



THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

for a dinner celebrating

A TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS

on the occasion of the birthday of
EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER



Special Olympics



Monday, July 10, 2006

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is a movement based on the simple message that differences can be overcome and there can be a world of acceptance for all.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver to celebrate people's diverse gifts, Special Olympics has grown to offer year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports for more than 2.25 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities in more than 150 countries. The first Special Olympics World Games were held in Chicago in 1968 and now take place every four years. World Games were in Ireland in 2003, in Japan in 2005 and will be hosted by China in 2007.

As Special Olympians develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image, they inspire everyone around them. They exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, create good friendships, and ultimately discover new abilities and talents.



Special Olympics relies on the dedication of the thousands of family members, medical volunteers, coaches and volunteers at all levels of the organization who ensure that every athlete is offered a high-quality sports training and competition experience. And the 26,000 athletes in the Unified Sports program provide wonderful opportunities for Special Olympians to enjoy their sport in the company of young people without disabilities.

The dream of Special Olympics is embodied in the words of athlete Loretta Claiborne: "I wanted to be somebody, and Special Olympics gave me that opportunity." That dream expresses the aspiration of every athlete, the joy of every parent, and the reward of every volunteer. It is the sentiment so well expressed by Eunice Kennedy Shriver who has said, "As we hope for the best in them, hope is reborn in us."



RASCAL FLATTS

Rascal Flatts receives rave reviews from critics and fans alike for their energy-packed concert performances and high-tech stage production. Gary LeVox, Joe Don Rooney and Jay DeMarcus began playing for a handful of people in a club in Nashville's Printers Alley in the late 1990s.

By any measure, Rascal Flatts is in elite territory. In the first six months of 2006, with outstanding sales of their new album, *Me And My Gang*, the band has risen to the top of the country music world. The CD, released in April, debuted at number one on the Billboard Top 200 and Top Country albums charts with sales of over 700,000 and has gone on to sell double platinum. No other act has debuted higher or sold more recordings in 2006. And the "Me And My Gang" tour will perform to 900,000 fans in 75 cities before it ends in November 2006.

The band's history includes four platinum CDs with a cumulative eleven million total albums sold. In addition, Rascal Flatts has garnered seven number-one singles, six Academy of Country Music Awards, four Country Music Association Awards, and four CMT Music Awards. Their six-week number-one single "Bless The Broken Road" earned a 2005 Radio Music Award as Best Country Song as well as a Grammy. The band was named 2005 Country Artist of the Year by Billboard and Radio & Records.

