



THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

for the presentation of the

NATIONAL
PROMISE OF AMERICA
FOUNDERS AWARDS



Tuesday, November 13, 2007

AMERICA'S PROMISE – THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

America's Promise was founded in 1997 following the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. Colin and Alma Powell led the fledgling organization and developed it into a national alliance committed to improving the lives of our nation's youth in the communities where they live and grow. America's Promise asks every community organization and individual to help fulfill Five Promises that every young person needs to grow into an adult of character and competence. The Five Promises are: caring adults in their lives; safe places to be during non-school hours; a healthy start and future; marketable skills through effective education; and opportunities to serve.

THE NATIONAL PROMISE OF AMERICA FOUNDERS AWARD

The National Promise of America Founders Award was created to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the founding of America's Promise. The Award is being presented to leaders of the founding organizations that created an alliance to fulfill the Five Promises. The organizations are Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Communities In Schools, Corporation for National and Community Service, MENTOR, Points of Light & Hands On Network, and United Way of America. Each organization exemplifies the spirit of community service that was ignited by the Presidents' Summit.



The founding partners of the America's Promise Alliance are proud to present a special Founders Award to Laura Bush in recognition of her dedication to the education of our nation's youth and her determination that all children have positive adult role models and mentors to help them make good decisions and grow up to become happy and productive adults.

PROGRAM

Opening remarks by
THE PRESIDENT

Introduction of Performers
MARGUERITE KONDRACKÉ
America's Promise Alliance

Performances by
MELINDA DOOLITTLE
WORLD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Presentation of the Promise of America Founders Awards

MICHELLE NUNN
Points of Light & Hands On Network

DAVID EISNER
Corporation for National and Community Service

DANIEL J. CARDINALI
Communities In Schools

JOSEPH HAGGERTY
United Way of America

GEOFFREY T. BOISI
MENTOR

RICK GOINGS
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Special presentation by
The Honorable
COLIN POWELL
MRS. ALMA POWELL

Closing Remarks
MRS. LAURA BUSH

RAYMOND G. CHAMBERS

Points of Light & Hands On Network

Ray Chambers is the founding chairman of the Points of Light Foundation, co-founder of MENTOR, and chief strategist and planner of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, which launched the America's Promise Alliance. He has worked with numerous programs, including Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Communities In Schools, Malaria No More, and Elders Council. Chambers has helped create a stronger nationwide infrastructure for volunteering through the new Points of Light & Hands On Network.

DORIS AND DONALD FISHER

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Doris and Donald Fisher, founders of Gap Inc., have championed Boys & Girls Clubs of America for 45 years. They have served as catalysts in creating new initiatives and helping double the number of Clubs over the last decade. The Fishers' support of Teach for America and the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) further demonstrates their dedication to youth and their belief that every child should have the opportunity to succeed.

DR. THOMAS F. FRIST, JR.

United Way of America

A surgeon, business entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Dr. Frist founded Hospital Corporation of America and led its growth into one of the nation's largest health care systems. Through his philanthropy he supports the development of young people through the arts, health, and human services, and he encourages the improvement of nonprofits in technology, planning and collaboration. As the founder of the United Way's Tocqueville Society, Dr. Frist has helped the United Way touch the lives of young people across the nation and around the world.



The Reverend

J. DONALD MONAN, S.J.

MENTOR

Father Monan served as president of Boston College for 24 years and has been chancellor for ten years. A founder of the Mass Mentoring Partnership and MENTOR, he believes in the power of mentoring and has worked to teach young people its importance. He serves as a mentor for others who want to follow his commitment to justice and compassion and provides them with an inspiring example.

MARIA SHRIVER

Corporation for National and Community Service

Maria Shriver grew up surrounded by service and civic engagement and has continued to live that legacy as an award winning journalist, author and now First Lady of California. In that role, she encourages Californians to support each other through "It's About WE," which promotes community engagement. As honorary chair of California Volunteers, Shriver launched the largest statewide volunteer matching network to connect Californians with thousands of volunteer opportunities across the state.

ELAINE WYNN

Communities In Schools

Elaine Wynn is the founding chairperson of the Nevada program of Communities In Schools, the nation's largest drop-out prevention network. Ms. Wynn has been a leader in establishing academic standards for the state of Nevada and in expanding access to after-school programs for children and youth across America. Through her business acumen and philanthropic generosity, she improves the lives of our nation's young people.



DECLARATION TO FULFILL THE AMERICAN PROMISE OF AMERICA

With this declaration, I build on a historic foundation. In April 1997, in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall, the Nation committed itself to the fundamental belief that every child is a child of promise. This vision, affirmed by the signatures of every living President on this declaration and by Nancy Reagan on behalf of President Reagan, is one to which I commit my Administration and call all Americans to embrace:

Two centuries ago, America was founded on the proposition that just as all people are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights, citizenship entails undeniable responsibilities. As each of us has the right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, each of us has an obligation to give something back to country and community ~ a duty to take responsibility not just for ourselves and our families, but for one another. We owe a debt of service to fulfill the God-given promise of America, and our children.

In this time of opportunity ~ at the dawn of a new century and a new Millennium ~ the need for shared responsibility is self-evident.

The challenges of today, especially those that confront our children, require a special commitment of us all. People of all ages and from all walks of life must claim society's problems as their own, pulling together, leading by example, and lifting American lives.

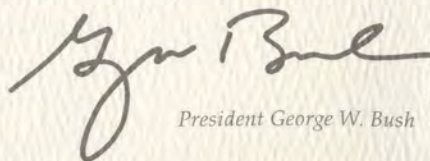
Our obligation, distinct and unmistakable, is to assure that all young Americans have

Caring adults in their lives, as parents, mentors, tutors, coaches
Safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow
A healthy start and healthy future

An effective education that equips them with marketable skills
An opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service

As Americans and as Presidents, we ask every caring citizen to pledge individual commitments of citizen service, voluntary action, the efforts of their organizations, or commitments to individual children in need. By doing so, this Nation pledges the fulfillment of America's promise for every American child.

Today, with this Declaration to Fulfill the Promise of America, I carry this special commitment from us all into the 21st Century. I call on Americans from every walk of life to join together in fulfilling these Five Promises. And I ask the country to stand as a single nation, united by the common mission of building the character and competence of every child and young person in America.



President George W. Bush

Commemorative reprint

AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest alliance of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, policy makers, advocacy and faith groups committed to harnessing the collective strengths of a partner network to improve the well-being of young people. Building on the legacy of founder General Colin Powell, the America's Promise Alliance is the leader in forging strong and effective partnerships committed to seeing that children experience the fundamental resources they need to succeed – the Five Promises – at home, in school and in the community.

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