

Sept. 17 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5762
September 17, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Jews in the United States, Israel, and other nations around the world as you observe Rosh Hashanah. This year's observance comes in the wake of great tragedy and at a time of national mourning and recovery.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a New Year within the Jewish community, and it is a time for personal reflection. As you prepare for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, may this solemn period bring forth a deeper devotion to your faith's noble ideals. During this time of renewal and recovery, may countless others join in praying for peace and for the growth of religious tolerance around the world.

Rosh Hashanah celebrates Judaism's remarkable heritage, and it is a reaffirmation of God's mercy, glory, and love. As you look ahead to the coming year, I join with other Americans of diverse backgrounds and beliefs in receiving inspiration from your faith, your holy acts of repentance, and your loving kindness. May this year's celebration bless all who participate as we heal from the wounds inflicted by the recent terrorist attacks.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Honoring Charitable Organizations
September 18, 2001

Please be seated. Welcome.

Last week America suffered greatly. Thousands of our citizens lost lives. Thousands were hurt, but thousands of our citizens rose to the occasion to help. Last week was a really horrible week for America, but out of our tears and sadness, we saw the best of America as well. We saw a great country rise up to help.

Tens of millions of dollars and thousands of hours and tons of food and clothing have all been donated to help rebuild shattered lives. Americans' love for America was channeled through our Nation's great charities, and as President of this great land, nothing made me more proud. In the week since the attack, our compassionate and generous citizens have led the first phase in the war on terrorism. They have sustained and strengthened the homefront.

Today I'm joined by representatives of charities which have brought relief to citizens in New York City and Virginia and Pennsylvania. We've got representatives of firefighters, police officers, entrepreneurs who have helped out all across America. We've got many good citizens here who represent the large national charities like the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the United Way. We've got folks here in the Nation's Rose Garden who represent the community-based programs and faith-based programs, firefighter and police associations, local businesses, nonprofits. Large and small, these important charitable efforts are saving lives and, as importantly, are restoring hope.

I'm also joined by Libby Pataki, the better half of the Governor of New York; Tony Carbonetti, the chief of staff to Rudy Giuliani; and my friends and former fellow