



*Charles Bittenbring, III loves his country as much as he loves helping young people. In 1940, he graduated first in class from Tulane with a degree in Civil Engineering. From 1942 to 1946 he served in the U.S. Navy. He was called back in 1951 during the Korean crisis and afterwards remained on active duty until retiring in 1970 as Captain, US Navy (CEC). A life-long Presbyterian, Charlie is also an avid supporter of The Camp\*aign for American Kids.*

**A**s the crow flies, I live only about five miles from the Pentagon. So, on September 11, 2001, when American Airlines flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon's West side, I was shaken to the very core. No one was prepared for the devastation of 9/11, especially those of us who had worked in and around that area.

There are some events in life for which one can never be fully prepared: A horrifying car crash, a monstrous hurricane, the death of a loved one. But clearly, the less prepared we are for such events, the more disastrous the consequences.

I have always cherished the Scout motto: *Be Prepared!* For over fifty years I have worked with young people through scouting, helping them to prepare for future challenges. I am honored to have helped over 40 scouts earn the Eagle Scout badge.

But times have changed. The world today holds challenges for young people that are far beyond anything I've ever witnessed. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly clear to all that parents, schools and even churches are at wits' end as to how to best prepare our grandchildren and great-grandchildren for what they will encounter as they grow into adulthood.

Thank God that The Camp\*aign for American Kids offers a viable solution. America's national network of **Joey** programs (Joint Outdoor~Ecumenical Youth), hosts literally hundreds of thousands of children every year -- of every race, color and creed. There, among the beauty and tranquility of nature, young minds and hearts are purposefully prepared, infused with the core values that help them thrive and realize their potential.

That's why I support The Camp\*aign for American Kids. It is a genuine solution to what has been referred to as the *Crisis of American Children*. The Camp\*aign was created to raise national awareness about the work of our nation's **Joey**s and to raise funds to provide "camp\*erships" to enable thousands more youngsters to attend. And recruitment is not an issue! There are children in every state just waiting to get in. All that they need is a little aid, a camp\*ership, in order for their dreams -- and ours -- to come true!

I hope you will join me in becoming involved in The Camp\*aign for American Kids. For more information please visit us at [www.ForAmericanKids.org](http://www.ForAmericanKids.org), or phone (804) 266-7130 today. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Most Sincerely,

*Charlie*

Capt. C. Bittenbring, III  
Arlington, Virginia

For more, please contact Rev. Jon M'kl Sherry  
at: [HQ@ForAmericanKids.org](mailto:HQ@ForAmericanKids.org)