

Point of Light Award to Curtis Sliwa / August 23, 2002
Curtis Sliwa Selected as Nation's Volunteer of the Day
New York City Resident Shines as a Point of Light

Curtis Sliwa, of New York, New York, has been selected as the Daily Point of Light for Friday, August 23, 2002.

For over 20 years, this founder of the Guardian Angels Safety Patrol has spearheaded volunteer efforts to make a difference in his community and the nation. From guarding the inner-city New York subways to creating on-line and after-school programs for troubled and displaced teens, Sliwa's vision and compelling drive has had an impact on the lives of millions people.

"For all volunteers, this award is the equivalent to when an actor or an actress wins an Oscar. For a journalist, it is the Pulitzer Prize. It's the one time when a volunteer can get recognition from their peers for selfless service," said Sliwa,

Sliwa's many selfless deeds, from the life-saving rescue of six neighbors from a burning building, to the creation of one of the nation's first recycling centers--of which the proceeds were donated to a neighborhood children's group, have earned him many honors. Curtis has been recognized by Presidents Nixon, Reagan and Clinton, applauded repeatedly by former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and honored by business, entertainment and civic leaders.

"We receive nominations, highlighting various volunteer activities and initiatives, daily. We search for programs that meet community needs and lead to long-term solutions; efforts that build connections between the community, are at least six months in duration and demonstrate measurable impact," said Robert K. Goodwin, President and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. "For demonstrating volunteer service that meets all of these criteria, Curtis Sliwa is truly deserving of recognition as a Daily Point of Light."

Supreme Knight, Carl A. Anderson, of the Knights of Columbus said, "The Knights of Columbus extends sincere congratulations to Curtis Sliwa. We thank you for putting your values into action and for giving unselfish service to others with such energy and commitment. You are an inspiration to us all." President George W. Bush and former president George Bush have endorsed the revived Daily Points of Light Award and each will send a congratulatory letter to Sliwa.

The Daily Points of Light Award is given by The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network, in partnership with the Knights of Columbus and the Corporation for National Service. It is designed to honor individuals and organizations who have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities and in the nation, especially those focused on the goals for children and youth set by the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.