

**Presidential Reception at the
George Bush Presidential Library
Selected Prepared Remarks**

Neil Bush, Chair, Points of Light Institute

What an exciting day this has been! I hope you all have enjoyed this day as much as we have.

I want to thank you all for coming and being a part of this spectacular celebration of the Points of Light movement's 20th anniversary.

I want to offer special thanks to our Honorary Event Chairs, Ambassador Hushang Ansary and his wife Shahla. I'll introduce Ambassador Ansary in just a moment.

I would also like to thank our Honorary Event Co-Chairs, Jean and Steve Case, Colleen and Sam Nunn, and Harris Wofford.

And of course I'd like to thank our Honorary Host Committee members; our event sponsors; and generous donors to the Bush Legacy Fund whose names were in the program today and who you will see listed here.

As we are growing this new organization, which was the result of a 2007 merger between the Points of Light Foundation and Hands On Network, one of our most important 20th anniversary initiatives is a \$25 million capital campaign commencing next year.

A critical component of the campaign is the President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush Legacy Fund, which was launched leading up to today's celebration. We are thrilled to have raised \$3.5 million to date in support of President and Mrs. Bush and the Points of Light Institute mission.

We are so pleased about the support we have received to date and I want to personally thank Ambassador Hushang Ansary for his leadership as chairman of the Bush Legacy Fund. I also want to thank Hushang as our patron tonight for this lovely reception. His support has really been extraordinary in every way.

As many of you know, Ambassador Ansary has been a friend of President Bush for many years. And now I'd like to ask the Ambassador to come up to the podium.

Ambassador Hushang Ansary, Chairman, President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush Legacy Fund

Thank you, Neil. Let me just say it is truly a special honor for Shahla and me to be here and to be part of this day and this tribute to the 20th anniversary of the Points of Light movement and also to our good friends President and Mrs. Bush.

We are also deeply honored to be part of this celebration because we believe deeply in the important work of the Points of Light Institute and its impact on the past, present, and future of our nation.

When my friend Neil Bush called and asked us to serve as Chairs of the Bush Legacy Fund and also as the Honorary Chairs of today's celebration, it was an easy decision for Shahla and me.

I would like to thank everyone who has served as an Honorary Co-Chair and Honorary Host Committee member. And in particular, I would like to extend special thanks to those Committee members and others who have contributed so far to launch the Bush Legacy Fund.

My relationship with President and Mrs. Bush goes back many years, including, in more recent times, our involvement with this extraordinary Presidential Library, the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, and of course the Points of Light Institute. We are pleased to do our part in supporting and helping, in any way we can, the two brightest points of light in the world – George and Barbara Bush.

It is now my honor and privilege to introduce the 41st President of the United States, George Bush.

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Michelle Nunn, President and CEO, Points of Light Institute

Thank you, President Bush. It is truly a great privilege to carry forward your vision and legacy for Points of Light.

There are many here tonight that share in that privilege and honor--some of the Founders of Points of Light like Marian Heard, builders like Bob Goodwin and the architect of your service vision, Gregg Petersmeyer.

Extraordinary supporters like Ambassador Hushang Ansary, who is the Chair of our event and the lead contributor to the Bush Legacy Fund. Special gratitude to you, Ambassador, for your truly amazing generosity.

Here at this Library, we have the pleasure of walking through the passages of President and Barbara Bush's life. As I have walked through, I am struck by what a noble and extraordinary journey it has been—of contribution, of family, sacrifice, and leadership. It has been a life that has shaped the events and circumstances of our nation and our world—but above all else, it has been a life of service.

Literally all of the people in this room have had the joy of, in some measure, carrying forward the vision for a Thousand Points of Light that President Bush set forth.

You have given us all the opportunity to be a part of something larger than ourselves. That is perhaps the greatest gift that any of us have in life.

So, thank you. Please join me in a toast to the gift of service, to President and Barbara Bush and to the future.