

NATIONAL COLLABORATION
FOR YOUTH SEA BREEZE AWARDS
MARCH 21, 1990

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE TO PAY TRIBUTE
TO THE EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS TODAY THAT HAVE
DEMONSTRATED SUCH AN EXEMPLARY COMMITMENT TO
PUBLIC SERVICE. YOUR COURAGE AND INTEGRITY IS
EVIDENT THROUGH THE INNOVATIVE VOLUNTEER
PROJECTS THAT YOU HAVE IMPLEMENTED IN YOUR
COMMUNITIES.

YOU REPRESENT WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH AND
CONGRESS MEAN IN CALLING FOR INCREASED
VOLUNTEERISM TO HELP MEET OUR NATION'S GROWING
NEEDS.

THE RENEWED PUBLIC INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER
SERVICE PROMISES TO BE OF ENORMOUS BENEFIT TO
OUR COUNTRY. WHILE YOU HAVEN'T NEEDED A NATIONAL
SERVICE INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR GOOD WORK,
SUCH A PROGRAM CAN BRING THE BENEFITS OF
VOLUNTEERISM TO BOTH THOSE WHO GIVE AND THOSE IN
NEED.

AS YOUNG AMERICANS YOU HAVE SEEN THE NEED
TO VOLUNTEER ALL AROUND YOU: PROBLEMS WITH
DRUGS, ALCOHOL, ILLITERACY, HOMELESSNESS AND
HUNGER ARE JUST SOME OF THE AREAS WHERE YOU
HAVE MADE A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO
SERVICE A CENTRAL THEME OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN VISTA, THE OLDER AMERICAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS, AND OTHER SERVICE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY ACTION ARE ADDITIONAL AREAS WHERE THE GOVERNMENT CAN ENCOURAGE EXPANDED VOLUNTEERISM AND GET MORE AMERICANS INVOLVED.

YOU ARE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND SERVE AS ROLE MODELS FOR TEENS NATIONWIDE. YOUR COMMITMENT TO GO BEYOND YOUR PERSONAL GOALS WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF YOUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE IS NOT ABOUT CREATING YET
ANOTHER FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY. IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE
HELPING PEOPLE. THE SORT OF VOLUNTEER SPIRIT WE
WANT TO PROMOTE IS ONE THAT EXCEEDS THE LENGTH
OF A SUMMER PROGRAM. TOGETHER WE CAN PROMOTE
VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THAT ENDURES FOR A LIFETIME.

I DON'T BELIEVE WE CAN LEGISLATE ALTRUISM AND
CIVIC VIRTUE. WE MUST MAKE SERVICES TO OTHERS A
BASIC PART OF OUR EDUCATION AND OUR NOTION OF
CITIZENSHIP.

I COMMEND TODAY'S YOUTH FOR SEEING THE
INHERENT WORTH IN ALL PEOPLE, AND FOR TAKING
ACTION TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER.