

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.  
TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY  
JULY 21, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you "Mac" (Gerald McRaney -- "Major Dad"). And thank you Linda Evans, the Take Pride in America national spokesperson, for joining us today. When Secretary Lujan asked me to come over here this morning to participate in this "Celebration of the American Spirit," I was thrilled.

I know what Pride in America is all about and how important your points of light are. The President is keenly aware of your efforts in making America a better place to live and he supports all you have done to clean up of the environment and make America truly the beautiful.

I feel very strongly about our responsibility to be good stewards of our natural heritage and to preserve the beauty of our environment for generations to come.

Today we celebrate you, the Take Pride in America Award winners, and we salute all you do and have done.

Some of you may be surprised to learn that the United States Government's land managing agencies are caretakers for 750 million acres. State and local governments have charge of an additional 154 million acres.



These public lands and our historic and cultural resources belong to everyone in America. But we need a sense of individual ownership of these shared resources and the spirit of individual responsibility over every acre. All Americans -- not some government out there -- are the true owners of these treasures.

The Take Pride program illustrates the value of hands-on individual ownership of public property. Individuals who have invested their time, sweat, and enthusiasm in a project are most likely to be committed to that cause for the rest of their lives. They've earned "sweat equity." They feel a real sense of pride in what they have accomplished so others can benefit -- that's the American Spirit.

Each Take Pride in America volunteer is an important part of the solution.

Close to eight million Americans chose to be part of the solution by joining the 850 projects entered in this year's Take Pride National Awards Program. Eight million people! More than the combined populations of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona. Together, these 8 million people put forward more than 12 million hours of volunteer service. While this commitment is invaluable, if we had to put a dollar value on this spirit, it would be close to \$140 million.



From celebrities such as Linda Evans, who champions the take Pride message, to school children who clean up and beautify their schoolyard, and to the thousands of people who united in one mighty effort to clean up the Ohio River. Citizens are volunteering their time to improve our land for future generations. All of you are part of that great American Spirit -- the Take Pride partnership of Americans for America.

President Bush has challenged all of us to become more involved in community service. All of you are meeting this challenge. You are adding your own point of light to the thousands that are giving this nation such a bright future.

The spirit of the Take Pride in America program is a nationwide call to action -- to volunteer. It is a program with which there is no argument, no controversy, and no debate. So, today, I salute and congratulate you. And I urge you to continue to Take Pride in America.

Thank you very much.

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