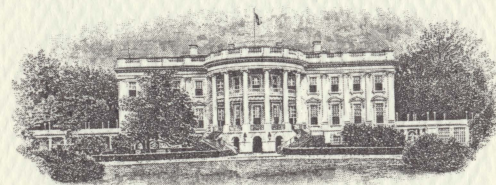




THE PRESIDENT
AND
MRS. LAURA BUSH

welcome you to
THE WHITE HOUSE

for a dinner celebrating
THE SPIRIT
OF
SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Thursday, December 13, 2001

THE SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Spirit of Special Olympics was first given life on July 20, 1968, at Soldier Field in Chicago. One thousand athletes with mental retardation lit an Olympic cauldron to proclaim their vision of sport—a vision marked by skill, courage, sharing and joy. It is a vision that has swept the world.

Today, the Spirit of Special Olympics is alive in more than one million athletes, one million families, and one million volunteers in 160 countries. It is foremost a spirit of joy, but also one of courage, integrity, pride and respect. It is a spirit of acceptance that transcends geographic, social and political boundaries. It is a spirit that inspires us all.

In neighborhoods and communities around the world, Special Olympics athletes come together to experience the simple gifts of teamwork, competition, triumph, and perseverance. In 20,000 events each year, Special Olympics provides the rarest gift of all: a chance.



President George W. Bush and Laura Bush applaud the unique spirit of the Special Olympics, a spirit in which the athletes compete not for fortune or fame, but for the joy of doing their best. The President and Mrs. Bush have long supported the Special Olympics. In Texas, they participated in Opening Ceremonies and volunteered for Special Olympics State Summer Games. Governor Bush especially enjoyed his duties as a "hugger." Pictured above with Special Olympics athlete Richard Peyton from Austin, Texas, the President wants all people with mental retardation to achieve as much as they possibly can and to fulfill their dreams. Special Olympics competition gives individuals the opportunity to develop their skills, a sense of accomplishment, good sportsmanship, determination, commitment, and resolve. The President and Mrs. Bush encourage support for the Special Olympics, and welcome you to the White House.

For so many more people with mental retardation, the Spirit of Special Olympics has yet to touch their lives. Sadly, more than 170 million people with mental retardation live without being given a chance to enjoy even the most basic freedoms—the chance to be part of a family, the chance to go to school, the chance to have a job, the chance to make a friend. These are chances too long denied.

So now Special Olympics embarks on a new era, a campaign to bring one million new athletes to this joyful movement and bring the rest of the world face



to face with the ability and spirit of people with mental retardation. This new campaign is led by athletes like Gabrielle Clark who proclaimed, "If you must label me, label me able." It is symbolized by the "Flame of Hope." It is committed to unlocking ability on a global scale. It is determined to be relentless in the pursuit of success.

Tonight, we celebrate the future of Special Olympics when every person with a mental disability will have a chance, when every athlete will cross the finish line with the words, "I am a winner."



Special Olympics is grateful to the following individuals for their personal leadership and their commitment to bring the joys of Special Olympics to one million more athletes around the world.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Stephen and Jean Case
Grant and Tamia Hill
Peter and Carolyn Lynch

Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos
Mark and Lauren Booth
Gert Boyle

Ms. Loretta Claiborne
Randy and Judy Christofferson
Myer Feldman

David Gang and Charmaine Dittmar
Steve and Rosemarie Johnson
Kim Samuel-Johnson

Ossie and Anna Kilkenny
Joan B. Kroc

Ray and Stephanie Lane
Richard Medley

Paul Newman
Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver
Gary and Karen Winnick

B. B. KING

The President and Mrs. Bush are honored to welcome B.B. King to the White House. Over the years, B.B. has given generously of his talents to Special Olympics and appears on this year's *A Very Special Christmas 5* album. He is a gifted and generous artist—an American treasure.

For the last half-century there has been only one King of the Blues—Riley B. King, better known as B.B. King. Since B.B. started recording in the late 1940s, he has released over 50 albums, many of them classics.

He was born September 16, 1925, on a plantation in Itta Bene, Mississippi. In his youth, he played on street corners for dimes and would sometimes play in as many as four towns per night. In 1947, he hitchhiked to Memphis, Tennessee, to pursue his music career.

Soon after recording his number one hit, "Three O'Clock Blues," B.B. began touring nationally. From the chitlin circuit with its small-town cafes, juke joints, and country dance halls to international rock palaces, symphony concert halls, universities, resort hotels and amphitheaters, B.B. has become the most well-known blues musician of the past 40 years.

B.B. was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984 and into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. He received the Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987 and has received honorary doctorates from Tougaloo College in 1973; Yale University in 1977; Berklee College of Music in 1982; and Rhodes College in 1990. In 1992, he was honored with the National Award of Distinction from the University of Mississippi.

Accompanied by his trademark Gibson guitar (Lucille), B.B. continues to tour extensively, averaging more than 250 concerts per year worldwide. Though in his late seventies, B.B.'s spirits remain young, thanks to his ceaseless devotion to his music and his fans.



Special Olympics