



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 2005

I send greetings to those gathered for the national workshop, "Engaging Law Enforcement and Citizen Corps Leaders: Partnerships, Preparedness, and Prevention," hosted by Volunteers in Police Service and the Department of Justice.

As we respond to and recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, we are reminded of the vital importance of being prepared to save lives, sustain lives, and provide comprehensive relief and recovery efforts. Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility, and I am grateful for the efforts of our first responders, military members, volunteers, and all who have assisted those in need.

Our citizens play a vital role in helping America's law enforcement officers save lives and make our country more secure. The VIPS program promotes cooperation between citizens and police officers by providing educational resources and collaboration opportunities. This conference is a chance for participants to discuss ways to strengthen and expand partnerships between volunteers and law enforcement officers and encourage citizens to get involved in protecting their communities.

I appreciate all those who give their time and energy to help the brave men and women who stand watch over our citizens and communities. I also urge all Americans to support law enforcement officers in the fight against crime. Every citizen can assist his or her local police force to help make our Nation safer.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "George W. Bush".