

SCRIPT FOR VIDEOTAPED STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT BUSH

It gives me great pleasure to send warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to Up With People, its founder Blanton Belk, and its distinguished Board of Directors on Up With People's 25th Anniversary. Barbara and I are extremely pleased to serve as Honorary Chairpersons for this momentous event.

I believe that Up With People is particularly significant at this moment in history. Our world is changing more rapidly than anyone could have predicted, and everyday we are made more aware of how interconnected we are with all the people of the Earth. Globalization is no longer just an idea, it is a reality. With this comes the realization that our inherent differences of nationality, race and religion must now become the thread that binds us together, not a wall that separates us. Up With People's message of building understanding among nations, uniquely communicated through its music, its education programs, and its commitment to public service, has never been more relevant.

For the past 25 years Up With People has demonstrated that people from all walks of life, religious backgrounds and national heritages can work together. Up With People students, families, volunteers and supporters have exemplified the peace that is possible when individuals share a common respect for each other. This shared respect transcends old geographical boundaries and must be the foundation of an emerging new world order.

Up With People's 25th Anniversary is not only a landmark event in the life of an organization that deserves to be in the spotlight, it is a shining beacon that focuses on the future of all humans.

Barbara joins me in paying tribute to your past accomplishments, and we extend to you our best wishes for Up With People's future.

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