

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring the Points of Light Institute January 7, 2009

Thank you all. Mr. President—[*laughter*]*—yes?* No—[*laughter*]. Thank you all for coming. I'm told there is seven speakers. So there's now about to be six. I thank you for—I welcome you to the White House. I hope you take advantage of the reception that we have after these seven short speeches. And I want to thank you for your compassion.

The strength of America is not our military, it's not our wallet, it is—lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens, those who hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

And so for those of you who are rallying the armies of compassion, and encouraging the armies of compassion, we thank you.

And now it is my honor to introduce my brother Neil M. Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:56 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President George H.W. Bush. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President Bush.

Remarks on the No Child Left Behind Act in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania January 8, 2009

The President. Thank you for the warm welcome. And Laura and I are thrilled to be here at Kearny School. We have come because this is one of the really fine schools in the city of Philadelphia. We bring greetings from the Nation's Capital, but more importantly, we bring appreciation for those who are working so hard to make sure that every child can learn.

You know, 7 years ago today, I had the honor of signing a bill that forever changed America's school systems. It was called the No Child Left Behind Act. I firmly believe that thanks to this law, more students are learning, an achievement gap is closing. And on this anniversary, I have come to talk about why we need to keep the law strong. If you find a piece of legislation that is working, it is important to make

sure the underpinnings of that law remain strong.

I do want to thank Laura for joining me. She has been an awesome wife and a great First Lady. Our journey together in Washington has been fantastic, and I thank her very much for her love.

I am proud to be here with Arlene Ackerman. Thank you for your introduction, Arlene, and thank you for being—[*applause*]. Arlene is a reform-minded leader. And by that, I mean you have a superintendent here who is willing to challenge the status quo if the status quo is unacceptable. Sometimes that's hard in public life. You see the status quo, and people are saying, "Oh, let's just leave it the way it is, it's too hard to change." And you have a superintendent here that says, "If we're finding failure, we're going to change." And