

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:26 p.m. in Hangar 1A. In his remarks, he referred to Capt. Charles E. (Digger) Davis, USAF, 510th Fighter Squadron; Minister of Defense Carlo Scognamiglio and Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy; Gen. Wesley K. Clark, USA, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR); Col. Orfeo Durigon, Italian Air Force, Italian Base Commander; Brig. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, USAF, Commander, 31st

Air Expeditionary Wing; U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Corinne Claiborne (Lindy) Boggs; President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Lt. Gareth Evans and Sgt. Balaram Rai, British Royal Army personnel who were killed in an explosion in Negrovce, Kosovo, on June 21; Apache helicopter pilots CW3 David A. Gibbs, USA, and CW2 Kevin L. Reichert, USA, who were killed in a training accident in Albania on May 5; and Lt. Gen. Mike Jackson, British Royal Army, Commander, Kosovo International Security Force.

Statement on the 27th Anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

June 23, 1999

On this 27th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, we celebrate what can be accomplished when we allow all Americans—men and women—equal opportunity to be their best. By opening doors previously closed, Title IX provides women and girls with quality opportunities for achievement in education—in academics as well as athletics.

Today we reflect on the profound changes this legislation has helped bring about in American education, including changing expectations of women's achievements, lowering the dropout rate for women, and increasing opportunities in math and science. Since 1971, dramatically greater numbers of women have completed postsecondary, graduate, and professional degrees. Employment opportunities in many non-traditional professions for women have also opened up. The U.S. athletes in the Women's World Cup, currently being watched by millions

of fans across the country, are shining examples of the value of increased participation in athletics by women.

While we have come a long way, there is still further progress to be made in undoing barriers to equal opportunity for women. We must continue to work to close the pay gap and ensure equal pay, enable men and women to meet their responsibilities at work and home, and end discrimination in the workplace. Too many women are paid less than men, and too many still experience discrimination in the workplace.

As we move forward towards the eradication of discrimination based on gender, we celebrate Title IX and our Nation's commitment to equality.

NOTE: The statement referred to Title IX—Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, part of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92–318).

Statement on Federal Reserve Board Action on Collection of Information Concerning Loan Applicants

June 23, 1999

I am pleased that the Federal Reserve Board has acted on my administration's request by voting this morning to propose, under the Equal

Credit Opportunity Act, that lenders may choose to collect information about the race and gender of individuals applying for loans beyond home