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PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT OF CONSCIENCE

Standing On The Shoulders of Giants

January 24, 2007 (Washington, D.C.) – Last night, President Bush acknowledged our ‘commitments of conscience’; our moral obligation to ‘solve problems, not leave them to future generations.’ **Generations United (GU)** joins him in looking to ‘a future of hope and opportunity’ for all generations.

Donna M. Butts, Executive Director of Generations United, echoed the President's commitment: “The government has a moral obligation to care for the least among us, and that obligation extends through time, reaching out to future generations, as well as recognizing decades of past work and service. I was delighted with the President's emphasis on accessible, affordable healthcare. But it is vital that we move forward with a comprehensive approach which opens up the possibility of affordable healthcare for all, starting with getting care to the nine million uninsured children in this country.”

To meet the needs of the Greatest Generation, this country introduced Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Every generation has its heroes, as the President pointed out at the end of his speech, and every generation deserves the same protections.

Ms. Butts said, “Heroes are people who intervene, people who stand up to be counted, people who you can rely on. Wesley Autrey, to whom the President pointed during his speech, exemplifies this American spirit: he threw himself under a train to save another man's life. In every community across the nation, heroes are quietly getting things done – they are young and old, rich and poor, and all of them are serving, teaching and uniting the generations.”

The President's speech also touched on education, which is a key intergenerational concern. Quality education should be available to all. When entire communities, and particularly older adults, are involved in schools children do better, especially as they make the difficult transition between primary and secondary education. Research shows that older adults are among the most effective advocates for children.

Read the Presidents' 2007 State of the Union Address in its entirety at www.whitehouse.gov.

Generations United (www.gu.org) is the only national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through...

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... intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies. GU represents more than 100 national, state, and local organizations and individuals representing more than 70 million Americans. Since 1986, GU has served as a resource for educating policymakers and the public about the economic, social, and personal imperatives of intergenerational cooperation. GU acts as a catalyst for stimulating collaboration between aging, children, and youth organizations providing a forum to explore areas of common ground while celebrating the richness of each generation.

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