of expanded guidelines, more practical help for teachers and principals, for parents and students, for the whole community. Guidelines like this will help teachers better understand how to teach about religions and help faith-based organizations join the effort to improve public education.

Across America, schools and faith-based organizations are telling us they want to build new and effective partnerships, like the large number of faith-based groups involved in America Reads or the Shiloh Baptist-Seaton Elementary School partnership, which offers after-school activities here in Washington, DC. Faith-based organizations in schools, though different in many ways, do often share important goals: expanding opportunities to learn, lifting children’s lives. Our new guidelines will help them work together on common ground to meet constitutional muster, to avoid making students uncomfortable because they come from different religious traditions, while helping students make the most of their God-given talents. These guidelines also tell us that a consensus is emerging among educators and religious leaders and among defenders of the first amendment. So many of them have endorsed our efforts. Their voices echo the words of George Washington who said that Americans have, and I quote, “abundant reason to rejoice; that in this land every person may worship God according to the dictates of his own heart.”

Today, as we count the days down to the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st, we know that this fundamental and precious liberty is still strong. We are determined that it will remain so, not just for our own children but for generations yet to come.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

December 18, 1999

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of Grover Washington, Jr., one of America’s greatest musicians. I will always be grateful for the honor of playing saxophone with Grover back in 1993, after a White House jazz concert, and for the wonderful music he performed at my Inaugural celebrations and my 50th birthday celebration. Grover Washington was as versatile as any jazz musician in America, moving with ease and fluency from vintage jazz to funk, and from gospel to blues to pop. “I want to be able to visit any genre,” he once said, “and converse there with my horn.” Grover Washington did exactly that, and beautifully. I will miss both the man and his music. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Christine, and their two children, Grover III and Shana.

Statement on the Death of C. Vann Woodward
December 19, 1999

Hillary and I are deeply saddened by the passing of C. Vann Woodward, one of the most important and influential historians of our time. A native of Arkansas, Woodward not only wrote about history; he helped shape it. From living through and witnessing the era of Jim Crow to marching on Selma for racial justice, he brought a unique perspective to the teaching and analysis of Southern history. While in the eyes of most he will best be remembered for his many books, his Pulitzer prize, and his long and distinguished teaching career, I believe his greatest gift was his tenacious pursuit of the truth and his warm and generous spirit. Dr. King once called one of Woodward’s books the historical bible of the civil rights movement. His work influenced generations of Southern historians and social activists and had a major impact.
on my own thinking. All Americans should look
to the life and work of C. Vann Woodward,
as we rededicate ourselves to building one
America in the 21st century. Our thoughts and
prayers are with his family.

Videotaped Remarks on the Celebration for “America’s Millennium”
December 16, 1999

I want to invite all Americans to join Hillary
and me for “America’s Millennium,” a spectac-
ular 3-day celebration in our Nation’s Capital
to ring in a new year, new century, new millen-
num. Join us in honoring our past and imag-
ining the future, by kicking off the celebration
at 11 a.m. on December 31st with an opening
ceremony at the Main Street Millennium stage
at 12th and Constitution. Enjoy free perform-
ances and programs at many of the Smithsonian
museums, and food and fun at the city’s block
party.

Usher in the year 2000 at America’s Millen-
nium Gala at the Lincoln Memorial, beginning
at 9 p.m. It will include a stirring concert, a
premiere of a film on the 20th century by Ste-
ven Spielberg, and a spectacular finale of lights
and fireworks. All events are free and open to
the public. For more information, call 1–888–
294–2100 or log onto Americasmillennium.gov.

From my family to yours, happy new year
and a happy new millennium.

NOTE: The address was videotaped at approxi-
mately 10 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room for later
broadcast, and the transcript was released by the
Office of the Press Secretary on December 21.
A tape was not available for verification of the
content of this address.

Remarks on Emissions Standards for Cars and Sport Utility Vehicles
December 21, 1999

Thank you very much. First of all, I would
like to thank the principal of this school, Dale
Talbert, for welcoming all of us here. And all
the members of the Maury school community,
thank you, and thank you for the nice sign there.
And I want to thank the kids back here for
being with me and with you today.

I want to thank Gloria Hackman for the fine
statement that she made and for 20 years of
dedication as a nurse. As a son and the grandson
of a nurse, I liked hearing her speak. And I
also want to say a special word of apprecia-
tion for the work being done here.

I want to thank Ed Zechman, the CEO of
the Children’s National Medical Center, for the
wonderful work he does every day and, in par-
ticular, the last 7 years, the work that he and
the First Lady have done together. And most
of all, I want to thank Carol Browner, the EPA
Assistant Administrator, Bob Perciasepe, and all
the other people at EPA who worked so hard
to make this day come about.

If you knew how many times over the last
7 years, in how many different contexts, Carol
Browner had said to me, "You have got to do
something to reduce incidents of asthma and
other respiratory diseases among young children.
We’ve got to keep doing it. It’s the biggest prob-
lem out there most kids face.” If you had any
idea how many private encounters we had had
on that that led to this happy day, you would
be very grateful that someone like her is in
public service in the United States; I’ll tell you.

Vice President Gore has given me a lot of
good ideas, as he always reminds me when we’re
together—[laughter]—but the recommendation
to appoint her is surely one of the best.

Let me say another word about Gloria Hack-
man. She was here speaking not only for herself
and out of her own experience but in a way
for all the children and families of this school