



Administration Launches New Civics Initiative



President George W. Bush delivers remarks at the rededication ceremony of the National Archives on September 17, 2003, the 216th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. During the ceremony, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights were unveiled.

White House photo by Paul Morse.

At a special ceremony on September 17 with President George W. Bush, the Archivist of the United States, John W. Carlin, officially launched *The People's Vote: 100 Documents That Shaped America*, a national challenge to engage Americans in a lively and thoughtful debate about which are the most influential documents in American history. [The People's Vote](#) invites all Americans to vote for ten documents from the list of 100 milestone documents chosen by historians and the National Archives, or to write in their favorites.

The People's Vote is part of a larger project created by the [National Archives](#) and [National History Day](#) in collaboration with the [USA Freedom Corps](#) titled *Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics and Service*. Siemens, The History Channel and *U.S. News*

and *World Report* are sponsoring the *Our Documents* initiative, the purpose of which is to provide programs like *The People's Vote* to engage teachers, students, parents, and all Americans in a better understanding of the documents that shaped our country.

Also on September 17, the [Our Documents](#) website was re-launched to foster dialogue about democracy and the documents that shaped America. The website features resources and lesson plans for educators and other professionals interested in enhancing civic engagement and service-learning projects for students.

The Archivist of the United States will announce the results of *The People's Vote* and unveil the ten documents that received the most votes at a ceremony in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom on December 15, 2003, Bill of Rights Day.

President Bush Signs Executive Order for Volunteers for Prosperity

On September 25, President Bush signed an [Executive Order](#) for the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative, directing appropriate federal agencies and departments to look for ways to expand, promote, and enhance volunteer service opportunities overseas for American professionals. A Presidential initiative of the USA Freedom Corps, [Volunteers for Prosperity](#) provides opportunities for American professionals to volunteer for a flexible term in developing countries. [Click for more information.](#)

President's Volunteer Service Award

Earlier this year, President Bush created the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions that volunteers are making in our country. To that end, the Council has created the President's Volunteer Service Award to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.



The President's Volunteer Service Award is a Presidential recognition program for Americans of all ages who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service. The Award is given to individuals, families, and groups that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.

The awards are delivered through a variety of local, state, and national organizations that are registered as "certifying organizations." By registering your organization, you will help the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to recognize outstanding volunteer service and encourage others to volunteer.

For more information on the President's Volunteer Service Award and to register as a certifying organization, please visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov