**November 22, 2013**

**Ambassador Matthew W. Barzun
Kennedy Memorial, Runnymede –**
**November 22, 2013**

This special relationship of ours can feel a bit abstract at times, leaders speaking lofty words far removed from our daily lives.

But here - in this place - our two nations' bond has been set in stone by the pounds and pennies in tribute from the people of Britain.

And it’s been grounded in the soil and the seed of this sacred acre bequeathed from Britain to America.

This memorial expresses for all time the deep sorrow of a true ally and partner.

Such sentiment also led to the creation of the Kennedy Scholarships - what the late Ted Kennedy called the most ambitious of all the tributes to his brother.

Unlike a statue or a plaque, they give life to President Kennedy’s unfulfilled promise by sharing - each year - this nation’s most brilliant prospects with us.

These acts of goodwill flowed as second nature from a grieving friend.

The British people gave not out of a sense of duty but out of a spirit of generosity.

And one of the qualities we remember most fondly of our fallen President was his ability to inspire that spirit by calling Americans to serve, by asking for help.

There is a quiet, simple magic in that act of asking - and in the agreement to help that follows.

A bond is born that by definition includes a measure of conviction and hope.

So, on this site where the tenets of individual liberty were first enshrined almost 800 years ago…

…in a week when we remember President Lincoln’s powerful reaffirmation of democracy 150 years ago…

…and today, as we remember a guardian of those ideals, slain 50 years ago…

…let us draw inspiration for the choices we make tomorrow...

…from President Kennedy’s appeal to ask not what can be done for us but “what together we can do for the freedom of man”.