

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The President's Radio Address *August 31, 2002*

Good morning. In all of the trials we have faced this past year, countless acts of generosity and sacrifice have revealed the good heart of our Nation. Time and time again, our country has shown the strength of its character by responding to acts of evil with acts of good. And in coming weeks, I ask all citizens to answer the call to help those in need and make this month a "September of Service."

I created USA Freedom Corps, a single organization to encourage and assist Americans in finding service opportunities both locally and around the globe, to harness and put to good use the service and idealism we saw after the attacks of September the 11th. In addition, I called on all Americans to enlist in the armies of compassion and dedicate at least 4,000 hours in service to their communities, our country, and to the world.

The response to the call to service has been strong. VolunteerMatch, a group that matches volunteers to charities on the USA Freedom Corps web page, reports that referrals have increased by more than 70 percent over last year. Requests for Peace Corps volunteer applications have increased 40 percent over the same period last year. Online AmeriCorps applications are up by 95 percent since January. And more than 48,000 individuals have signed up online to participate in the newly created Citizens Corps program.

The response we have seen is more than numbers, though. It is a reminder that when people help each other, our entire

Nation benefits. As I have traveled across the country, I have met with volunteers who have set an example with their uplifting acts of service, volunteers like Maxine Phipps, a 95-year-old Iowan who mentors and tutors local children through an online book club—she uses her computer skills as she and her students read and discuss books about the importance of citizenship—or Star Wallin, a college freshman from Mississippi who founded Project CARE in 1999. Project CARE is an organization that has impacted so many lives through activities such as matching elementary school students with high school mentors, collecting food, clothing, and furniture for impoverished families, and helping to refurbish the grounds of local public schools.

I hope the work of these individuals and that of volunteers all across the country inspires others, especially our young people. Young people have the energy and determination to do important work, and volunteer service can teach them valuable lessons about responsibility, community, and selflessness at an early age.

I urge our teachers and schools to begin service projects and activities in September and to make this new school year the start of a lifelong habit of service to others. In an effort to assist educators and students in getting started, we've developed a new guidebook, CD-ROM, and web site called Students in Service to America. These resources offer valuable information about

planning service activities and working with community groups.

More than 130,000 public and private, elementary and secondary, home schools and after-school programs throughout the country will receive these materials in September. In addition, we will encourage AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers to recruit more young people for service opportunities and to work closely with schools and community organizations to support in-school and after-school programs. Through these efforts, young people will learn how important service is to our Nation and how to get started today.

As September the 11th approaches, difficult memories of planes and buildings will resurface, but so will images of brave indi-

viduals coming to the aid of neighbors in need. That spirit of courage and selflessness has shown the world why our Nation is the greatest force for good in history. I urge all Americans to honor the memory of those lost by serving others.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:41 a.m. on August 30 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 31. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Labor Day Picnic on Neville Island, Pennsylvania *September 2, 2002*

Well, I thank you very much for this warm welcome. Thanks for inviting me. If I speak too long, it's going to remind me of Crawford. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate you all coming. I love to see your families.

I'm here to talk about the greatness of this country. And it starts with the fact that we've got great Americans who work hard to make a living to put food on the table. Our workers are the most productive, the hardest working, the best craftsmen in the world. And I'm here to thank all those who work hard to make a living here in America. I also want to talk today about how to make sure our country is safer, our country is stronger, and our country is a better place for everybody.

But before I do so, I want to thank Doug. I appreciate his leadership. I appreciate his vision. But most of all, I appreciate the fact that Doug McCarron cares deeply, deeply about the members of his union. Each person in this union matters

to Doug. You can tell it when you talk to him, and I've had a chance to talk to him quite a lot. He is a fine, fine man who cares deeply about people and who loves his country just as much as I do. Doug, thank you for your leadership, and thank you for your friendship.

I, too, want to thank Jack Brooks. I've had the honor of meeting Jack before. He's a decent, kind, smart, hard-working fellow. And I appreciate Jack's leadership as much as you do. I want to thank Ray Vogel, as well, for giving me a tour of the training center here. One of the things that distinguishes this union is that they understand, through training, somebody is going to get better pay. If you help a man or a woman enhance their skills, it's going to enhance their pocketbook. And I appreciate so very much the attention that this union pays to the skill level of its members. So I want to thank Jack and Ray for helping set this