

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2021

Remarks at a Departure Ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland
January 20, 2021

The President. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Audience members. We love you! We love you! We love you!

The President. Thank you very much. And we love you, and I can tell you that from the bottom of my heart. This has been an incredible 4 years. We've accomplished so much together.

I want to thank all of my family and my friends and my staff and so many other people for being here. I want to thank you for your effort, your hard work. People have no idea how hard this family worked. They worked, and they worked for you. They could have had a much easier life—[*laughter*]*—*but they just—they did a fantastic job. I just want to thank all of you, every one.

I want to thank Mark Meadows, who's here someplace. Right there. I want to thank Mark.

But it's been something very special. We've accomplished a lot. Our First Lady has been a woman of great grace and beauty and dignity and so popular with the people—so popular with the people. In fact, honey, would you like to say a few words? Please.

The First Lady. Being your First Lady was my greatest honor. Thank you for your love and your support. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all, God bless your families, and God bless this beautiful Nation. Thank you.

The President. What else has to be said, right? But what we've done——

Audience member. Thank you, Melania!

The President. That's true, honey. Great job.

What we've done has been amazing by any standard. We rebuilt the United States military. We created a new force called Space Force. That in itself would be a major achievement for a regular administration; we were not a regular administration.

We took care of the vets—91-percent approval rating. They've never had that before. The vets have given us—the VA—the vets have given us an approval rating like has never been before.

We took care of our vets. And our beautiful vets, they were very badly treated before we came along. And, as you know, we get them great service, and we pick up the bill, and they can go out, and they can see a doctor if they have to wait long periods of time. We got it so that we can, sadly, get rid of people that don't treat our vets properly. We had—we didn't have any of those rights before when I came on. So our vets are happy; our people are happy; our military is thrilled.

We also got tax cuts—the largest tax cut and reform in the history of our country, by far. I hope they don't raise your taxes, but if they do, I told you so. [*Laughter*] And if you look at the regulations—which I consider the regulation cuts to be, maybe, even more important. That's why we have such good—and have had—such good job numbers. The job numbers have been absolutely incredible.

When we started, had we not been hit by the pandemic, we would have had numbers that would never have been seen—already our numbers are the best ever. If you look at what

happened until February, a year ago, our numbers were at a level that nobody had ever seen before. And, even now, we really built it twice. We got hit. Nobody blames us for that. The whole world got hit, and then we built it again.

And now the stock market is actually substantially higher than it was at its higher point prior to the pandemic. So it's really—you could say: We built it twice. And you're going to see—you're going to see incredible numbers start coming in, if everything is, sort of, left alone. Be careful. Very complex. Be careful. But you're going to see some incredible things happening, and remember us when you see these things happening, if you would. Remember us, because I'm looking at elements of our economy that are said to be a rocket ship up. It's a rocket ship up.

We have the greatest country in the world. We have the greatest economy in the world, and, as bad as the pandemic was, we were hit so hard, just like the entire world was hit so hard—places that thought they got away with it didn't get away with it; they're suffering right now.

We did something that is really considered a medical miracle. They're calling it a "miracle," and that was the vaccine. We got the vaccine developed in 9 months, instead of 9 years or 5 years or 10 years or a long time. It was supposed to take a long time—many, many years—to develop a vaccine. We have two out. We have another one coming almost immediately, and it really is a great achievement. So you should start to see really good numbers over the next few months. I think you're going to see those numbers really skyrocket downward.

And I can only say this: We have worked hard. We've left it all—as the athletes would say, "We've left it all in the field." We don't have to—we don't have to come and say—we'll never say, in a month, when we're sitting in Florida, we're not going to be looking at each other and saying, "You know, if we only worked a little bit harder." You can't work harder, and we had a lot of obstacles, and we went through the obstacles. And we just got 75 million votes, and that's a record in the history of—in the history of sitting Presidents. That's an alltime record by a lot, by many millions, in the history of sitting Presidents.

It's been, really, just an honor. One of the things we're very, very proud of is the selection of almost 300 Federal judges and 3 great Supreme Court Justices. That's a very big number. That's a record-setting number.

And so we've done a lot, and there's still things to do. The first thing we have to do is pay our respects and our love to the incredible people and families who suffered so gravely from the China virus. It's a horrible thing that was put onto the world. We all know where it came from. But it's a horrible, horrible thing. So be very careful. Be very, very careful. But we want to pay great love—great love—to all of the people that have suffered, including families who have suffered so gravely.

So, with that, I just want to say: You are amazing people. This is a great, great country. It is my greatest honor and privilege to have been your President.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

Audience members. Thank you, Trump! Thank you, Trump! Thank you, Trump!

The President. I will always fight for you. I will be watching. I will be listening. And I will tell you that the future of this country has never been better.

I wish the new administration great luck and great success. I think they'll have great success. They have the foundation to do something really spectacular. And, again, we put it in a position like it's never been before, despite the worst plague to hit since, I guess you'd say, 1917, over a hundred years ago. And despite that—despite that—the things that we've done have been just incredible. And I couldn't have done them—done it without you.

So, just a goodbye. We love you. We will be back in some form.

And again, I want to just—in leaving, I want to thank our Vice President Mike Pence and Karen. I want to thank Congress because we really worked well with Congress, at least certain elements of Congress. [*Laughter*] But we really did. We've gotten so much done that nobody thought would be possible. But I do want to thank Congress.

And I want to thank all of the great people of Washington, DC, all of the people that we worked with to put this miracle together.

So have a good life. We will see you soon. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 a.m. on the tarmac prior to boarding Air Force One en route to Palm Beach, FL. In his remarks, he referred to White House Chief of Staff Mark R. Meadows; Supreme Court Associate Justices Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Departure ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, MD.

Locations: Joint Base Andrews, MD.

Names: Barrett, Amy Coney; Gorsuch, Neil M.; Kavanaugh , Brett M; Meadows, Mark R.; Pence, Karen; Pence, Michael R.; Trump, Melania.

Subjects: Air Force, Department of the : Space Force, U.S.; Armed Forces, U.S. : Servicemembers :: Service and dedication; China : Coronavirus outbreak; Diseases : Coronavirus, domestic prevention efforts; Diseases : Coronavirus, domestic prevention efforts ; Economy, national : Improvement; Elections : 2020 Presidential and congressional elections; Elections : Voter participation; Government organization and employees : Federal regulations, review; Health and medical care : Research and development; Judiciary : Supreme Court :: Associate Justice; Maryland : Joint Base Andrews; Maryland : President's visits; Taxation : Tax relief; Veterans : Health and medical care; White House Office : Assistants to the President :: Chief of Staff; White House Office : Vice President.

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