
A Call to Serve



Quotes on Public Service

Compiled by
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INTRODUCTION

We all are public servants at some point in our lives: employees of government and not-for-profits, elected officials, members of boards and community organizations, volunteers, philanthropists and more. The purpose of this book is to emphasize the concepts of civic engagement and the common good, to foster an understanding of the spirit of service already evident among many citizens, and to suggest a broad array of pathways to public service.


Public service attracts a special kind of individual and is often based on a sense of duty or intense inner commitment to a cause that extends beyond the pressures of the moment. Public servants achieve internal satisfaction by making a contribution to a society as opposed to a commitment to achieving only personal goals. Those who enter public service do so out of a desire to serve the public interest and link themselves to the larger community.

Public service embodies the ethical principles of the common good, service to others and social equity. It is important because the essential components of our society are largely carried out in the public sphere: public education, public health, justice and security, environmental protection, museums and the arts among them. We hope the quotes contained in this volume inspire, encourage and draw more of our fellow citizens to public service.

Marc Holzer, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor
Suffolk University



A Call to Serve




And so, my fellow Americans,
ask not what your country
can do for you; ask what you can
do for your country.

JOHN F. KENNEDY
35th President of the United States of America

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

MARGARET MEAD
American Cultural Anthropologist



I can assure you, public service is a stimulating, proud and lively enterprise. It is not just a way of life, it is a way to live fully. Its greatest attraction is the sheer challenge of it—struggling to find solutions to the great issues of the day. It can fulfill your highest aspirations. The call to service is one of the highest callings you will hear and your country can make.

LEE H. HAMILTON
*Former United States Congressman
Chairman of the 9/11 Commission*

Service to others is the payment
you make for your space here on earth.

MUHAMMAD ALI
World Champion Boxer

We are all called to serve
as long as we call ourselves free.


TOM RIDGE
Former Governor of Pennsylvania

We are here to add what we can to,
not to get what we can from, life.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER
Physician and Professor

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

MAHATMA GANDHI
Global Humanitarian



The vocation of every man and woman
is to serve other people.

LEO TOLSTOY

Author

This is man's highest end, to others' service,
all his powers to bend.

SOPHOCLES

Greek Playwright

There is no greater calling than to serve your
fellow men. There is no greater contribution
than to help the weak. There is no greater
satisfaction than to have done it well.


WALTER REUTHER

Former President of the United Autoworkers Union

Citizen service is the very American idea
that we meet our challenges not as isolated
individuals but as members of a true
community, with all of us working together.
Our mission is nothing less than to spark
a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of
duty, a new season of service.

BILL CLINTON

42nd President of the United States of America



I was taught that the world had a lot of problems; that I could struggle and change them; that intellectual and material gifts brought the privilege and responsibility of sharing with others less fortunate; and that service is the rent each of us pays for living, the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund

What made you choose this career is what made me go into politics— a chance to serve, to make a difference. It is not just a job. It is a vocation.

TONY BLAIR

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Do nothing—or, take history into our own hands and like few generations are given the chance, bend it, bend it, in the service of a better day.

JOE BIDEN

47th Vice President of the United States of America

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.


ALBERT EINSTEIN

German Theoretical Physicist

There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

French-German Philosopher and Humanitarian



The people who were trying to make
this world worse are not taking the day off.
Why should I?

BOB MARLEY

Jamaican Musician and Songwriter

Don't just work hard at your job; work hard at
everything. Work hard at being a friend. Work
hard at being a partner, at being a son or a
daughter, at being a grandchild,
at being a steward in your community,
at caring about people who have never had a
day like the one you're having today.

JAKE TAPPER

Broadcast Journalist

The service we render to others is really
the rent we pay for our room on this earth.
It is obvious that man is himself a traveler;
that the purpose of the world
is not "to have and to hold" but
"to give and to serve."

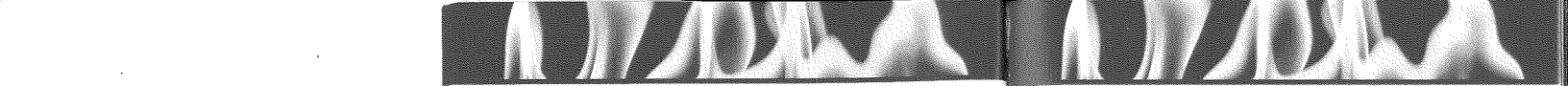
SIR WILFRED T. GRENFELL

Medical Missionary to Newfoundland and Labrador

Every life speaks to the power
of what can be done.

OPRAH WINFREY

Entrepreneur and Philanthropist



I came here to deliver a call to service.
Maybe I should do less talking and more
listening. This law school, this community
is deeply committed to serving others, to
expanding access to legal services and to using
the law to help the underdog in our march
toward equality and an equal society.

MARTY WALSH
Mayor of Boston

I think there's no higher calling in terms
of a career than public service, which
is a chance to make a difference in
people's lives and improve the world.


JACK LEW
76th United States Secretary of the Treasury

Not everything that is faced can be changed.
But nothing can be changed until it is faced.

JAMES BALDWIN
American Author and Playwright

Humanity needs practical men who get
the most out of their work and, without
forgetting the general good, safeguard their
own interests. Humanity also needs dreamers,
for whom the disinterested development of
an enterprise is so captivating that it becomes
impossible for them to devote their care to
their own material profit.

MARIE CURIE
French-Polish Physicist



Make defending truth and a free society
a core value of your life every single day.

HILLARY R. CLINTON
Former United States Secretary of State


The greatest bit of luck [was] having the good
fortune to realize before I was too old to do
something really useful with my money—that
trying to give back to society and trying to
make the world a slightly better place was a
better use of money than buying more homes,
and boats, and planes and artwork.

DAVID RUBENSTEIN
American Financier and Philanthropist

My pitch is for something different—it's to
get more directly involved in the democracy
of policy... Advocacy—getting involved in
issues you care about and fighting for them—
can reshape our country, and I guarantee
it will reshape you.

ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator

Compassion




Summon your compassion, your curiosity, your empathy toward others and your commitment to service. Give more than you receive and I promise you, it will come back to you in ways you can't possibly imagine.

HOWARD SCHULTZ
Founder and Executive Chairman of Starbucks

Whatever you do in your life, and whatever we do at Apple, we must infuse it with the humanity that each of us is born with. That responsibility is immense, but so is the opportunity.

TIM COOK
CEO of Apple



The moral test of a society is how
that society treats those who are in the
dawn of life, the children; those who are in the
twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are
in the shadow of life, the sick,
the needy and the handicapped.

HUBERT HUMPHREY

38th Vice President of the United States of America

What do we live for if not to make life less
difficult for each other?

GEORGE ELIOT

English Novelist

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money.
Money is not enough. Money can be got, but
others need your heart to love them. So,
spread love everywhere you go.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Global Humanitarian

The miracle is this—the more we share,
the more we have.


LEONARD NIMOY

Actor, "Star Trek"

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of
others cannot keep it from themselves.

SIR JAMES M. BARRIE

Scottish Author and Dramatist



Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain love for one another.

ERMA BOMBECK

Novelist and Columnist

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

American Scientist, Educator and Inventor

It is important to engage those we serve, but often we do an adequate job of ministering to the poor, but not with the poor.

ANONYMOUS

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I have been the recipient of love and service; therefore I can love and serve. There is great satisfaction in service to others, in seeing people and their conditions change.

CLARENCE E. HODGES


Former United States Commissioner for the Administration of Children, Youth and Families

Living is the art of loving.
Loving is the art of caring.
Caring is the art of sharing.
Sharing is the art of living.
If you want to lift yourself up,
lift up someone else.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

American Educator, Orator and Author

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Perhaps we can bring the day
when children will learn from their earliest
days that being fully man and fully woman
means to give one's life to the
liberation of the brother who suffers.

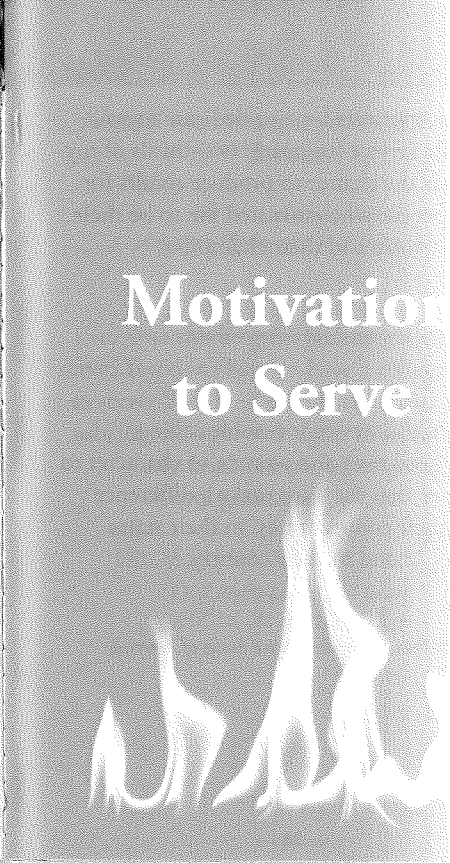
CESAR CHAVEZ

Labor and Civil Rights Activist


To stir the masses, to appeal to their higher,
better selves, to set them thinking for
themselves, and to hold ever before them the
ideal of mutual kindness and good will, based
upon mutual interests, is to render real service
to the cause of humanity.

EUGENE V. DEBS

Founding Member of the Industrial Workers of the World



Motivation
to Serve



What motivated me to dedicate myself
to public service for nearly two-thirds of my
life was the chance to produce results for
those people who entrusted me to be their
voice and their champion.

OLYMPIA SNOWE
Former United States Senator

Public service is a noble calling,
and we need men and women of character to
believe that they can make a difference
in their communities, in their states
and in their country.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH
41st President of the United States of America

Act as if what you do makes a difference.
It does.

WILLIAM JAMES
American Psychologist and Philosopher

Everyone can be great because anyone can
serve. You don't have to have a college degree
to serve. You don't even have to make your
subject and your verb agree to serve. . . You
only need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love. . .

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Civil Rights Leader and Pastor

The only thing necessary for the triumph of
evil is for good men to do nothing.


EDMUND BURKE
Irish Statesman and Orator

I don't know what your destiny will be,
but one thing I know: the only ones among
you who will be really happy are those who
have sought and found how to serve.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER
Author and Journalist

The world will little note, nor long remember
what we say here, but it can never forget what
they did here. It is for us the living, rather,
to be dedicated here to the unfinished work
which they who fought here have thus far so
nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here
dedicated to the great task remaining before
us—that from these honored dead we take
increased devotion to that cause for which
they gave the last full measure of devotion—
that we here highly resolve that these dead
shall not have died in vain—that this
nation, under God, shall have a new birth of
freedom—and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not
perish from the earth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
16th President of the United States of America



The highest of distinctions is service to others.

KING GEORGE VI

Insist that we support the sciences and the arts, especially the arts. They have nothing to do with the defense of the country; they just make the country worth defending.

KEN BURNS

Documentary Filmmaker

It is better to light one small candle
than to curse the darkness.

CONFUCIUS

Chinese Thinker and Social Philosopher

I was having a better time at my job than were those of my peers who had opted for private practice. Life as a public servant was more interesting.

The work was more challenging.
The encouragement and guidance from good mentors was more genuine.
And the opportunities to take initiative and to see real results were more frequent.

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

United States Supreme Court Justice

Yes, our greatness as a nation has depended on individual initiative, on a belief in the free market. But it has also depended on our sense of mutual regard for each other, of mutual responsibility. The idea that everybody has a stake in the country, that we're all in it together and everybody's got a shot at opportunity. Americans know this. We know that government can't solve all our problems—and we don't want it to. But we also know that there are some things we can't do on our own. We know that there are some things we do better together.

BARACK OBAMA

44th President of the United States of America

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself
in the service of others.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

American Essayist, Philosopher and Poet

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Irish Playwright

The time is always right to do right.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Civil Rights Leader and Pastor

Let the public service be a proud
and lively career.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

35th President of the United States of America

I always wondered why somebody didn't
do something about that.
Then I realized I was somebody.

LILY TOMLIN

American Actress, Comedian and Writer

[Having met Apple co-founder Steve Jobs,] I
had never met a leader with such passion or
encountered a company with such a clear and
compelling purpose: to serve humanity.

TIM COOK

CEO of Apple

Careers focused on lifting up our
communities—whether it's helping
transform troubled schools or creating
after-school programs or training workers
for green jobs. These careers are not always
obvious, but today they are necessary.

MICHELLE OBAMA


Former First Lady of the United States of America

Public service comes in many forms. It starts
wherever you are and whatever you're doing,
no matter how humble your first job or your
second job or your third job is.

If you give yourself to serve others, you
will have an impact. You will move in the
direction of your dreams.

MARTY WALSH

Mayor of Boston



I believe we are here on the planet Earth to live, grow up and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom.

ROSA PARKS
Civil Rights Activist

You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think can be most useful.


MARIE CURIE
French-Polish Physicist

Man's greatness consists in his ability to do and the proper application of his powers to things needed to be done.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
Social Reformer, Abolitionist and Writer

Help others and give something back. I guarantee you will discover that while public service improves the lives and the world around you, its greatest reward is the enrichment and new meaning it will bring your own life.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Former Governor of California and Actor



When you become detached mentally from yourself and concentrate on helping other people with their difficulties, you will be able to cope with your own more effectively. Somehow, the act of self-giving is a personal power-releasing factor.

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE
Minister and Author

Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others.

ROSA PARKS
Civil Rights Activist

The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to *change* it.


KARL MARX
Philosopher, Economist, Journalist and Political Theorist

When I liberate others, I liberate myself.

FANNIE LOU HAMER
Civil Rights Activist and Philanthropist



Quality of Life




Better the occasional faults of a Government
that lives in a spirit of charity than the
consistent omissions of a Government frozen
in the ice of its own indifference.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
32nd President of the United States of America

The progress of the world will call for the
best that all of us have to give.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE
Educator and Civil Rights Activist



Without community service,
we would not have a strong quality of life. It's
important to the person who serves as well as
the recipient. It's the way in which
we ourselves grow and develop.


DR. DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

President and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women

The care of human life and happiness is the
first and only legitimate objective
of good government.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

3rd President of the United States of America



The magnitude of our social problems will
require that all citizens and institutions make
a commitment to volunteering as a way of life
and as a primary opportunity
to create needed change.


GEORGE ROMNEY

Former Governor of Michigan

Those who are happiest are
those who do the most for others.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON


American Educator and Author



Never before has man had such a great capacity to control his own environment, to end hunger, poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and human misery. We have the power to make the best generation of mankind in the history of the world.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

35th President of the United States of America




I think the events of September 11th remind us that there are issues larger and more transcendent than the issues we thought they were before September 11th, things we took for granted before

September 11th—the idea of progress and prosperity, the sense of our security—are now very much at risk.

And as they come to be very much at risk, the imperative of service to society becomes all the more important.

LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS

Former United States Secretary of Treasury



I must study politics and war that my sons
may have liberty to study mathematics
and philosophy. My sons ought to study
mathematics and philosophy, geography,
natural history, naval architecture, navigation,
commerce and agriculture in order to give
their children a right to study painting, poetry,
music, architecture, statuary,
tapestry and porcelain.

JOHN ADAMS

2nd President of the United States of America

Consciously or unconsciously, every one
of us does render some service or other. If
we cultivate the habit of doing this service
deliberately, our desire for service will steadily
grow stronger, and will make, not only our
own happiness, but that of the world at large.


MAHATMA GANDHI

Global Humanitarian

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Purpose





Remember that you are on the face of the earth for a relatively short period—a nanosecond—in the several million year span of humankind. Do not waste that precious time. Do not shrink from the responsibility of trying to make a difference.

Accept that responsibility. Welcome it. Cherish it. You stand now in the docket of history, and you can make history. Try to do so. Take up this torch and run with it.

You will never regret doing so.

DAVID RUBENSTEIN

American Financier and Philanthropist


Giving kids clothes and food is one thing, but it's much more important to teach them that other people besides themselves are important, and that the best thing they can do with their lives is to use them in the service of other people.

DOLORES HUERTA

Co-Founder and First Vice President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

ANONYMOUS



How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving.

JAMES CASH PENNEY

Businessman, Entrepreneur and Founder of J.C. Penney

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and help them become what they are capable of being.

GOETHE

German Writer

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

American Essayist, Philosopher and Poet

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am not for others, who am I for?
And if not now, when?


RABBI HILLEL

Jewish Religious Leader

Never forget that the purpose for which a man lives is the improvement of the man himself, so that he may go out of this world having, in his great sphere or his small one, done some little good for his fellow creatures and labored a little to diminish the sin and sorrow that are in the world.

WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



When you cease to make a contribution,
you begin to die.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
Former First Lady of the United States

Doing nothing for others is the
undoing of ourselves.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
Founding Father of the United States of America

I've met many people across the public sector
who are as efficient and entrepreneurial as
anyone in the private sector, but also have a
sense of public duty that is awe-inspiring.


TONY BLAIR
Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted.

AESOP
Greek Slave and Writer

It is not the critic who counts, not the man
who points out how the strong man stumbled,
or where the doer of deeds could have done
better. The credit belongs to the man who is
actually in the arena, whose face is marred
by dust and sweat and blood, who strives
valiantly, who errs and comes short again
and again, who knows the great enthusiasms,
the great devotions, and spends himself in a
worthy cause, who at best knows achievement
and who at the worst if he fails at least fails
while daring greatly so that his place shall
never be with those cold and timid souls who
know neither victory nor defeat.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
26th President of the United States of America



We make a living by what we do, but we make
a life by what we give.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Focusing your life solely on making a buck
shows a poverty of ambition. It asks too little
of yourself. And it will leave you unfulfilled.

BARACK OBAMA

44th President of the United States of America

Our prime purpose in this life is to help
others. And if you can't help them, at
least don't hurt them.

DALAI LAMA

14th Spiritual Leader of Tibetan Buddhism

When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed
and powerless. But when you get
involved, you feel the sense of hope and
accomplishment that comes from knowing
you are working to make things better.


PAULINE R. KEZER

Former Secretary of State of Connecticut

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow,
not some more convenient season. It is today
that our best work can be done and not some
future day or future year. It is today that
we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of
tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the
hours of work, and tomorrow comes
the harvest and the playtime.

W.E.B. DUBOIS

Sociologist, Historian and Civil Rights Activist



Anticipate charity by preventing poverty; assist the reduced fellow man, either by a considerable gift or a sum of money or by teaching him a trade or by putting him in the way of business so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for charity.

This is the highest step and summit of charity's golden ladder.

MAIMONIDES

Philosopher


We understand the great arc of human history bends toward people coming together in ever greater numbers—from tribes to cities to nations—to achieve things we couldn't on our own.

MARK ZUCKERBERG

Co-Founder and CEO of Facebook

Ethics





Earn your success based on service to others,
not at the expense of others.

H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.
American Author

Public service must be more than doing
a job efficiently and honestly. It must be
a complete dedication to the people
and to the nation.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH
Former United States Senator

Try not to become a man of success but rather
try to become a man of value.


ALBERT EINSTEIN
German Theoretical Physicist

A man is truly ethical only when he obeys
the compulsion to help all life which he
is able to assist, and shrinks from
injuring anything that lives.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER
French-German Philosopher and Humanitarian

Nobody made a greater mistake
than he who did nothing because
he could do only a little.

EDMUND BURKE
Anglo-Irish Statesman, Author, Orator and Political Theorist



I have the consolation of having added nothing to my private fortune during my public service, and of retiring with hands clean as they are empty.

THOMAS JEFFERSON
3rd President of the United States of America

Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful.

ANONYMOUS

The citizen can bring our political and governmental institutions back to life, make them responsive and accountable, and keep them honest. No one else can.


JOHN GARDNER
Former United States Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under Former President Lyndon Johnson

My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected but fought, that honor is to be earned, not bought.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH
Former United States Senator

As soon as public service ceases to be the chief business of the citizens, and they would rather serve with their money than with their persons, the State is not far from its fall.

JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU
Philosopher, Writer and Composer



When will our consciences grow so tender that
we will act to prevent human misery
rather than avenge it?

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
Former First Lady of the United States of America

And I say to you that it is the work of public
employees—it is the work of those who work
in the public sector—to hope,
to be optimistic and to build a better,
safer, fairer, more just society.

LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS
Former United States Secretary of the Treasury

To give real service you must add something
which cannot be bought or measured with
money, and that is sincerity and integrity.

DOUGLAS ADAMS
English Author

Where is the man who owes nothing to the
land in which he lives? Whatever that land
may be, he owes to it the most precious
thing possessed by man, the morality of
his actions and the love of virtue.

JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU
Philosopher, Writer and Composer

There is no power on earth that can neutralize
the influence of a high, simple and useful life.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
American Educator and Author

I don't want to live in the kind of world where we don't look out for each other. Not just the people that are close to us, but anybody who needs a helping hand. I can't change the way anybody else thinks, or what they choose to do, but I can do my bit.

CHARLES DE LINT

Writer

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.

CESAR CHAVEZ

Labor and Civil Rights Activist

The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.


BOB MARLEY

Jamaican Musician and Songwriter

Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.

JOHN C. MAXWELL

Author, Speaker and Pastor




The government being the people's business,
it necessarily follows that its operations
should be at all times open to the public view.
Publicity is therefore as essential to honest
administration as freedom of speech is
to representative government. Equal rights
to all and special privileges to none is
the maxim which should control in all
departments of government.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN
Former United States Secretary of State

Citizenship





Our country—our democracy—is not a machine that will run on its own. It needs you out there fighting for what you believe in.

ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator

You don't have to do everything,
but don't sit on the sidelines.

HILLARY R. CLINTON
Former United States Secretary of State

We seldom stop to think how many people's lives are entwined with our own. It is a form of selfishness to imagine that every individual can operate on his own or can pull out of the general stream and not be missed.

IVY BAKER PRIEST
Former United States Secretary of the Treasury

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.


MAHATMA GANDHI
Global Humanitarian

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
Founding Father of the United States of America

Your nation will succeed or fail to the degree that all of us citizens and businesses alike are active participants in building strong, sustainable and enriching communities.

ARNOLD HIATT
Former CEO of Stride Rite



We ourselves feel that what we are doing
is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean
would be less because of that missing drop.

We can do no great things, only
small things with great love.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Global Humanitarian

How wonderful it is that nobody
need wait a single moment before
starting to improve the world.

ANNE FRANK

Author, The Diary of a Young Girl

Everything that lives, lives not
alone, not for itself.


WILLIAM BLAKE

English Poet, Painter and Printmaker

One reason not to wait to address the world's
biggest problems is that they need your
attention before you accept the
status quo, before you are plagued by the
knowledge of what is impossible.

WENDY KOPP

CEO and Co-Founder of Teach for America



If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain.
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

EMILY DICKINSON

Poet

I have never had a vote, and I have
raised hell all over this country. You don't
need a vote to raise hell! You need
convictions and a voice!

MARY HARRIS "MOTHER" JONES
American Educator and Labor Representative

It is possible to eradicate hunger.
How can we live and sleep comfortably
knowing that millions of our sisters and
brothers go to bed hungry?


ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

If you can't feed a hundred people,
then feed just one.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
Global Humanitarian

Be the special envoy of your ideals.
Be citizen ambassadors, using your personal
and professional lives to forge global
partnerships built on a common commitment
to solve our planet's common problems.

HILLARY R. CLINTON
Former United States Secretary of State



So you have to engage, you have to be involved even in this dirty business of politics. You have to, for your own safety's sake. And I have no doubt you will, because you must.

JOE BIDEN

47th Vice President of the United States of America

This great American experiment has no guaranteed outcomes. Every generation tests it, and every generation is tested. Your responsibility—your test—is to preserve the experiment, and renew it for the next generation. This is no small task, but I believe it starts with a small step that each of you can take in your communities: demanding that your local schools do more to teach what it means to be a citizen and a patriot.


MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

Former Mayor of New York City and Philanthropist

I'm here to ask you to get more involved in our democracy. Some of you are already headed into public service. I'm looking out at future teachers and firefighters, nurses and social workers. Some of you will work directly in government, some will work in nonprofits. And, of course, many of you will work for small businesses. Many of you will start your own businesses. Many of you will join big corporations. But my pitch is for something different—it's to get more directly involved in the democracy of policy.

ELIZABETH WARREN

United States Senator



Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country. Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.


Not only our future economic soundness but the very soundness of our democratic institutions depends on the determination of our government to give employment to idle men. We are trying to construct a more inclusive society. We are going to make a country in which no one is left out. The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have little. In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for

economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up or else all go down as one people.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
32nd President of the United States of America

For our democracy and our system to work, people must believe our institutions are more than means to personal gain. We need people at every level of government and in the private sector whose skills and ambition are grounded in the notions of a higher good, who have ethical baselines that they will not cross for partisan purposes or personal gain, who understand what it means to serve.

MARTY WALSH
Mayor of Boston



Since my release, I have become more convinced than ever that the real makers of history are the ordinary men and women of our country; their participation in every decision about the future is the only guarantee of true democracy and freedom. A critical, independent and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy. The press must be free from state interference. It must have the economic strength to stand up to the blandishments of government officials. It must have sufficient independence from vested interests to be bold and inquiring without fear or favour. It must enjoy the protection of the constitution, so that it can protect our rights as citizens. Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people.

On my last day I want to know that those who remain behind will say: 'The man who lies here has done his duty for his country and his people.' What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.

It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.


NELSON MANDELA

Former President of South Africa and Political Leader

I believe if a private citizen is able to affect public opinion in a constructive way he doesn't have to be an elected public servant to perform a public service.

WARREN BEATTY

American Actor and Filmmaker



We will never bring disgrace on this our City
by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will
fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the
City both alone and with many. We will revere
and obey the City's laws, and will do our best
to incite a like reverence and respect in those
above us who are prone to annul them or set
them at naught. We will strive unceasingly
to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.
Thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this
City not only, not less, but greater and more
beautiful than it was transmitted to us.


ATHENIAN OATH

In the final analysis it doesn't really matter
what the political system is...
We don't need perfect political systems;
we need perfect participation.

CESAR CHAVEZ
Labor and Civil Rights Activist

If we are prepared to stand together;
if we take on greed and selfishness;
if we refuse to allow demagogues to divide
us up there is no end to what the great people
of our nation can accomplish.

BERNIE SANDERS
United States Senator



By following only liberal or conservative news outlets, or by getting trapped in social media's echo chamber, we become less able to discern fact from spin, truth from lies. And we become less willing to listen to anyone who challenges our beliefs. The best protection we have against this kind of political segregation is to ensure that we all share a common understanding of our civic values.

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG


Former Mayor of New York City and Philanthropist

The forces of freedom, openness and global community [are arrayed] against the forces of authoritarianism, isolationism and nationalism. Forces for the flow of knowledge, trade and immigration against those who would slow them down. This is not a battle of nations, it's a battle of ideas... It's going to happen at the local level, when enough of us... start caring about everyone... Start building local communities right now.

MARK ZUCKERBERG

Co-Founder and CEO of Facebook

Volunteerism



In my own life, in my own small way, I've tried to give back to this country that has given me so much. That's why I left a job at a law firm for a career in public service, working to empower young people to volunteer in their communities. Because I believe that each of us—no matter what our age or background or walk of life—each of us has something to contribute to the life of this nation.


MICHELLE OBAMA

Former First Lady of the United States of America

Throughout my life, I've seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people's lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer.

JIMMY CARTER

39th President of the United States of America



I urge young people to consider public service, whether they do it now by volunteering in their community or prepare for public service as an adult.

JOHN WALTERS

*Former Director of the White House Office of
National Drug Control Policy*

Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits and know one had a hand in them.

HARRIET NAYLOR


National Director of the Office of Volunteer Development

A volunteer is a person who is a light to others, giving witness in a mixed-up age, doing well and willingly the tasks at hand—namely, being aware of another's needs and doing something about it. A volunteer is a person who remembers to do the thing to make other people happy, who takes the loneliness out of the alone by talking to them, who is concerned when others are unconcerned, who has the courage to be a prophet and to say the things that have to be said for the good of all.

A volunteer is a person whose charity is fidelity, who is faithful in an unfaithful world, grateful in an ungrateful world, giving when all about are grasping, listening when others need to tell about their fears and problems.

THE BEACON

Newsletter of Birthrite, South Africa



Opportunity + Preparedness = Success.
Volunteer to help others be prepared for the
opportunities afforded them.

ANONYMOUS

A volunteer is a person who can see what
others cannot see; who can feel what most
do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do
not think of themselves as volunteers, but as
citizens—citizens in the fullest sense:
partners in civilization.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH

41st President of the United States of America

There is something enormously fulfilling
about being engaged in something bigger
than you yourself. It imparts a satisfying sense
of purpose which, in my experience, is not
attained in any other way.

GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT

United States National Security Advisor

Though government has an important role
to play in meeting the many challenges
that remain before us, we are coming to
understand that no organization, including
government, will fully succeed without the
active participation of each of us. Volunteers
are vital to enabling this country to live up to
the true promise of its heritage.

BILL CLINTON

42nd President of the United States of America

