

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

I am delighted to extend warm greetings to all those gathered to dedicate the new campus of Soka University of America.

Excellence in education is vital to our nation's future success. Colleges and universities play an important role in preparing young people to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. By providing students and faculty with the resources and mandate to explore new horizons of knowledge, institutions of higher learning improve the future for all Americans.

I commend the staff and supporters for their continued commitment to high standards in education. Your efforts on behalf of our young people help ensure that they will be prepared for a future that is filled with hope, promise and opportunity.

*May 3, 2001
George W. Bush*

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER ROSA PARKS

Congratulations on the grand opening of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo. The new liberal arts campus for young adults of all cultures will encourage growth, vision and human rights.

I am glad this dedication is in the spring of the year, which represents new birth. Please extend my best wishes of peace and prosperity to Mrs. Ikeda and the SGI family.

*May 3, 2001
Rosa Parks*

FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

The world of tomorrow begins today. We are already living in an increasingly interdependent global community. No single country, acting alone, can successfully confront the challenges that we are all facing today. Dialogue, co-operation and partnership based on equality and mutual respect is the only way to build a better world — a task not only for government but also civil society and, indeed, every citizen.

It is my hope that this new university will produce many thoughtful and responsible citizens for the global community of tomorrow. I am confident that it will be a school of both intellectual and moral learning, indispensable for leaders in politics, business and society. I have no doubt that Soka University of America will have a distinguished record of success and will be justly proud of its students and alumni.

*May 3, 2001
Mikhail Gorbachev*