



"I have always said that public service is a noble calling and that there is no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others. It makes me proud to live in this great country when I hear stories of Americans volunteering all across the nation and around the world, working hard to make life better for their fellow man. I still believe that by working together we can solve all our problems – neighbor to neighbor, brick by brick, street by street, community by community."

FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH  
STATEMENT TO THE RIPON FORUM  
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TWENTY YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER, then-Vice President George H.W. Bush stood before the Republican National Convention in New Orleans and accepted his party's nomination to be President of the United States. In his acceptance speech, he spoke about the importance of community, and of people giving something back to their country. In the years since, volunteerism in America has increased considerably, and is at or near an all-time high.

In this edition of the FORUM, we look at the issue of national service, what the government is doing to encourage it, and why Washington may be going too far in its efforts to get people to serve — people whom our 41st President called

# A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT