

And we have seen our national character in eloquent acts of sacrifice. Inside the World Trade Center, one man, who could have saved himself, stayed until the end at the side of his quadriplegic friend. A beloved priest died giving the last rites to a firefighter. Two officeworkers, finding a disabled stranger, carried her down 68 floors to safety. A group of men drove through the night from Dallas to Washington to bring skin grafts for burn victims.

In these acts, and in many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another and an abiding love for our country. Today we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity. This is a unity of every faith and every background. It has joined together political parties in both Houses of Congress. It is evident in services of prayer and candlelight vigils and American flags, which are displayed in pride and wave in defiance.

Our unity is a kinship of grief and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extending across the world.

America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies

of human freedom. They have attacked America because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.

On this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, we ask Almighty God to watch over our Nation and grant us patience and resolve in all that is to come. We pray that He will comfort and console those who now walk in sorrow. We thank Him for each life we now must mourn and the promise of a life to come.

As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, can separate us from God's love. May He bless the souls of the departed. May He comfort our own, and may He always guide our country.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. at the National Cathedral. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The proclamation of September 13 on the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001, is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress on the Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks *September 14, 2001*

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States. A copy of my proclamation is attached.

Further, I have authorized, pursuant to section 12302 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service within the Department of the Navy, to order to active duty units and individual members not assigned to units of the Ready Reserve to perform such missions the Secretary of Defense may determine necessary. The deployment of United

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States forces to conduct operational missions in connection with the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks necessitates this action. A copy of my Executive Order implementing this action is attached.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 14, 2001.

NOTE: The proclamation and Executive order of September 14 are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks to Police, Firemen, and Rescueworkers at the World Trade Center Site in New York City

September 14, 2001

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all. I want you all to know——

Audience member. Can't hear you.

The President. I can't go any louder. [Laughter]

I want you all to know that America today—America today is on bended knee in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families who mourn. This Nation stands with the good people of New York City and New Jersey and Connecticut as we mourn the loss of thousands of our citizens.

Audience member. I can't hear you.

The President. I can hear you. I can hear you. The rest of the world hears you. And the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. The Nation sends its love and compassion to everybody who is here. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for making the Nation proud. And may God bless America.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. at Murray and West Streets.

Statement on Congressional Action on Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Legislation To Address the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

September 14, 2001

I am gratified that the Congress has united so powerfully by taking this action.

It sends a clear message—our people are together, and we will prevail.