

Remarks on the National Football League's Opening Day Coin Toss
September 9, 2001

We're here in the Rose Garden to help kick off the NFL's 82d season. This is a great day for fans. And I want to salute the NFL for its long history, lasting influence, and the quality of its athletes.

I'm glad to be joined by members of Washington's Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club—all future NFL greats.

And now, to officially begin the NFL's 82d season, the coin toss. This is heads. This is tails. Here we go.

[At this point, the President tossed the coin.]

It's tails.

I wish the players of the NFL good health, and have a great season.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Bell of the U.S.S. *Canberra* to Prime Minister John Howard of Australia
September 10, 2001

Well, Mr. Secretary, thank you for those generous comments. It reconfirms once again the reason I picked you. [Laughter] I appreciate your service to the Navy, and I appreciate your service to the country.

I'm honored today to join with the Navy to receive a distinguished visitor and to present a symbol of America's esteem. Prime Minister Howard leads a nation that has been our partner in ANZUS for 50 years, and a friend far longer. Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Howard, it's a real pleasure to have you with us, and also those of you who made the journey with the Prime Minister. Welcome to America.

My thanks as well to Admirals Clark and Weaver and to all the men and women of the United States military who are with us today. We're sure proud of you.

Those who defend America have always had a special regard for our Australian allies. And I know—I know—they're really proud to show that regard today.

Another reason we chose this site, Mr. Prime Minister, is that we have a gift for you and it's not that easy to move around.

This bell that you are going to receive has traveled for almost 25 years aboard the only American ship ever commissioned in honor of an ally's fallen vessel, the U.S.S. *Canberra*. She no longer sails, but she gave faithful service. And this bell is a reminder of a faithful partner in times of crisis and in times of calm.

U.S.S. *Canberra* received her name at the request of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the height of World War II. The President had received word of an exceptional action in battle by the Australian Navy, which were steaming alongside American vessels at Guadalcanal. His Majesty's Australian Ship *Canberra* did not survive the battle, disappearing into the depths where she rests today. It was a great loss of life, and much heroism amongst the Australian sailors and marines on board. As a sign of gratitude to those men and to their country, the U.S.S. *Canberra* was commissioned the very next year, serving my country and honoring yours, Mr. Prime Minister.