

# Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee's Open Letter of September 10, 2004 to Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States

September 5, 2004

Dear President Bush:

On the tragic event of September 11, 2001, I wish to thank you for your efforts to defend our nation and our freedom. All Americans should join in prayer for you as you certainly have one of the most challenging jobs in the world.

God bless the Forces of Might for Right, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and National Guard who serve in harms way, far away from their loved ones, to safeguard and defend us. God bless the policemen, firemen, border patrol officers, emergency first responders and all those who work here at home to safeguard and protect our nation.

The martial arts community joins you in thanking all of those who serve and protect us as a nation and a people. The terrorists assaulted our country on 9/11, but they didn't destroy our spirit.

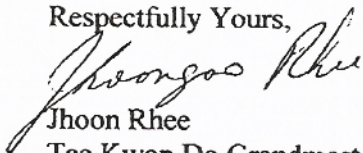
Mr. President, your seal of office shows an eagle grasping both the arrows of war and the olive branch of peace. We in the martial arts have always taught these twin precepts. We believe, and practice, that it is best to be prepared and capable to defend yourself, while seeking the path of peace and love.

**In remembrance of the terrible tragedies surrounding the date of 9/11, the martial arts community is taking action on the philosophies of peace and respect. Our plan is to both help heal our old wounds and turn around the ongoing battle to maintain the positive spirit of America. Beginning today, as every day is a new beginning, American martial artists have declared 9/11 to be "Acts of Kindness Day," and will go forth doing Acts of Kindness on 9/11 -and year-round—to demonstrate to the world the American spiritual tradition. This year's goal among America's martial artists is to perform one million acts of kindness between September 11 and October 11, 2004.**

More on our "Acts of Kindness" initiative, launched by martial arts teachers Tom Callos, Fariborz Azhakh, Ken Carlson and myself, can be found at [www.911aok.com](http://www.911aok.com).

We would like to ask you sir, as President of the United States, to declare 9/11 to be an annual Acts of Kindness Day, urging all Americans to perform unselfish acts to help others, to answer hatred and terror with kindness and love. That is the American spiritual tradition we are proud of and, we think, the ultimate way to offer tribute to the men, women, and children who perished that day. We ask you to help us carry this message from the martial arts community to all Americans and to the world. Thank you. God bless you.

Respectfully Yours,



Jhoon Rhee

Tae Kwon Do Grandmaster

President George H.W. Bush named Jhoon Rhee the 721st "Point of Light" for his voluntary work to help others and served as a member of the White House Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders until June 2004.