

of. And all of you who are involved in the program, let me thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope that you're getting a lot of it. I know the Americorps volunteers I painted with today made me feel proud that we started this.

That's why I have strongly supported, along with all the former presidents, General Colin Powell, and the Presidents' Summit on service and the work that he is doing and that tens of thousands of people across America are doing to give all of our children a good chance in life.

But finally let me say that this country will never be all that it can be and your future will never be all that it can be unless we decide we're going to build that future together. We will never be able to bridge the racial and other divides in this country unless we decide we're not only going to work together and learn together but we're going to serve together.

We actually have to believe that we're all better off when our neighbors are better off. We actually have to believe that we'll do better if we go forward together. We actually have to believe that this diversity we have is a blessing; and that the fact that some of us start out life poorer than others is a condition that can be overcome if we work hard to give people who deserve it a hand up; and that as we do that, we are all happier, more fulfilled, and living in a stronger America. That's what this is about.

This is not just about painting the walls of a school, although I passionately believe it's important. I personally, as a student, preferred old buildings to new ones, but every student deserves to go into a clean building with bright walls and clear windows, sending a signal that the student and his or her future is important.

But you're not just painting a school today, you're painting a very different picture for America's future, and it's a beautiful one because of you..."

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The President departed the school at 1:17 p.m., arriving back at the Oval at 1:28 p.m.

The President spent the rest of the day working at his desk, returning to the residence at 6:45 p.m.

### Daynotes...

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The President talked, via phone, with:

- Kris, 8:40 a.m.
- Betty Currie, 8:43, 8:50 a.m., 1:45 p.m.
- Vernon, 8:56, 10:58 a.m., 5:56 p.m.
- Robert Bennett, 11:21 a.m., 9:50 p.m.
- Warren Christopher, 3:02 p.m.
- Vice President Gore, 9:26 p.m.

  
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