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(Smith/Garmey)
November 13, 1990
4 P.M.
SERVICE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMMUNITY & SERVICE ACT
ROSE GARDEN
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990
10 A.M.

Secretaries Dole, Lujan, and Yeutter. Senators Hatch, Kennedy, Mikulski, and Pell. Congressmen Goodling and Hawkins. It is a delight to welcome you to the ~~White House~~, and to an event which asks us to join hands, and link hearts, to light the **American sky.** //

That event is today's signing of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 -- a bill reminding us that from now on in America, **the definition of a successful life must include serving others.** // It seeks to aid those millions of Americans who give of their time, and of themselves. **Anywhere** there is a need. **Anytime** they are needed. //

((Let me say that it's good to have all of you assembled here. I've learned that one way to make my grandkids scatter in all directions in a hurry is to say the words "any volunteers?"

((Yet this is a great day for volunteers. Even though I had to break it to Senator Gore this morning that it has nothing to do with the Tennessee football team. // **For this is the day the thousand points of light switches to high voltage.**)) //

From the beginning, our Administration has sought to help volunteers make a difference to those for whom the American Dream has been an Impossible Dream. We call their involvement

national, or community, service. // They show what I mean by a thousand points of light -- that vast galaxy of voluntary associations and institutions working together to combat problems in their own back yard. //

Emerson said of such volunteers, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." De Tocqueville called them "America's little platoons" -- groups and individuals, showing that we are not defined by where we live, what we drive, or what kind of clothes we wear. // They knew that America's greatness rests on the goodness of her people. / And would rejoice -- as we should, too -- that today there is **no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.** //

The National Community and Service Act of 1990 will identify programs that are working, and expand them across America. And I want to thank those who made it reality -- a non- and bi-partisan honor roll. // This Act will expand the ranks of America's crusade to help drop-outs and pregnant teens. The hungry and the homeless. ~~It will issue a call to action that is individual and collective.~~ Summoning the young, and old, to become catalysts of caring. //

((Let me tell a story which captures this concern. One day, a man stepped aboard a train. As he did, a shoe slipped off and landed on the track. Unable to retrieve it as the train was moving, the man calmly took off his other shoe and threw it back along the track in the direction of the first. / His fellow passengers were amazed. Smiling, Mahatma Gandhi explained his

action: "The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track will now have a pair he can use.)) //

That's the what of the Community and Service Act. / Here's the how. // This legislation creates a Commission on National Service to administer **new** grant programs from youth corps and out-of-school youth to **proven** programs like foster grandparents and the Peace Corps. / What's more, it provides Congressional endorsement and funding for The Points of Light Foundation, of which I am pleased to serve as Honorary Chairman. // By calling on every business, union, school, place of worship, club, group and organization to claim society's problems as their own, our Foundation will help **both** sectors -- private **and** public -- and **all** branches and levels of government -- **extend public service into every corner of America.** //

Already, almost half of all adult Americans -- 80 million - - actively volunteer in some way in their community. The National Community and Service Act can swell those figures, and expand last year's almost \$150 billion worth in man and woman volunteer hours. It will help us reject the **Me** Generation in favor of the **We** Generation. Building a movement -- bold, and unprecedented -- that erects a cathedral of the spirit. //

As Americans, we measure life not by the sum of our possessions -- but how we treat our neighbor. / In the soup kitchen, day-care center, and corner church. As a tutor combating illiteracy -- or teen visiting nursing homes. Proving that volunteerism is one of the highest planes of patriotism. //

So let us use "one on one" caring to solve problems. And let me close with a story of how my wife Barbara met last year with a group helping young Cambodians learn English. // While she was there, an older lady told Barbara how lonely she had been before she volunteered. Her eyes filled with tears at remembering it. Then her face lit up as she told Barbara, "I've never been lonely a day since." //

More than two hundred years ago, 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." //

National service **can** make an infinite difference. Aided by legislation which can light the lives of a people, and a Nation. Thank you for what you've done, and will do in the future. And now, it is my great privilege to sign the National Community and Service Act of 1990.

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(Smith/Garmey)
November 14, 1990
2 P.M.
SERVICE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMMUNITY & SERVICE ACT
ROOSEVELT ROOM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1990
10 A.M.

Secretaries Dole, Lujan, and Yeutter. Senators Hatch, Kennedy and Mikulski. Congressmen Goodling and Hawkins. Welcome to an event which reminds us that from now on in America, **the definition of a successful life must include serving others.** //

That event is today's signing of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 -- a bill which seeks to ~~aid~~ ^{encourage} those millions of Americans who give of their time, and of themselves. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed. //

((Let me say that it's good to have all of you assembled here. I've learned that one way to make my grandkids scatter in all directions in a hurry is to say the words "any volunteers?")

((Yet this is a great day for volunteers. Even though I had to break it to Senator Gore this morning that it has nothing to do with the Tennessee football team. // **For this is the day the thousand points of light switches to high voltage.**)) //

Our Administration has long sought to help ~~the~~ ^{ing} volunteers make a difference to those for whom the American Dream has been an Impossible Dream. We call their involvement national, or community, service. // They show what I mean by a thousand points of light -- that galaxy of voluntary ^{een} groups and individuals working to combat problems in their own back yard. //

De Tocqueville called such volunteers "little platoons" -- Americans showing that we are not defined by where we live, what we drive, or what kind of clothes we wear. / He knew that a Nation's greatness rests on the goodness of her people. And would rejoice that today there is **no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.** //

The National Community and Service Act of 1990 will identify programs that are working, and expand them across America. And I want to thank those who made it reality -- a bi-partisan honor roll. // This Act will expand the ranks of America's crusade to help drop-outs and pregnant teens. The hungry and the homeless. Summoning the young, and old, to become catalysts of caring. //

That's the what of the Community and Service Act. / Here's the how. // This legislation provides Congressional endorsement and funding for The Points of Light Foundation, of which I am pleased to serve as Honorary Chairman. // By calling on every business, union, school, place of worship, and organization to claim society's problems as their own, our Foundation will help **both** sectors -- private **and** public -- and **all** branches of government -- **extend public service into every corner of America.**

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