THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 2009

This year, for the first time, the United States will honor September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Eight years ago, the tragic events of that Tuesday morning inspired Americans to come together in a remarkable spirit of unity and compassion. In that same spirit, we call on all Americans to join in service on September 11 and honor the heroes of that dark day as well as the brave men and women in uniform who continue to protect our country at home and abroad.

Whether you have devoted a lifetime to service, volunteered for the first time this summer through United We Serve, or have yet to lend a hand in your community, we hope you will take part in this effort. We encourage you to visit www.serve.gov and find a volunteer opportunity in your neighborhood or download tools to create your own project with family and friends.

This is a unique moment in our Nation's history. We have great challenges ahead of us, but we face them at a time of renewed opportunity and hope. We are building a new foundation for growth and prosperity, but we cannot succeed without your help. We can rebuild our schools, but we need mentors and tutors to guide our students. We can modernize our health care system, but we need volunteers to care for the sick and assist others in leading healthier lives. We can invest in clean energy, but we need people to maintain energy efficiency in their homes and help create a green economy.

No force for change is more powerful than that of Americans who are making a difference in their communities. This September 11, and in the days, weeks, and months that follow, let us recommit ourselves to service, renew America's promise, and work together as one people and one Nation.

Barack Obama Michelle Obama