

**HONORING THE POINTS OF LIGHT INSTITUTE -- (Extensions of Remarks -  
October 16, 2009)**

[Page: E2568] [GPO's PDF](#)

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SPEECH OF  
**HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY**  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009

- Mrs. *McCARTHY* of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the history of an organization that has made a difference in the lives of many Americans and many communities across the nation—the Points of Light Institute.
- Twenty years ago, a newly-inaugurated President George H.W. Bush challenged us to “bring in the generations, harnessing the unused talent of the elderly and the unfocused energy of the young ..... to spread like stars throughout the Nation, doing good.” It was this challenge that became the foundation of the Points of Light initiative. President Obama dramatically expanded this movement with his leadership of the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, legislation that I sponsored, which was signed into law earlier this year.
- The Points of Light Foundation recently merged with Hands On Network to form the Points of Light Institute. This organization has been transforming American lives and communities around the nation, offering tangible and meaningful ways for people to serve.
- In 2008, the Points of Light Institute and its 250 Hands On volunteer action centers engaged over 1.2 million volunteers in service and managed over 520,000 volunteer projects. The value of this service is over \$600 million, a remarkable contribution to the health and welfare of American communities from Seattle to Miami.
- One of Points of Light’s affiliates is the Long Island Volunteer Center headquartered in my Congressional District. Daily, this great local organization connects individuals and groups to help nonprofit organizations expand programs and services that improve the environment, mentor at-risk youth, assist the elderly, help hungry and homeless people, and enhance appreciation of cultural arts.
- Congratulations to Points of Light on this 20 year anniversary and for the many acts of service that have improved the lives of those in need in our midst. We all look forward to many more years of inspiring work.

- Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to Points of Light Institute.

Statement by Senator Orrin Hatch:

- Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I stand today to recognize and honor an extraordinary organization that began its important work 20 years ago, born from the words of a new President who was dedicated to engaging the American spirit of giving and service. The words of that President resonate even now: "I have spoken of a thousand points of light .... a new engagement in the lives of others, a new activism, hands-on and involved that gets the job done." This 1989 speech given by President George H.W. Bush outlined the vision for the Points of Light Foundation, now merged with HandsOn Network as the Points of Light Institute, the largest volunteer network in the country.
- This independent, nonpartisan organization has worked to encourage, recognize, and empower the spirit of volunteer service that is encoded in our Nation's cultural DNA and is, as President Bush stated, central to living a meaningful life.
- Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have demonstrated their willingness to give back and to serve in their communities, even in the hardest of times. Last year alone, over 60 million Americans performed volunteer service in this country. I am proud that my home State of Utah had the highest volunteerism rate, with over 45 percent of adults volunteering in the State in 2008. All told, these volunteers contributed almost 162 million hours of service in a single year.
- Earlier this year, I had the privilege of joining with my good friend, the late Senator Ted Kennedy in sponsoring the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, a new law that expands volunteer opportunities for Americans of all ages. I know that the Points of Light Institute will be at the forefront in realizing the full potential of this important legislation, creating healthy communities by inspiring and equipping
  - [Page: S10483] [GPO's PDF](#)
- willing Americans to do more of the heavy lifting in their communities as we all work to improve our Nation.
- Mr. President, I once again commend the Points of Light Institute on this landmark anniversary

SPEECH OF  
**HON. JOHN LEWIS**  
OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009

- Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the vision of a thousand "Points of Light" and to celebrate the growing tide of commitment to service and volunteering that is a hallmark of this great nation. Tomorrow, President George H. W. Bush and President Barack Obama are together to mark this important milestone in the history of the service movement.
  - Twenty years ago, President Bush spoke of a thousand points of light, individuals and organizations "spread like stars throughout the nation, doing good." From this idea rose the Points of Light Foundation which has both recognized and organized exemplary acts of giving for the past two decades.
  - In 2007, it merged with Hands On Network, which started in my district, in the city of Atlanta, and the combined organization is now the Points of Light Institute, the largest volunteer network in the country. Their mission is to mobilize, not just a thousand, but millions to answer the call to solve our most pressing problems--volunteers working together to help those with HIV in San Francisco, building wheelchair ramps in Greenville, and creating award-winning tutoring programs in Atlanta.
  - In today's hard times, people are hurting. Americans are having to choose between paying their mortgages and putting food on the table. In these tough times it is more important than ever that we, as American citizens, give back to those in need. National Service becomes ever more important when people are hurting. I am proud of my fellow citizens who have heeded the calls to service, and have dedicated their time to helping others. In 2008, 61.8 million Americans volunteered, dedicating more than 8 billion hours of service worth an estimated \$162 billion.
  - The Points of Light Institute and its 250 Hands On Action Centers reach 80 percent of our nation's communities have been at the forefront of this remarkable growth. I am so pleased to be able to recognize this organization's first 20 years of harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of our people to be a part of a better world and their ongoing contributions as a part of President Obama's United We Serve initiative.
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