community service as a criteria for admittance. I ask all business leaders to consider volunteerism in hiring, compensation, and promotion decisions. And non-profit organizations and service groups -- I ask you to make room for 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 college and university: Start a Big Brother or Big Sister program for kids in your locality. I ask this of every church and synagogue: Become an around-the-clock community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store: Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and corner shelters. My friends, efforts like these can expand volunteerism into every corner of America.

o Secondly, I am announcing today creation of a "Points of Light Initiative." Our Initiative will create a foundation

Two (what + two years) ... The points of light will ... in which the quest will begin its operations.

funded by the private sector and, yes, the Federal government -- a foundation I will chair.

This foundation will act as a clearinghouse -- a strategy center -- for the best ideas, and brightest programs, in community service. It will identify programs that have succeeded -- the elementary school whose students "adopt" a senior citizens' home and visit it regularly; the consortium whereby banks, unions, and developers bring decent housing to the homeless. And by repeating their success in other communities, carry them to the Nation.

Our foundation is bi-partisan: It will ask each governor to form President's State Points of Light Initiating Committees composed of outstanding private-sector leaders. And through those committees, to work with the mayors of each municipality to form local committees.

Our foundation will complement, and reinforce, the many national, State, and local volunteer programs that currently exist. And at its core will be our request -- which, I submit, is your obligation -- to donate the services of the talented and the enterprising.

These people -- your employees -- will come from all institutions: Corporate and professional, union and religious, civic and 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 our prayers to thrive.

Think of it: Through "Points of Light," a Peoria lawyer can help a local law firm devise a pro bona program for the handicapped and indigent. Or in Wilmington, having mentored inner-city youths, a teacher can suggest to another 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, any American wishing to serve can call a certain phone number, and have that call automatically routed to a staff member of an existing organization -- Goodwill, for instance, or the March of Dimes; a corner YMCA. The caller will then learn what volunteer opportunities exist in his or her community to lend a hand, tend a wound, and help the less fortunate.

You know, being here reminds me of how that spirit enriches this community: the City of New York. And no one more embodied it than the man who, to many, will always be The Mayor of New York.

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

But as Paul Harvey would say, here is "the rest of the story." As LaGuardia was passing sentence, he reached into his pocket and added, "Well, here's the ten dollars to pay your fine.

*how
big was
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great story!

Carl
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The only gift of is a poem
of Whittier - Emerson.

9

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 owned the sum -- which, to him, must have seemed an inheritance -- of forty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

My friends, Fiorello LaGuardia was a leader who preached, and practiced, "Do Unto Others." Which leads to ~~my two~~ final ^{with} steps to help volunteerism ^(with the, the, the) enrich America.

^{spite 345} Leaders like the Little Flower can inspire free citizens to inspire society ^{at} large. Therefore, I am announcing that working with corporations and organizations, we will use the "Points of Light Initiative" as a vehicle to find potential leaders of every age in every locality and State. And to train them to devote their talents and their energies to the cause of volunteerism. ^{handwritten}

o And fourthly, and finally, I am announcing that through "Points of Light," we will recognize and present awards and other forms of commendations to talented community leaders and successful service programs. After all, our children's future deserves no less. And as humane and caring Americans, we can afford to do no less.

In all of this -- a call to action; retaining, and expanding, programs that help; finding leaders who move their fellow man; and rewarding those who do -- let us recall these truths.

We know -- historically, we have seen -- that government spending cannot rebuild the family, restore self-esteem, or reawaken a sense of neighborhood. For no amount of money can buy caring, or understanding, or love.

We know that as Americans, we must accept -- eagerly, selflessly -- 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 know that volunteerism is as timeless as our history. And that it ranks among the highest planes of patriotism. And we must resolve to carry this idea to every person in the land. For a thousand points of light can bless -- how many? -- million hearts.

You know, as the Empire State New York has boasted some towering chief executives. Al Smith and Herbert Lehman. The two Roosevelts and Nelson Rockefeller. But perhaps the greatest was a man who pioneered the State University educational system; took the lead in combatting heart disease and cancer; and helped New York become the first State to enact laws prohibiting racial or religious discrimination.

As Governor, Thomas E. Dewey would invariably two ask questions whenever a program was proposed. The first was: "Is

it right?" The second was: "Will it work?" He also liked to quote these words of Pope Pius XII: "The American people have a genius for great and generous deeds."

My friends, national service is right. National service works. National service can realize our people's generosity of giving -- through our choices and our dreams.

To serve others, and thereby this Republic -- that, truly, is the most ennobling of ideas. For America will not be a good place for any of us to live until it becomes a good place for all of us to live.

I say to you: Together, let us make America such a great and generous place. Together, let us help volunteerism enrich America -- so that America can enrich the world.

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

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(Smith/Blessey)
June 12, 1989
Draft One
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Thank you for inviting me, and for this wonderful occasion. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Handwritten notes:
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R. ~~...~~
with ~~...~~
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a great ~~...~~

(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 ^{to his} 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

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~~. 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

too disorganized article

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

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. And ~~yet~~ ^{Today} as timely as 1989. 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 ^{as their common} ~~far~~ ^{score}

~~worse -- disconnected from society with no hope for a better tomorrow.~~

On debt, etc. y → A reward life is a easy life.

We can raise their spirits and their expectations ^{let them see what the country} and we must. Not by more government, ^{Not by more program - but by more people.} and capital -- but by more people ^{may caring} 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. *A life of easy is a life unshared.*

In his book, ^{in general} ~~Democracy in America~~, ^{Edmund Burke} 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 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 ~~another~~ ^a program, or ^{another} 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 ~~consider~~ ^{promote and} volunteerism ~~in their decisions.~~ ^(ask) ~~Non-profit organizations~~ and service groups -- I ask ^{to} you ^{open your doors} 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.

^{Sp. Bu. Lee's mac.} 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 --

^{young} ^{American}
D 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 ^{young} ^{men} leaders ~~show~~ that what we are matters more than what
we have. And they can help reach three of our movement's goals.

^{From} For ~~by~~ 1992, we want to double the number of kids engaged in
volunteerism; ^{Self} to double the number of adults involved in youth
mentoring projects; ^{NJO} and 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 ⁱⁿ 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 *at once while an agency is set up.*

Volunteers

"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 --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,~~ and ~~which do not.~~

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

X

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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

~~more detail in~~
 where's
 community service
 his letters.

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."

at a people, La Nación

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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