

datory sentence for possession of a firearm by dangerous felons, new offenses involving theft of firearms and smuggling firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking or violent crimes, and a general ban on gun clips and magazines that enable a firearm to fire more than 15 rounds without reloading.

In addition to these proposals, my initiative contains elements designed to curb ter-

rorism, racial injustice, sexual violence, and juvenile crime, and to support appropriate drug testing as a condition of post-conviction release for Federal prisoners.

I look forward to working with the Congress during the next 100 days on this necessary legislation.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 11, 1991.

Remarks at the Point of Light Award Presentation Ceremony for the Henderson Hall/Barcroft Elementary School Adopt-A-School Program in Arlington, Virginia

March 11, 1991

Thank you, Dr. Kahan, and to everybody else—Ms. Treadwell and Colonel Buckley, Corporal Simms, and so many others. I'm just delighted to be here with you, with the students, all the students of Barcroft, and their marine buddies from Henderson Hall.

You know, this is, as Dr. Kahan said, a very special day because I am naming you and these efforts—the marines—the 400th daily Point of Light. That's something that this school and all of you can be very proud of. And since this event is so special, recognizing our 400th Point of Light, I want to tell you just for a minute what this recognition means.

Some of you know that on every single day of the year except Sunday, I name as a Point of Light a person or a group serving their community somewhere in America, volunteers helping other people. I call them our Points of Light because their caring deeds shine like beacons of hope.

You say, why do we honor them this way? Well, first of all, I name a Point of Light each day because I want to show the whole country that all of our problems have solutions. In fact, this country is full of solutions. You kids here just have to look around you to see that this is true—look at how the Henderson Hall marines became your "Tuesday Tutors" to help you in school. They've shown that caring is one of the

best solutions that there is.

Also, I name a Point of Light each day because I want to remind people that real success doesn't mean earning a lot of money or wearing expensive clothes. Real success means helping someone who needs you. We see that success right here. You kids here needed some friends. So 8 years ago, the Henderson Hall marines became your buddies, buddies both in and out of the classroom. Your special friends are real successes because they're volunteering their time to help you.

In addition, by naming Points of Light I want our whole country to know who our nation's heroes are. Today's heroes are our neighbors and family and friends, anyone who gives of themselves by teaching someone to read or by visiting a lonely senior citizen or by helping a lonely child. And by naming Points of Light, I want all Americans to discover the heroes that they can be. As President, I want to do everything that I can to call on each person in America to find a way to serve someone in need.

And so, that's why I came here today, to show the whole country this very special relationship between the marines and the students of Barcroft. And this relationship shows that there are all kinds of heroes. We all know that the front line for some marines was in the desert of the Middle East liberating Kuwait. Well, I'm here today to

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say that there are other marines on another front line, this one right here, right here in our own backyard. And these Henderson Hall marine buddies are serving our country in another kind of fight, the one to help our children be successful, happy students.

To the marine buddies, I say thank you for the important work that you're doing here and for the inspiring example of strength you're showing the Nation. And to the kids, to the students, I say I hope you'll follow the example of these outstanding marine buddies of yours by helping people who need you throughout your whole life. The marines are the heroes of today, and I've got this wonderful, warm feeling that you'll be the heroes of tomorrow.

And so, it's my great pleasure to recognize our 400th Point of Light and to present to you, the marine buddies, and to you, Dr. Kahan, for Barcroft Elementary School, letters of appreciation for the wonderful example that you have set for our entire country.

Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 1:57 p.m. in the cafeteria of the school. In his remarks, he referred to Ellen Kahan, principal of the school; Rita Treadwell, civil coordinator of the marine program; Col. Robert R. Buckley, Henderson Hall base commander; and Corp. Dawn Simms, a marine tutor. Following his remarks, the President returned to the White House.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer's Republican Party Affiliation

March 11, 1991

The President today welcomed Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer's announcement that he has switched his party affiliation from the Democrat Party to the Republican Party. The President looks forward to working closely with Governor Roemer as the most recent addition to the ranks of Republican Governors.

As Governor Roemer stated, "The reason is simple. After more than 10 years of public service, it has been my observation and increasing conviction that it is the Republican Party that is becoming most open to new ideas, new thinking, new people, most open

to team building, to opportunity building."

Governor Roemer, a former four-term Congressman, was elected Governor in 1987 and is the first sitting Governor to switch parties in modern history. This follows a number of Democrat officeholders, more than 200, who have switched their affiliations in the past 2 years.

Governor Roemer telephoned the President last week to discuss his decision to switch party affiliations. The President has invited the Governor to come to the White House on Monday, March 18, 1991.

Appointment of Jay Parmer as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Advance

March 11, 1991

The President today announced the appointment of Jay Parmer as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Advance at the White House in Washington, DC. He would succeed John

G. Keller, Jr.

Mr. Parmer has served in the Presidential Advance Office since January 1989, first as Assistant Director and later as Deputy Director for Special Projects. He served in the