



President George W. Bush

*and the Asian American &
Pacific Islander Community*

Building A Stronger America Together



*This month we honor Asian/Pacific Americans for their
contributions to our Nation's growth and development
and to the spread of freedom around the world.*

*This year's theme, "Liberty and Freedom for All,"
honors the sacrifices of Asian/Pacific Americans in the defense
of freedom and democracy.*

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
PROCLAMATION FOR ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH • 2005

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President George W. Bush talks with university students at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Friday, February 22, 2002.

DOMESTIC ISSUES

America: One Home, Many Cultures

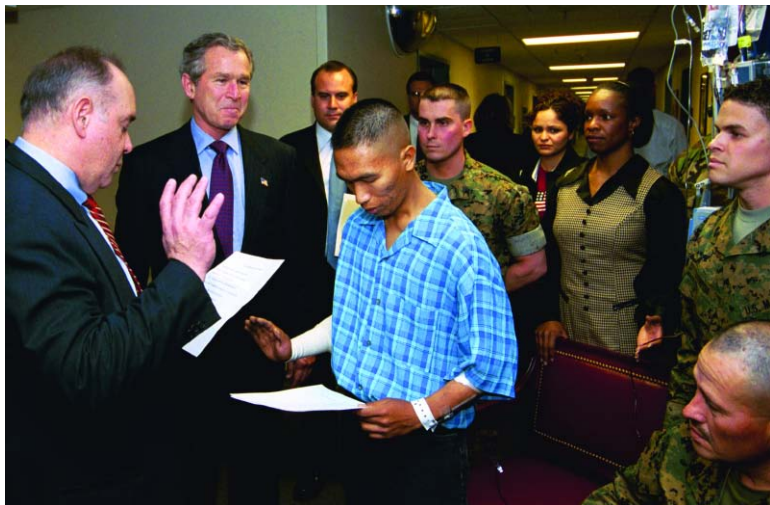
Vestiges of ancient culture and homeland are still prevalent in the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) today. Whether one was born in America or came to this Nation later in life, the desire to be recognized as an American and not as an outsider is common to many. Holidays are celebrated that are unknown to the mainstream public, languages are spoken that are unrecognizable to others, and customs are honored that have their root in the unique fabric of other cultures.

But what is wonderful about this great Nation is that no matter where your ancestors once lived or to where you trace your language, food, or customs, we are all equally American. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders fly the American flag and sing the national anthem, embracing these symbols of National pride as their own. As President Bush has noted many times, an American can live all his or her life in another country and never be considered a national. But any Asian or Pacific Islander can come to this country and in one oath of allegiance be embraced as an American citizen. President Bush described this gift to an assembly of university students in Beijing, China:

"If you travel across America—and I hope you do some day if you haven't been there—you will find people of many different ethnic backgrounds and many different faiths. We're a varied Nation. We're home to 2.3 million Americans of Chinese ancestry, who can be found working in the offices of our corporations, or in the Cabinet of the President of the United States, or skating for the American Olympic team. Every immigrant, by taking an oath of allegiance to our country, becomes just as American as the President. America shows that a society can be vast and it can be varied, yet still one country, commanding the allegiance and love of its people."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

REMARKS AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY IN BEIJING, CHINA • FEBRUARY 22, 2002



President Bush attends the U.S. Citizenship Ceremony for Marine Corps Lance Cpl. O.J. Santamaria of Daly City, CA, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. April 11, 2003.

The President has been deeply touched by people who have chosen to make this country their home. He takes pride in the welcoming spirit of our country: America embraces those who embrace her.

"Well, I think the thing that stood out the most to me was seeing two wounded soldiers swear-in as citizens of the United States: one man from Mexico, one man from the Philippines; people who had gone overseas; people who had risked their lives for peace and security and freedom; they wore the uniform of the United States military. And Laura and I got to see them sworn in as citizens. It was a very profound moment. We were both honored to witness this."

"You know, we've got an amazing country, where—it's so powerful, values we believe that people would be willing to risk their own life and become a citizen after being wounded. It's an amazing moment, I'm really proud of them."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS AFTER VISITING SOLDIERS AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL
CENTER AND NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER • APRIL 11, 2003

May: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

“Diversity represents one of our greatest strengths, and we must strive to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their full potential. By recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, our Nation celebrates the importance of inclusion in building a brighter future for all our citizens.”

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • 2001

For the past four years, the White House has celebrated May as Asian/Pacific American Month. Each year, President Bush has noted the accomplishments and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to American society and praised the community’s love of family, educational excellence, entrepreneurship, and community service. From new immigrants to the descendants of those who have been in America for centuries, President Bush recognizes the importance and contributions of the fastest-growing segment of our population.



President George W. Bush poses after signing the Executive Order on Insular Affairs in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C., on May 8, 2003.

To recognize Asian/Pacific American Heritage month, the President has issued a Presidential Proclamation each year, and the White House has hosted various functions:

- In 2001, President Bush met with Asian American and Pacific Islander community leaders and signed the proclamation for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.
- On May 17, 2002, President Bush hosted an Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month celebration in the East Room at the White House.
- On May 8, 2003, the President made remarks at a White House briefing for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and signed an Executive Order on Insular Affairs, which established an interagency group within the Executive Branch to provide coordination on the establishment and implementation of Federal policies concerning Pacific Islands.
- In 2004, Vice President Cheney and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao addressed a group of Asian American and Pacific Islanders at the White House.

"I'm so proud to be the President of a diverse Nation, a Nation with 13 million Americans of Asian or Pacific Island heritage. What a great country, to welcome such diversity. Whether you're here by birth, or whether you're in America by choice, you contribute to the vitality of our life. And for that, we are grateful."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS IN THE EAST ROOM ON ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • MAY 17, 2002

President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Today, Asian/Pacific Americans are leaders in public service, business, government, science, law, education, athletics, the arts, and many other areas. Their love of family, community, and hard work has helped to uphold our Nation for many generations. Asian/Pacific American entrepreneurs are helping to strengthen our economy and our communities through their hard work and ingenuity and they inspire a new generation of American innovation through their example.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • 2001

President Bush embraces the expansion of minority-owned businesses and he believes in empowering Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to help themselves and their communities. In 2004 the number of business loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for minorities increased by 40 percent and these numbers are expected to grow in 2005. In addition, the President announced an initiative to expand business ownership and entrepreneurship among minorities. Focusing specifically on the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, President Bush established a Presidential Commission to examine AAPI small business and community-building initiatives.

On May 13, 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13339 Increasing Economic Opportunity and Business Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It renewed the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. The renewed commission was charged with focusing on small-business development in the AAPI community. Housed in the Department of Commerce in the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), the Commission is focusing on providing economic opportunities for businesses owned by Asian American and Pacific Islanders where they may be underserved.



President George W. Bush signs an Executive Order creating the new President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. With the President are Susan Ralston (currently Special Assistant to the President and Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor), Eddy Badrina (currently Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders), and Chiling Tong (currently Associate Director for Legislation, Education and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Minority Business Development Agency). May 13, 2004.

The Executive Order also created the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Along with agencies like MBDA and the SBA (which increased the number of SBA-guaranteed loans to Asian Americans by 31 percent), the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission and the White House Initiative work together to host a series of technical-assistance seminars and government procurement-assistance sessions in cities around the country. The goal of the seminars is to aid AAPI business owners as they expand their enterprises into more stable, viable, and prosperous ventures.

Due to cultural differences and language constraints, capacity building in AAPI communities has been poorly addressed. This will be one of the main agenda items of the President's Advisory Commission. It will examine issues of financial literacy, technological access, and linguistic barriers to accessing government programs.

Previously, the President's former AAPI Commission focused on Asian American and Pacific Islander health initiatives. Followed closely by economic development, health concerns were identified as a top concern of the AAPI community. Following town-hall meetings and in-depth research, the previous Commission submitted a comprehensive report on the AAPI health issues entitled *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders—Addressing the Health Disparities: Opportunities for Building a Healthier America*. This report provided policy recommendations for the White House and its Executive Agencies. In addition to its focus on economic and business development, the new President's Advisory AAPI Commission will follow up on the Health Report to the President.

The President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders is comprised of fourteen individuals of AAPI descent. They are:

Betty B. Wu of New York, NY

William P. Afeaki of Salt Lake City, UT

Nina Nguyen Collier of Issaquah, WA

Dr. Akshay M. Desai of St. Petersburg, FL

Vellie Dietrich-Hall of Springfield, VA

William Kil of Los Angeles, CA

John C. Kim of Los Angeles, CA

Jimmy D. Lee of Chicago, IL

Joseph Melookaran of Overland Park, KS

Derrick H. Nguyen of Fountain Valley, CA

Rudy Pamintuan of Chicago, IL

Martha Cruz Ruth of Agana Heights, Guam

Jeffrey B. Sakaguchi of Manhattan Beach, CA

Kenneth Wong of Holland, PA



Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor Karl Rove with the AAPI Commission in the Roosevelt Room. Seated from left to right: Martha Cruz Ruth, Nina Nguyen Collier, Chairperson Betty Wu, Vellie Dietrich-Hall.

Standing from left to right: John Kim, Kenneth Wong, Jeff Sakaguchi, William Afeaki, Rudy Pamintuan, Honorable Karl Rove, Dr. Akshay Desai, Joseph Melookaran, William Kil, Jimmy Lee, Derrick Nguyen. July 19, 2004.

Presidential Appointment Record

President Bush's appointment record reflects his belief in the importance of diversity in the Federal workforce and his recognition of the great contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to our country. As of May 2005, President George W. Bush:

- Appointed AAPI to 289 positions
- Appointed 2 AAPI cabinet secretaries—both appointed in the first month of his first term
- Appointed 34 Presidential Appointed and Senate Confirmed (PAS) individuals to serve full time
- Appointed 60 Presidential Appointed and Senate Confirmed (PAS) individuals to serve part time
- Appointed 23 AAPI—a record number—to serve in the White House, 11 of whom are Commissioned Officers.



President George W. Bush poses with Asian American and Pacific Islander Presidential Appointees in the East Room. February 7, 2003.

More than any other President in modern history, President Bush has appointed AAPIs to important positions throughout the Executive Branch. Representing the inclusive nature of our Nation, ten of the AAPI Presidential Appointees requiring Senate Approval are immigrants to the U.S. For the first time in history, the President appointed two AAPI in Cabinet positions: Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

"I picked two fabulous members of my Cabinet from Asian-Pacific backgrounds... One lady who wasn't born in America, yet because of the dreams of her mother and father, and because our country can be a welcoming country, was able to get a good education, and here she sits in the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

Another man, a man not of the same political party as I am, but a man who loves his country just as much as I do; a person who, as a young boy, was interned in a camp for Japanese Americans on our own soil—a moment that is not a good chapter in our history—and yet had the courage to fight for change and for the dignity of every American, and now sits in the Cabinet of the President of the United States. I am fortunate to have them in my Cabinet. I appreciate their advice, and I appreciate the great job they're doing on behalf of Americans. All Americans."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS ON ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • MAY 17, 2002



"President George W. Bush is a great supporter of the AAPI community. The President and I are deeply committed to ensuring that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders participate fully in every aspect of mainstream America. President George W. Bush has appointed a record number of AAPI to the highest levels of government. Surpassing any other Administration in our country's history, the President has appointed 289 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to top-level positions including the appointment of two AAPI to the Cabinet and 23 Presidential appointees who are confirmed by the Senate to subcabinet positions. The U.S. Department of Labor has the largest number of AAPI appointees of any government agency. There are 18 AAPI appointees, including three Presidential appointees requiring Senate confirmation."

SECRETARY OF LABOR ELAINE CHAO



"Today, I can say with great confidence that transportation security is at its highest levels in the history of our Nation, and it will be higher still tomorrow."

One of the reasons is because President Bush has provided us with the tools to get the job done... The President understands the importance of fully funding this important mission, and, once again, I'd like to publicly thank him for his continued leadership in the war against terrorism."

I have said from the beginning that Americans are entitled to nothing less than world-class security and world-class customer service, and, with the President's support, that's exactly what they can expect."

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION NORMAN MINETA

Education

“One of the great traditions in our Asian communities is the understanding and love for education. It’s amazing how well and how hard Asian youth work in school to get ahead. It is an unbelievably good example for all of us. Educational excellence must be the standard for every child in America. Access to good education must be the goal for every single child. In order to have a better tomorrow, we’ve got to continually work to make sure that every child gets educated. I mean every child.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS IN THE EAST ROOM ON ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • MAY 17, 2002

While the strides the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has made in education are substantial, the community still faces obstacles in educating the next generation. Like all citizens, AAPI parents are vested in the educational development of their children and desire improvement in the US educational system. AAPI families who have children struggling in the classroom or who are worried about whether they can afford a college education now have more ways to address the challenges they face.

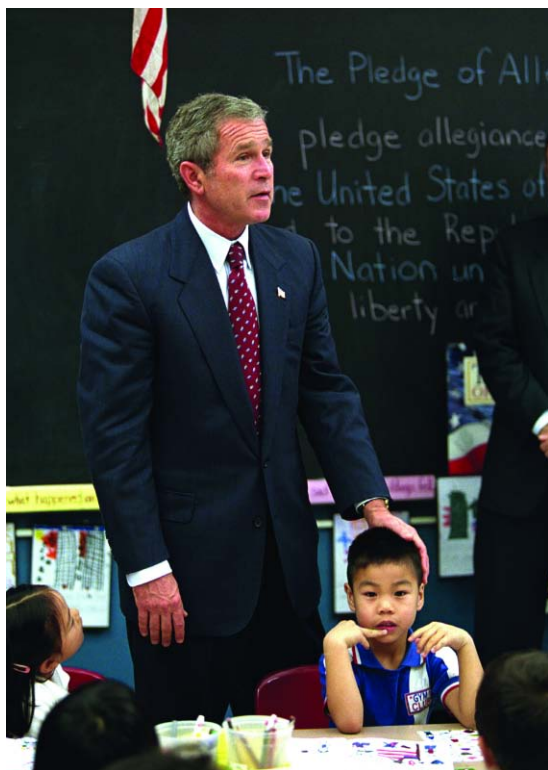
With the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), President Bush has demonstrated his commitment to education and his belief that every child can learn and succeed. By initiating the most sweeping reform of the public-education system in decades, the President challenged the “soft bigotry of low expectations” and required each state to set high expectations for its students, determine whether those expectations are being met, and allocate resources where improvement is needed.

The President is backing up his words with action. President Bush’s FY 2006 Budget increases NCLB funding to \$25.3 billion. Much of this funding is targeted to help states and school districts improve the education of disadvantaged students, turn around low-performing schools, improve teacher quality, and increase choices for parents.

Funding for NCLB is geared toward specific programs that will help transform the American educational system. While various members of the AAPI community differ in their time of arrival to this country, many share the common challenge of English language proficiency. English Language Learners (ELL) student groups are the fastest-growing K-12 population in the United States. Today, there are 5.5 million children in the U.S. for whom English is not their first language. The vast majority of these children speak Spanish, but the second-largest group consists of speakers of Asian language. For AAPI immigrant children who have limited exposure to English outside the school setting, President Bush's Reading First and Early Reading First initiatives—with the goal of ensuring all children can read well by the end of the third grade—are vital to giving children every opportunity to succeed. The President's FY 2006 Budget calls for \$1.1 billion to improve the reading skills of young children. In addition, the President requested \$676 million to help ensure students with limited proficiency in English can meet the same high standards as other students.

Students will also benefit from NCLB's focus on teacher quality. NCLB requires a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. The total FY 2006 Budget request for improving Teacher Quality State Grants is almost \$3 billion. Students from the AAPI community will be the beneficiaries of professional-development programs designed to prepare teachers to improve achievement for all students, including those from different cultures and language backgrounds.

For AAPI students pursuing higher education, President Bush is committed to opening university doors to students of all socio-economic strata. The President's FY 2006 Budget increases overall funding for the Pell Grant program, which provides grants to low-income undergraduate students, by \$4.5 billion, or 51%, since 2001. In addition, the number of Pell Grant recipients has risen by approximately one million since 2001, while the maximum Pell Grant has risen from \$3,750 in 2001 to \$4,150 in the President's 2006 FY Budget and will rise to \$4,550 by 2010. The President's FY 2006 Budget expands overall student financial aid available to \$78 billion, an increase of \$30 billion or 65% over the 2001 level. The number of recipients of grant, loan, and work-study assistance would grow by 426,000 over last year to 10 million students and parents.



President George W. Bush meets with school children at de Soto Elementary School in New York City. October 3, 2001.

Social Security

“Social Security was a great moral success of the 20th century, and we must honor its great purposes in this new century. The system, however, on its current path, is headed toward bankruptcy. And so we must join together to strengthen and save Social Security.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS • FEBRUARY 2, 2005

The ongoing debate over Social Security reform is one that should be treated seriously, especially by those in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. For many AAPI, their families came to the United States in pursuit of a better life for themselves and future generations. The current state of Social Security threatens that ideal, and President Bush wants to save Social Security for today's younger workers, their children, and their grandchildren.

With the “baby boomer” generation beginning to retire—and with retirees living longer thanks to advances in medicine—the current social security system is on a course to eventual bankruptcy. The current system was devised for a population that had far more workers per retiree paying into the system than we have now. In 1950, this worker-to-beneficiary ratio was 16:1. In 2000, it was about 3:1. By the time today's workers in their mid 20's retire, it will be 2:1. In sum, the benefits promised to future retirees are far greater than the taxes future workers will pay into the system. By 2041, the Social Security program will be insolvent.

While benefits for today's seniors are secure, Social Security must be reformed to keep its promise to future generations. President Bush wants to permanently fix Social Security. He believes politicians are elected to act and he will not pass this problem on to future administrations. The President has said that all options are on the table, with the exception of increasing the payroll tax rate or taking any actions that would harm the economy. He rejects any temporary fixes that would simply save fixing the problem for another day.

One idea the President has proposed is a progressive-growth plan in which benefits for the lowest-earning workers would increase faster than those for the highest earners; for all workers, President Bush believes that benefits for future generations ought to be equal to or greater than those for the previous generation. This would solve most of the long-term solvency problems facing Social Security, and President Bush wants to work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress on a permanent solution.

In addition, the President wants to make Social Security a better deal for the younger generation. He supports voluntary personal retirement accounts, which would allow workers to invest a portion of their payroll taxes in a safe mix of bond and stock funds, because personal accounts would give people more ownership over their retirement security. The President's plan allows those workers to pass their savings on to whomever they choose, which the current system does not allow. In the current system, if you pass away earlier than expected, that money is gone forever.

If we do nothing and stay with the current system, poverty among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders—and all Americans—will increase. Overnight, when the system goes insolvent, the number of elderly Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in poverty would leap dramatically. According to the Social Security Trustees, “the benefit reductions caused by Social Security’s insolvency would force 875,000 additional beneficiaries into poverty, resulting in a total of 1.76 million poor beneficiaries between the ages of 64 and 78 in 2039. Moreover, women and minorities would be overrepresented among the beneficiaries forced into poverty by the benefit cut.”

President Bush wants to make sure that retirement benefits will improve for all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Each year we wait to fix the current system, the cost to fix Social Security rises. According to the report of the Social Security Trustees, delaying reform for one more year will cost \$600 billion, and that cost will rise more and more with each additional year of delay.

Medicaid Reform

“To make our economy stronger and more productive, we must make health care more affordable, and give families greater access to good coverage and more control over health decisions.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS • FEBRUARY 2, 2005

The President’s 2006 Budget proposal lays out a bold plan for the 21st century to expand access to health care insurance and health care services while giving states new flexibility and providing new support to assist more individuals without increasing state spending. These new coverage initiatives would help millions of Asian American and Pacific Islander senior citizens, as well as low-income individuals and new Asian immigrants.

Over the next ten years, new health care proposals include over \$125 billion in tax incentives and other initiatives. Additionally, President Bush has requested that Congress increase Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program spending on coverage initiatives in the next 10 years. A Cover the Kids initiative would provide \$1 billion over two years in grants to conduct an outreach campaign to enroll additional eligible Medicaid and SCHIP children. President Bush also proposed in the FY 2006 Budget \$2 billion for Health Centers, which will improve health care services for the uninsured.

In 2003, President Bush committed to spending \$400 billion over the next 10 years to modernize Medicare and add a prescription benefit to the program. In December 2003, President Bush signed into law the Medicare Modernization Act. Beginning next January, all Medicare beneficiaries will be eligible for prescription drug coverage, regardless of their income or whether they’re enrolled in a traditional fee-for-service or a Medicare Advantage plan. Seniors (including AAPI elders) already are benefiting from better preventive coverage that took effect January 2004. These new benefits include screenings for diabetes, heart disease and breast cancer.

Through the Medicare-approved drug-discount program, the purchasing power of seniors is finally being pooled to provide real savings on prescription medicines. Prior to the discount program, seniors often have had to pay full price for drugs. The drug card program also gives seniors unprecedented information on drug prices to comparison shop. More than 6.2 million of these seniors are now saving on their prescriptions through Medicare drug-discount cards. Seniors can use the card to save 15 to 30 percent off the usual retail price of most brand-name drugs and more on generics at neighborhood pharmacies. Savings from the cards are even greater when seniors choose generics.

President Bush is committed to making health care more affordable for all Americans, including those of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. He has already taken key steps to making this a reality, and there is more progress on the horizon.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders— Key Soldiers of the Armies of Compassion

Since the earliest days of America, people from all cultures have traveled to our Nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and justice. As an integral part of our society, Americans of Asian and Pacific heritage share in the pursuit of this American dream.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • 2003

For years, grassroots organizations have been assisting Americans in need. Many of these organizations' efforts have frequently been very successful, and they have become an integral part of our Nation's social service network. Yet, all too often, the Federal government has put in place complicated rules and regulations preventing them from competing for Federal funds on an equal footing with other charities. President Bush believes that this policy is unfair. The President believes Federal funds should go to organizations with the skills and determination to do the most good, and he believes that for this to happen, all groups—faith-based and secular, large and small—should compete on a level playing field.

With the help of President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative, many Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations are becoming Federal partners in serving America's poor and needy.

One example is the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center—a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the interests of Southeast Asian Americans across the country. The center received a three-year \$2-million grant from the Compassion Capital Fund in FY 2002. The grant supports the Southeast Asian Values, Empowerment, Resources, and Betterment Project which is designed to build capacity and knowledge among faith-based organizations and mutual assistance associations serving poor and low-income Southeast Asian families. The Center has used these grant funds to help build the capacity of more than 30 smaller organizations like the San Jose Cambodian Buddhist Society.

The Compassion Capital Fund is also supporting Pacific Islander organizations such as Kanu o ka 'Aina. Created in 2000, Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning 'Ohana (KALO) is a non-profit agency that develops and supports programs advancing Hawaiian education and culture. KALO supports a public charter school and education programs that promote and perpetuate Hawaiian language and culture. KALO is using Federal funding to enhance its ability to diversify its funding sources and expand the organization's ability to serve more at-risk Hawaiian youth.

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives offers an online grants catalog called *Federal Funds for Organizations That Help Those in Need* which can be viewed at www.fbc.gov. Also, while the Federal government funds a number of social-service programs directly through “discretionary” funds, funding is also channeled through state and local governments in the form of “formula” or “block grants.” Organizations seeking government funding can explore the full range of Federal, state, and local funding options.



Before attending a meeting with administration officials, Sikh religious and community leaders watch as President George W. Bush departs the White House aboard Marine One on Wednesday, August 18, 2004.

INTERNATIONAL FRONT

War on Terror

"We fight for peace—and I want you to know I long for peace—that's my dream, for peace. But we also fight for values that we hold dear. We believe strongly in America that each person needs to be judged on his or her individual values, abilities, and talents; that each life has dignity; each individual matters, no matter where you're from, no matter how you were raised. That's what we fight for."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

REMARKS ON ASIAN/PACIFIC

AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • MAY 17, 2002

President Bush often says, "Freedom is not America's gift to the world. Freedom is the almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world." In supporting the spread of democracy worldwide, the President offers hope and progress as the alternative to hatred and terror.

President Bush seeks to protect and defend every American life. He has committed his administration to finding and defeating terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them at home, and we are working with friends, allies, and international institutions to confront terrorists and outlaw regimes.

President Bush launched a global effort to defeat terrorism and to protect and defend America. He has led a steady and systematic campaign against global terrorists and their allies. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, the United States has waged two of the most humane wars in history (in Afghanistan and Iraq). Fifty million people have been liberated from two of the world's most brutal and repressive regimes—and the terrorists' foreign operating bases are being taken away. More than three-quarters of al Qaeda's known leaders and associates have been detained or killed and we are working closely with intelligence services all over the globe and have enhanced our intelligence capabilities in order to trace dangerous weapons activity.

"From the day of our Founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on this earth has rights, and dignity, and matchless value, because they bear the image of the Maker of Heaven and earth. Across the generations we have proclaimed the imperative of self-government, because no one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave. Advancing these ideals is the mission that created our Nation. It is the honorable achievement of our fathers. Now it is the urgent requirement of our nation's security, and the calling of our time."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS • JANUARY 20, 2005

Afghanistan. In Operation Enduring Freedom, the United States built a worldwide coalition of 70 countries that destroyed terrorist training camps, dismantled the brutal Taliban regime, denied al Qaeda a safe haven in Afghanistan, and saved a people from brutal tyranny and starvation. Today, Afghanistan has a freely elected president, Hamid Karzai, and a new constitution that gives unprecedented rights and freedoms to all Afghans. The election of President Karzai on December 7, 2004, was the first direct presidential election in Afghanistan's history. According to the United Nations, more than 10 million Afghans registered to vote (41% of registered voters were women) in spite of uncertain security and attacks on some polling sites and election workers.

Iraq. On March 19, 2003, the United States and its coalition partners launched Operation Iraqi Freedom. Three weeks later, Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled from power, putting an end to decades of tyranny against the Iraqi people. Today the former dictator is awaiting trial in prison and a regional threat and state-sponsor of terrorism has been removed. Free elections were held on January 30, 2005, and over 14 million Iraqis voted to elect 275 men and women to represent them in a

new Transitional National Assembly (TNA). The international community has pledged at least \$32 billion to rebuild and improve schools, health care, roads, water, agriculture, electricity, and other elements of Iraq's infrastructure. Two years ago, Iraq was an enemy of America and the civilized world. Today, it is an ally of both.

The President recognizes that Asian American and Pacific Islanders play a vital role in contributing to our nation's security and helping win the war on terror. Asian American and Pacific Islanders have proudly defended this country in the past and are actively doing so today.

Throughout our history, Asian/Pacific Americans have been patriots, answering the call to defend our Nation and to protect the blessings of liberty and democracy. Today, in the war on terror, Asian/Pacific Americans serve proudly as they carry on our Nation's noble tradition of advancing the cause of freedom around the world.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • 2004

This administration has ensured that veterans of war are acknowledged for their heroism. Under President Bush's leadership, we passed Public Law 108-183 to ensure that Filipino veterans who fought so heroically in World War II receive the veterans benefits due to them. In recognition of their sacrifice, certain Filipino veterans are eligible for many of the same benefits available to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Recent legislation expanded benefits to Filipino veterans who reside in the United States.

Tsunami Relief

"From our own experiences, we know that nothing can take away the grief of those affected by tragedy. We also know that Americans have a history of rising to meet great humanitarian challenges and of providing hope to suffering peoples. As men and women across the devastated region begin to rebuild, we offer our sustained compassion and our generosity, and our assurance that America will be there to help."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS ANNOUNCING THAT FORMER PRESIDENTS BUSH AND
CLINTON WILL LEAD A FUNDRAISING EFFORT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT
FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS • JANUARY 3, 2005

On December 26, 2004, a powerful earthquake caused violent tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, which left an arc of destruction from Thailand to the Horn of Africa. President Bush responded immediately, making an initial commitment of \$350 million for disaster relief. The President also immediately mobilized the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) staff to respond to the humanitarian needs in the affected countries. In support of these disaster-relief experts, President Bush ordered the U.S. military to provide vitally needed logistical assistance to bolster the relief efforts of the U.S. and others. At the height of the relief effort, more than 150 USAID disaster-relief personnel, supported by 16,000 military personnel based on 26 ships, were providing assistance in affected countries. Support for these communities continues as they transition from relief to reconstruction.

On February 9, 2005, President Bush announced he would be seeking a total of \$950 million to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas devastated by the tsunamis as part of a supplemental-appropriations request. Relief resources have been focused on emergency food assistance, provision of relief supplies, shelter, water and sanitation, health, education, cash for work, livelihoods recovery, psychological and social support, protecting women and children from human trafficking, logistics and coordination, and debris clean-up. We remain committed to helping those affected by this terrible disaster recover and rebuild.

To draw even greater amounts of private donations, President Bush called on former Presidents Bush and Clinton to lead a nationwide charitable fundraising effort, and he called on the USA Freedom Corps to help support this effort. At the President's request, former Presidents Bush and Clinton visited affected countries of South and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Maldives in February 2005. Reflecting the generosity of the American public and the former Presidents' fundraising efforts, private donations towards the tsunami relief efforts totaled more than \$1.3 billion.

On January 3, 2005, President Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, former President Bush, and former President Clinton visited the embassies of the affected countries where they signed the condolence books at the Embassies of Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.



President George W. Bush signs a condolence book for the victims of the recent tsunami during a visit to the Embassy of Thailand in Washington, D.C., on January 3, 2005. Next to the book, stands a photograph of Khun Poom Jensen, 21. A grandson of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Mr. Jensen died in the disaster. Also signing their condolences are First Lady Laura Bush and former Presidents Bush and Clinton.

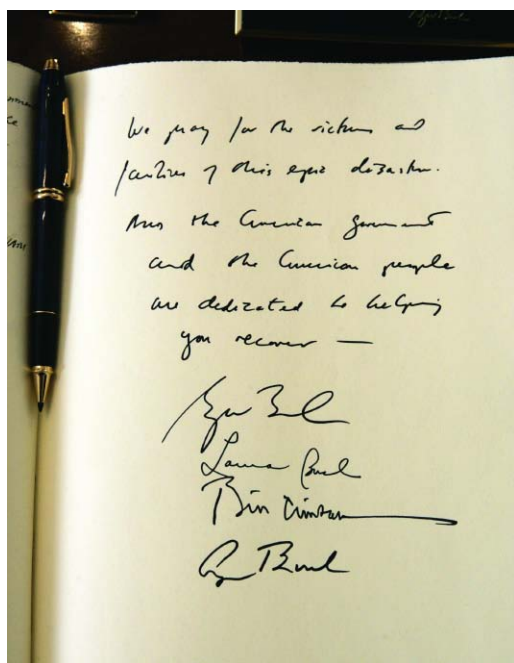
"Communities have been decimated from Indonesia, to Thailand, to India, to East Africa. Thousands are missing, or injured; and millions are thought to be homeless, or without food and clean water. The world has united behind this urgent cause, and the United States is taking a leading role.

We're working with other governments, relief organizations, and the United Nations to coordinate a swift and effective international response.

We are rushing food, medicine, and other vital supplies to the region. And we are focusing efforts on helping the women and children who need special attention, including protection from the evil of human trafficking."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION • JANUARY 8, 2005



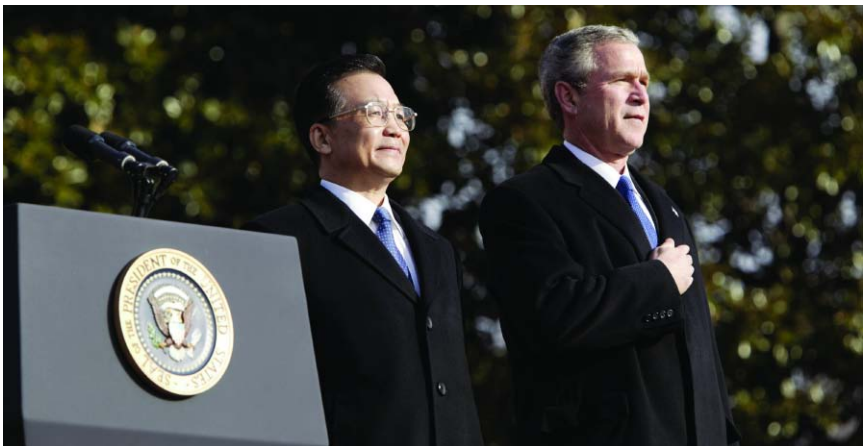
Joined by former Presidents Bush and Clinton and First Lady Laura Bush, President Bush expressed condolences during a visit to the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington, D.C., on January 3, 2005. The President wrote, "We pray for the victims and families of this epic disaster. And the American government and the American people are dedicated to helping you recover."

International Trips and Domestic Visits with Foreign Leaders

“I also very much appreciate the bridge that our Asian Pacific community provides America to an incredibly important part of the world. And those are the nations of the Pacific. I spent some time there, and I gave a speech in China and Japan and South Korea, where I said, this is going to be a Pacific century. And I believe that. We are a Pacific nation, America. We’ve got a lot of incredibly important ties with China and Japan, Korea, the Philippines—all the nations represented in this room are an incredibly important part of our future.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS ON ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • MAY 17, 2002

President Bush values greatly America’s relations with Asian nations. He has welcomed foreign leaders to America and hosted them both in the White House and at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. He has also made official Presidential visits to Asia where he has met with many northeast Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander dignitaries.



President George W. Bush and Premier Wen Jiabao of the People’s Republic of China stand for the playing of their national anthems during an Arrival Ceremony on the South Lawn. December 9, 2003.

PRESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VISITS WITH WORLD LEADERS

- 3/7/01 President Bush met with the President of the Republic of Korea and the Prime Minister of Japan
- 6/11/01 President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Singapore
- 9/19/01 President Bush welcomed President Megawati Sukarnoputri of the Republic of Indonesia
- 11/20/01 President Bush met with the President of the Philippines
- 12/14/01 President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Thailand
- 1/12/02 President Bush met with President Musharraf of Pakistan in New York while the two leaders attended the United Nations General Assembly
- 5/14/02 President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Malaysia
- 9/12/02 President Bush met with the Prime Minister of India
- 10/19/02 President Bush met with the Queen of Thailand
- 10/25/02 President Bush and People's Republic of China President Jiang Zemin met at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX
- 5/14/03 President Bush met with the President of the Republic of Korea
- 5/19/03 State Visit with President Arroyo and Photo Opportunity with Filipino Presidential Appointees and President Arroyo
- 5/22-23/03 President Bush met with Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX
- 6/12/03 President Bush met with the Crown Prince of Thailand
- 9/23/03 President Bush met with the President of Indonesia in New York at the United Nations General Assembly
- 12/9/03 President Bush welcomed the Premier of the People's Republic of China Wen Jiabao to the White House
- 7/19/04 President Bush welcomed Malaysian Prime Minister Badawi to the White House

- 9/21/04 President Bush met with Prime Minister Singh of India in New York while there to address the United Nations General Assembly
- 9/21/04 President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Japan in New York while there to address the United Nations General Assembly
- 9/22/04 President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in New York while there to address the United Nations General Assembly



The President and Mrs. Bush pose with a group of Chinese children at the Great Wall of China in Badaling about an hour outside of Beijing. February 22, 2002.

PRESIDENTIAL FOREIGN TRIPS

10/19/01	President Bush met with the President of the People's Republic of China*
10/19/01	President Bush met with the President of the Republic of Korea*
10/20/01	President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Malaysia*
10/20/01	President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Japan*
10/20/01	President Bush met with the President of Singapore*
2/18/02	President Bush visited Japan and met with the Prime Minister of Japan
2/19/02	President Bush met with the Emperor and Empress of Japan
2/20/02	President Bush visited the Republic of Korea and met with the President of the Republic of Korea
2/21-22/02	President Bush visited China and met with the President and Premier of the People's Republic of China
2/22/02	President Bush addressed Tsinghua University (Beijing, China)
10/26/02	President Bush met with the President of Indonesia
10/26/02	President Bush met with the ASEAN Leaders: Presidents of Indonesia and the Philippines, Prime Ministers of Thailand and Vietnam, and representatives from Malaysia and Singapore
10/17-18/03	President Bush visits Tokyo, Japan
10/18/03	President Bush made remarks to the Philippine Congress and met with President Gloria Arroyo in the Republic of the Philippines
10/19/03	President Bush met with the Prime Minister of Thailand and the King and Queen of Thailand
10/20/03	President Bush met with the President of South Korea
10/21/03	President Bush met with the President of Singapore

*The meetings of 10/19/01 and 10/20/01 took place on a visit to the PRC.

- 10/22/03 President Bush met with the President of Indonesia
- 10/23/03 President Bush met with Pacific Island Leaders (American Samoa, Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu)
- 4/04 Vice President Cheney toured Asia: Japan, People's Republic of China, and South Korea
- 6/30/04 Presidential delegation attended the Inauguration of President Gloria Arroyo of the Republic of the Philippines
- 11/20/04 President Bush attended the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Santiago, Chile

"And the Asian Pacific Americans of our country make those ties incredibly important. Not only do you help Americans understand the cultures in the countries, you, yourself, by your presence, export American values so that those countries better understand us."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
REMARKS ON ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • MAY 17, 2002



President George W. Bush meets with President Roh Moo-hyun of the Republic of Korea while attending the APEC summit in Santiago, Chile. November 20, 2004.

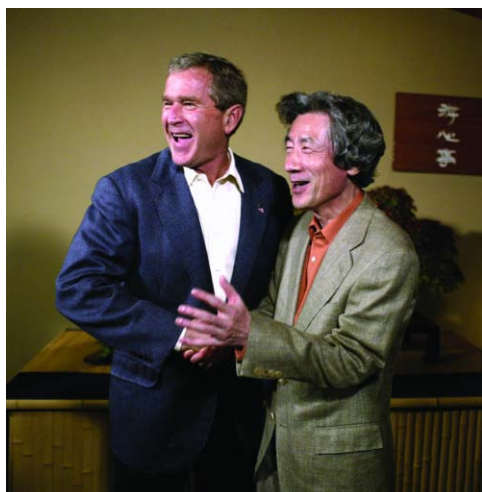
Praise from the International Community

"It was a wonderful meeting, and I believe we were able to establish a relationship of trust. It was a heart-to-heart meeting. This was truly a wonderful meeting. I did not feel—or I did not, at the outset, believe that I would be able to establish such a strong relationship of trust with the President in my first meeting, which was much more than I expected."

JAPAN PRIME MINISTER KOIZUMI
COMMENTING ON HIS FIRST VISIT WITH PRESIDENT BUSH
AT CAMP DAVID • JUNE 30, 2001

"I'm confident that, so long as the two sides persist in viewing and handling their relations from a strategic height and with a long-term perspective and keep expanding cooperation and enhancing mutual trust, China-U.S. relations will be able to grow steadily and bring benefits to both peoples."

CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT BUSH AT THE
BUSH RANCH IN CRAWFORD, TEXAS • OCTOBER 2, 2002



President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan share a joke during a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister in Tokyo, Japan, Oct. 17, 2003.



President George W. Bush and President Hu Jintao of China meet while attending the APEC summit in Santiago, Chile. November 20, 2004.

“Thank you, Mr. President. I’m very, very happy to be in this land of opportunity that the United States is. And under your distinguished leadership, our two countries’ relations have grown in diverse ways, but I do believe that the best is yet to come.”

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER SINGH
IN A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
WITH PRESIDENT BUSH IN NEW YORK, NY • SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

“I just had a talk with President Bush through which we covered many grounds. I first re-offered my congratulations to him on his re-election to the--presidency of the United States. We together reviewed how much this relationship has come in the past four years. We expressed satisfaction over the positive programs made in a constructive and cooperative relationship between the two countries.”

CHINESE PRESIDENT HU JINTAO
WHILE AT THE APEC SUMMIT IN SANTIAGO CHILE • NOVEMBER 20, 2004

CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURE

Presidential Events

- 7/10/01 President Bush made remarks at Ellis Island during a large swearing-in ceremony for new citizens on July 10, 2001.
- 9/26/01 President Bush welcomed Indian American Sikh leaders to the White House and held a discussion in the Roosevelt Room.
- 5/17/02 President Bush made remarks on Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the East Room.
- 2/7/03 President Bush met with AAPI Presidential Appointees in the East Room.
- 5/8/03 President Bush made remarks at a White House Briefing for AAPIs where he signed the Executive Order Interagency Group on Insular Areas.
- 8/6/04 President Bush made remarks at the Unity Journalists of Color Convention.
- 1/3/05 President Bush, Mrs. Bush, and former Presidents Clinton and Bush visit the Embassies of Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia to sign condolence books for victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.
- 5/25/05 President Bush hosts an Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month celebration in the East Room of the White House.

Commemoration of Significant Asian American Milestones

- Under President Bush, the White House held the first-ever celebration of Diwali, an Indian religious and cultural celebration.
- The President issued a greeting in honor of India's Independence Day.
- The President issued Lunar New Year Greetings.
- The President issued a Korean Centennial Proclamation.
- The White House hosted the 400th Anniversary of the Installation of the Sikh Scriptures, celebrated by Indian American Sikhs throughout the country.
- The President issued a Filipino Independence Day greeting.
- The President issued a greeting in recognition of the birthday of Confucius.
- The President issued a Chusok greeting in celebration of the Korean Thanksgiving.
- The President issued a greeting for Filipino American History Month.
- The President issued a greeting honoring the Republic Day of India.
- The President sent a message honoring teachers of Japanese-American young people in internment camps during WWII.



USA Freedom Corps Greeter Hilma Chang gives President George W. Bush a lei upon his arrival in Honolulu, Hawaii. October 23, 2003.

