



## **Service Leaders Roundtable on Service Selected Prepared Remarks**

### **Michelle Nunn, President and CEO Points of Light Institute**

Thank you Robert [Marbut, Jr., Board Chairman, OneStar Foundation] and thank you for your leadership of the OneStar Foundation and the terrific impact you are having here in Texas.

We are really glad to have you at this Service Leaders Roundtable. We are grateful to each of you for joining us here at Texas A&M!

So many of you have been the visionaries and architects of the service movement and today, two Presidents have brought us together to reflect upon the lessons of the service movement over the last two decades and to formulate the future possibilities.

We want to take advantage of this moment in time.

I also want to take a moment to recognize three special guests who are with us here today:

- Ambassador Ron Kirk, U.S. Trade Representative;
- Dr. Melendez, Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education; and
- Nicky Goren, Acting President and CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

We're honored that you've made time to be with us here today.

Later today, we'll hear from President George H.W. Bush, who invoked the vision of a thousand points of light in his inaugural address in 1989 and helped launch the modern national service movement.

We have seen tremendous change in the last two decades.

- 23 million more Americans and twice as many youth are volunteering today than in 1989. NOTE: A slight difference between the Current Population Survey (CPS) instruments from 1989 and 2002-2008 makes comparisons imperfect. Respondents in later years received one additional prompt that respondents in 1989 did not. When the Corporation for National and Community Service adjusted the 2005 CPS data to eliminate the impact of the extra prompt, volunteer rates declined only fractionally. 2008 numbers have not been adjusted.
- Volunteering with educational and youth organizations is up 75%.

- Support for corporate volunteerism; college campus based service and the use of high school service learning curriculum have all become standard.

President Bush called us all to make service central to our lives. He asked us to re-define a successful life as one that includes service. Over the last twenty years, Americans have done just that.

President Obama seeks to make service and civic engagement increasingly important to problem solving and community innovation.

As we move forward, there is remarkable momentum for service. For example, we've witnessed historic legislation, two decades of presidential leadership and multi-sector cooperation. There's even been an unprecedented commitment from the entertainment industry. Next week, more than 100 network shows will weave the theme of volunteering into their storylines.

Our challenge now is how do we make service central to the lives of every citizen and, in the words of Michelle Obama, our national priority?

The goal of Points of Light Institute is to increase national volunteerism to 100 million people a year by 2020. We must also explore how this new threshold of service drives systemic change and creates powerful solutions to entrenched problems. We are already beginning to focus our impact around the issues of education, the environment, and the economy.

We are excited about working in concert with partners that have formed coalitions like Service Nation, America Forward and Voices for National Service. This collaboration is creating new thresholds of possibility.

Over the last six months, I have had the privilege of working with a coalition of leaders that have been exploring ways to turn good intentions into impact. They are working to ensure that the momentum creates new scale and systemic change for the service movement.

To share more about this effort, I want to introduce Bobbi Silten, who has been an indomitable force in leading this coalition. Bobbi is the chief officer of the Gap Foundation.

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Thank you, Bobbi, for giving us some insights and ideas that can help shape the next generation of service.

I also want to thank Evan Hochberg, Karen Baker and Bill McClimmons, the co-conveners of this group. And thanks to Julie Quinn at Deloitte.

We now have the opportunity to carry forward this dialogue by both looking back and reflecting upon the future from the service leaders of the Bush, Clinton, Bush and Obama administration. We hope to engage you all in a conversation that provides insights for our future course.

Now to moderate our distinguished panel, I want to introduce the moderator, Walter Isaacson. As the head of the Aspen Institute and formerly CEO of Time and CNN, he has a distinguished records of

leadership and in his spare time he has helped lead the rebuilding of New Orleans, Chair the Board of Teach for America and write best-selling books on Ben Franklin and Albert Einstein. Today, he'll guide a panel that helps us tease out the genius of the Presidential architects of service for the last four administrations and their insights into what we can do together to extend the service movement.

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Thank you, Walter, and panelists Gregg Petersmeyer, (implemented Points of Light as staff member for President Bush), Harris Wofford, (former U.S. Senator and former CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service, Stephen Goldsmith (Corporation for National and Community Service), and Sonal Shah (head of White House Office of Social Innovation). You've given us great insights that I hope we can build upon as a group of cross-sector leaders committed to service and change.

Our four panelists each represent the very finest in leadership. I look forward to working on the ideas they raise.

This 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of a thousand points of light comes at a time of great economic distress, of environmental danger, and of disappointing results in our educational system. In response Points of Light has launched a three-year effort to engage people in creating real, measurable change in their communities in three areas: education, the environment and economic security. Our effort is called "Get HandsOn." We plan to mobilize more than 500,000 volunteer leaders who, in turn, will recruit hundreds of thousands more volunteers to tackle two million projects.

We look forward to working in partnership with many of you to build a service movement that calls upon the most innovative civic strategies to generate the most tangible results.

Thanks again to each of you. So many of you have been both seeding and fulfilling the eloquent Presidential visions of service for the last twenty years.

It is thrilling to think about what we might accomplish together in the next twenty.

We have an exciting day ahead of us and we've only just begun.