

May 28 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

It's not in our nature to seek out wars and conflicts, but whenever they have come, when adversaries have left us no alternative, American men and women have stood ready to take the risks and pay the ultimate price. People of the same caliber and the same character today fill the ranks of the All-Volunteer Army of the United States of America. Any foe who might ever challenge our national resolve would be repeating the grave error of defeated adversaries. Because this Nation loves peace, we do not take it for granted. And because we love freedom, we are always prepared to bear its greatest costs.

I oftentimes see the military folks who serve our Nation so proud and humbled—to see them in lines of such discipline and training and preparedness. They're the new

generation of America's defenders. They follow in an unbroken line of good and brave and unfaltering people who have never let this country down.

Today we honor those who fell from the line, who left us never knowing how much they would be missed. We pray for them with an affection that grows deeper with the years. And we remember them, all of them, with the love of a grateful Nation.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. at the Champlin Fighter Aircraft Museum. H.R. 1696, approved May 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107-11. The Memorial Day proclamation of May 25 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the Death of Representative John Joseph Moakley *May 28, 2001*

Laura and I extend our deepest sympathies to the Moakley family. Joe was a fine man. As a veteran and later a Congressman, he served his country and the people of Massachusetts with distinction

and honor. He was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and was known for his candor, wit, and humility. We will miss him.

Statement on the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity II *May 28, 2001*

The corruption of governmental institutions threatens the common aspirations of all honest members of the international community. It threatens our common interests in promoting political and economic stability, upholding core democratic values, ending the reign of dictators, and creating a level playing field for lawful business activities.

A few short years ago, talking openly about corruption was considered taboo. Today, however, officials from many countries are meeting and working together to demand greater transparency and accountability in public affairs. From Asia to Europe to Africa to the Americas, these efforts are exposing corrupt practices to the sunshine of public scrutiny, where, ultimately, they cannot survive.

This week the second Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity will help to keep the promotion of integrity and transparency high on the international agenda. I want to underscore the United States' support for the Global Forum's work, applaud the large number of participating states, and especially, thank the Government of The Netherlands for hosting this event.

Increasing accountability and transparency in governance around the world

is an important foreign policy objective for my administration. The United States is committed to bringing renewed energy to the global anticorruption agenda and to increasing the effectiveness of the American policies and programs that address this important issue.

I salute the work of delegates to the second Global Forum, and I strongly support your important objectives.

Remarks at Camp Pendleton, California May 29, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. General Hagee, thank you very much. Thank you for your warm welcome here at the white house——

[At this point, there was an interruption in the audience.]

The President. Thank you. Behave yourself. [Laughter]

General Hanlon, thank you very much. And General Conway, I appreciate so very much you greeting me. It's an honor to be here with Colonel Christian, Sergeant Major Royce Coffee, Sergeant Major M.G. Markiewicz, and the fine troops of Camp Pendleton.

I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Congress who are here, stalwarts when it comes to sound defense spending, strong advocates for tax relief, education reform: Congressmen Mary Bono, Duke Cunningham, Duncan Hunter, Darrell Issa, and Dana Rohrabacher. Thank you so much for coming here.

It is a real great privilege for me to be here today. I've had a heck of a week, particularly since I've been able to spend a lot of time around America's military forces. Last Wednesday I attended a reenlistment ceremony at the White House,

where we swore in a group of sailors and marine airmen to a new term. Two days later I had the honor of giving the commencement address at Annapolis at the Naval Academy. And yesterday I had the high privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery. I spent a lot of quality time with a lot of quality people, the people who wear the uniform in the United States military, the men and women who serve and sacrifice so Americans can sleep in peace, knowing that freedom is in good hands.

I've been looking forward to this trip, and looking forward to being able to extend a proper Marine Corps greeting: Ooh-rah!

Audience members. Ooh-rah! [Laughter]

The President. There's no higher honor than to serve as Commander in Chief. It's also a high honor to be able to come to Camp Pendleton, a place that helps turn new recruits into leathernecks, a place that serves as home to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and to one of America's oldest and most decorated units, the 1st Marine Division.

Camp Pendleton serves as the launching pad for what marines do best, to deploy rapidly so you can be the first on the scene wherever freedom and America's interests