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President Thanks “Armies of Compassion” at Hispanic Prayer Breakfast

On June 15, 2007, President Bush addressed the fifth annual National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. Gathering with leaders from across the nation to celebrate the role of Hispanic culture in the United States, the President thanked attendees for leading the way in compassionate service.



“I appreciate your leadership; I appreciate your compassion; and I thank you for your abiding faith in the power of prayer... Our Nation is more hopeful because of the Hispanic Americans who serve in the armies of compassion, who are surrounding neighbors in need who hurt with love; people who are helping to change America one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time... [by devoting] your lives to serving others...you're answering a timeless call to love your neighbor as yourself. You really represent the true strength of America, and I thank you for being of service to our country.” Other speakers included Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, Former Massachusetts First Lady Ann Romney, Nueva Esperanza founder Reverend Luis Cortez Jr., and U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Faith-Based and Community Initiative

The June 25, 2007 Supreme Court ruling in favor of the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiative in *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF)* marked a significant milestone for President Bush’s Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

This verdict allows faith-based and community organizations to continue benefiting from grant-making on a “level playing field” – a concept established at the inception of the Faith-Based Initiative in 2001.

White House OFBCI Director Jay Hein noted that, “the Administration believes that

government does better when it works with every partner, whether faith-based or secular, large or small,” The decision in *Hein v. FFRA* allows the continuation of this partnering. The decision is not solely a victory for the White House and philanthropic organizations, but for the nation’s neediest citizens who have been served by the Initiative.

"It is a win for the many whose lives have been lifted by the caring touch and compassionate hearts of these organizations," President George W. Bush said in a statement following the ruling.