

Words of Inspiration

LETTERS FROM LEADERS

The road to success: What inspiration would you offer to young people aspiring to become our future leaders? The following words are some of those we have collected for publication in a book to be distributed to students at schools throughout the world. The proceeds will be donated to charity, to fund scholarships for tomorrow's leaders in need of financial support as they prepare to begin their journey.

We hope you will enjoy the following thoughts and look forward to knowing yours.

I believe that the job of the President is to call people to a higher calling. A "higher calling" doesn't only mean being a Cabinet Secretary; it can also mean being a volunteer at a Boys' or Girls' Club, or a mentor or teacher, or a good mom or dad. In other words, one of the things we must do is to work for a culture that insists that people be responsible for the decisions they make in life. People should also understand that a responsible society encourages people to love their neighbors.

Now, that's the way I was raised by my folks. From the public service perspective, I was raised in a family that had a United States Senator, Prescott Bush of Connecticut, who was a successful businessman and decided to serve his state in the halls of Congress. And that was a good lesson for my dad, and for me and all my brothers. We were taught that putting time in – in government, in this particular case – was noble and important. But my grandfather and grandmother also did a lot of charitable and volunteer work. I'm really talking about something greater than public service; I'm talking about helping others in need.

Throughout my adult life I have been involved with different charities. I ran the United Way campaign in Midland, Texas, as one example. And I believe that it's an important part of our society for people to contribute time and/or money to help those in need.

In public service, it's important to know what you believe, base decisions upon principles, and not be afraid of what others think. The principles upon which I make my decisions are based first on my understanding that the office of President is bigger than the person.

I trust people. I want people to be owners. I believe in an ownership society.

I understand whose money we spend in Washington. It's not the government's money; it's the people's money. The role of government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. Families are the backbone of a stable society, and public policy must reflect that.

In other words, there's a series of principles by which I make decisions – principles that came as a result of being raised where I was raised and by whom I was raised. It may seem like courage, but to me it's natural to stick by the principles that are inherent in my being.



The Honorable George W. Bush
43rd President of the United States of America