

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.