

## EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS

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"The formation of the National Council for Community Services to International Visitors is a most encouraging indication of increased citizen concern and acceptance of responsibility for development of good international relations...

"An organization which can expand, improve and coordinate [sic] citizen activities for welcoming and assisting these visitors in communities throughout the country will undoubtedly contribute significantly to this Government's Foreign policy goals. I am convinced that increased participation by dedicated Americans in international exchanges will help us to achieve our common hope for a durable and just peace."

**John F. Kennedy**  
**July 17, 1961**

"Visitors from abroad who come to the United States under educational, cultural and training programs – both government and private – gain a deeper appreciation of American society as recipients of hospitality and other services given by many thousands of our citizen volunteers. Our people, in turn, have welcomed the opportunity to learn about the visitor's country and his people."

**Lyndon B. Johnson**  
**July 10, 1964**

". . . Hand in hand with the meteoric growth of world communications and travel has come the urgent need to learn about people and places far away – and the responsibility to understand how they live, what they think and what their values and interests are. COSERV has answered this need and successfully carried out the responsibility of our increasingly complex society. You have recognized that we can learn from others even as they learn from us. By your willingness to serve on a volunteer basis, you put forth the very best America has to offer . . . ."

**Richard M. Nixon**  
**March 25, 1969**

"I am happy to greet the delegates at the Fourth National Conference of the National Council for Community Services to International Visitors. Through your involvement in COSERV you are engaged in the vitally important task of better informing our own citizens and our visitors from abroad on the realities of interdependence and on the importance of working together to seek solutions to common problems."

**Gerald R. Ford**  
**March 6, 1975**

"It is a pleasure to greet the delegates at this Fifth national Conference of the National Council for Community Services to International Visitors and to congratulate COSERV on its twentieth anniversary. The many thousands of Americans associated with your organization since its beginning can be proud of the bridges of understanding they have helped build between the peoples of the United States and other lands."

**Jimmy Carter**  
**March 27, 1978**

"NCIV volunteers represent the American commitment to work toward a lasting peace. You may be proud of your efforts, which for so many years have helped further the goals of American foreign policy. I commend each of you for making important government and private exchange-of-persons programs work. Without your generous donation of time and assistance, these programs could not have succeeded."

**Ronald Reagan**  
**March 4, 1981**

"As you know, foreign visitors often come to this country with misunderstandings or misconceptions. Thanks to the programs and services you offer they return home with understanding, respect, professional ties, and friendships. Equally important, the thousands of Americans who open their offices and homes to these foreign leaders, at your request, gain a better understanding of the complex political, social, and economic world in which we live. Thus, through your involvement in international exchange, you are transcending national boundaries by promoting understanding of common problems and shared goals."

**Ronald Reagan**  
**March 28, 1984**

"All Americans have an ambassadorial responsibility when it comes to greeting visitors from foreign nations and making them feel at home in our country. The NCIV has excelled in this work during its 25 years of dedicated service."

**Ronald Reagan**  
**February 4, 1987**

"I have spoken on many occasions of the 'thousand points of light' that have helped to make our nation great. Yours is one light that shines especially bright around the world. The thousands of foreign guests welcomed into your communities, offices, and homes each year return to their native lands with a great sense of American hospitality and a clearer understanding of our free and democratic government. I commend the NCIV volunteers for your dedicated service over the years."

**George H. W. Bush**  
**January 22, 1990**