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Pres. Bush, governors, other top GOP officials help RJC kick off its 25th anniversary celebration

Washington, D.C. (March 8, 2010) -- The RJC Winter Leadership Meeting featured a gala dinner on March 6 to kick off the RJC's year-long 25th anniversary celebration.

Former U.S. Senator **Norm Coleman** acted as master of ceremonies. The keynote address was delivered by Mississippi Governor **Haley Barbour**, with additional remarks from House Minority Whip **Eric Cantor** and Hawaii Governor **Linda Lingle**. RJC was privileged to present a special video message from President **George W. Bush** in honor of the occasion. (Transcript below. [Click here to watch the video.](#))

The Republican Jewish Coalition is the national grassroots organization of Jewish Republicans. Since 1985, the RJC has built a strong and effective network of Jewish Republican activists, including nearly 30,000 members and 45 active chapters around the country. RJC members are served by the national headquarters in Washington, D.C. as well as regional offices in New York, Philadelphia, South Florida, and Los Angeles.

As the leading voice of Jewish Republicans in both the broader Jewish community and the Republican community, the RJC plays a unique and increasingly important role in the key political and policy debates of our day. RJC promotes a big-tent Republican perspective on a range of issues including health care, education, national security and defense, the U.S.-Israel relationship, and economic issues. RJC staff work with legislators and other policy-makers, advocating on these and other issues.

The RJC hosts over 300 local events a year nation-wide, including talks featuring local and national political officials, Republican Party chairmen, syndicated columnists, think-tank analysts, and candidates for public office. RJC programs educate, support, and train our members for being actively engaged in public policy advocacy.

Please visit the RJC web site at www.RJCHO.org for more information about the RJC and for membership opportunities.

Remarks by President George W. Bush on the occasion of the Republican Jewish Coalition's 25th anniversary year. Video presented during the RJC Winter Leadership Meeting in Las Vegas, NV, March 6, 2010.

Laura and I are pleased to join you to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

I want to thank your hosts, Sheldon and Miriam Adelson; your distinguished speakers Governor Haley Barbour, Governor Linda Lingle, and Republican whip Eric Cantor; my dear friends Josh Bolton and Ari Fleischer. Pleased to know that former Senator Norm Coleman is there. And I want to thank all the current and former RJC leaders gathered in Las Vegas.

This fine organization has come a long way since its founding in 1985. With 45 chapters and nearly 30,000 members, the RJC has emerged as a trusted advisor to presidents and prime ministers, governors and legislators.

I will never forget my first experience with the RJC. I visited Israel with three fellow governors. I took a helicopter tour of the West Bank with Ariel Sharon. I was impressed by the thriving, modern society that rose from the desert. I was also struck by Israel's vulnerability and convinced that America must always be Israel's closest ally.

That conviction guided me through eight years in the White House. I made clear that the United States would support Israel's right to defend itself, that no cause could justify the killing of innocent people, and that lasting peace requires two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

I was grateful for the RJC's steadfast support throughout my time in office. And I am confident you will continue to advance the principles that unite us: free enterprise at home, open markets abroad, and the right of all people to live lives and practice their faith free of terrorism and blackmail and fear.

For a quarter century the RJC has carried this message with determination, optimism, and resolve. On behalf of Laura and me, "mazel tov." I wish you success in the years ahead. And may God bless you all.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

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This statement appears on the RJC web site at:

<http://www.rjchq.org/Newsroom/newsdetail.aspx?id=27ffab31-00f0-41e5-ba75-6fc5a2ad09c6>



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