



GEORGE BUSH

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Joe Torsella
State Treasurer of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Joe,

Or should I say, "Mr. Treasurer."

Or Mr. Ambassador.

Or Mr. Deputy Mayor.

Let's stick with Joe, since I consider you a good and valued friend.

What a great day this is for you and your family. And a great day for the State of Pennsylvania. I hope all of you gathered there know just how lucky you are to have a man like Joe Torsella serving in such an important position in your home state.

I love your idea of being sworn in at Camp Curtin Academy Middle School rather than on the steps of your State Capitol. First, it's smart to look down the road. These boys and girls are, after all, future voters. But like all truly good public servants, you know they are our country's most important asset -- our future.

So for a few minutes, I'd like to talk to all the students who are there today.

Maybe I should explain to you that I used to be President of the United States. That was way before you were born. Part of my job as President was to meet and work with a lot of important people -- presidents, kings

and queens, and sometimes even sports heroes and big-time Hollywood celebrities. Everybody wanted to come to the White House and visit with me in the Oval Office. It was a great job and I hope some of you aspire to be President one day.

But even if you want to be President, it's important you start at what I call the grassroots. That would be your street or your neighborhood, your city, your state, and then your country. Along the way you learn a lot, you develop a lot of skills, and you meet some very interesting people. And you will make a big difference in the lives of your neighbors and fellow citizens. That should always be your most important goal -- to make a difference.

That is what Joe Torsella has been doing his entire life. No matter what his job was – whether it was Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia, or one of our ambassadors to the United Nations, or President and CEO of the wonderful Constitution Center in Philadelphia – he always did his best at that job. I think you would say he brought his “A” game. As chairman of the board of the Constitution Center, I loved watching Joe's energy, creativity, determination, and loyalty. I knew then he was destined for even bigger and better things. Getting to meet and know people like Joe is just as meaningful as getting to know kings and queens. It's a privilege.

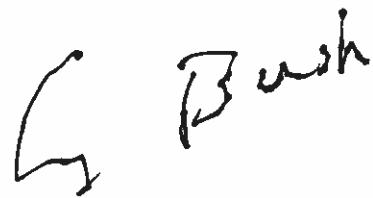
I hope it does not surprise you that I am such a big fan of Joe's, despite the fact he is a Democrat and I am a Republican. Some people seem to think these days that you can't get along with each other, much less respect and like each other, if you don't belong to the same political party. Not true. Not true at all. I admire Joe because he has devoted his life to public service and has served with great honor and distinction. He loves his state, and he loves his country. He makes decisions based on what is best for all of us, not for him or his party.

He is an example to whom all of you can look up, and whom you can aspire to be. Being Treasurer of Pennsylvania means he'll be watching after your best interests and you can trust him to do a great job.

Joe, I am so proud of you and all you have accomplished. I should say, have accomplished so far. Your journey is still in the early stages. But for now, there is no doubt in my mind that you will give it your all to be the best possible State Treasurer of Pennsylvania because that is who you are.

Congratulations. Good luck. And thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.