

Videotaped Remarks for the “Thanks for Giving” Campaign
November 20, 2001

The President. This year, Thanksgiving will mean more than it ever has before.

The First Lady. So many have given their time, their talent—

The President. —their bravery, their sacrifice, and courage to keep this country strong. Some believe it’s astonishing; I believe it’s the American character.

The First Lady. As your family gathers, give thanks, and think of all that can be done in your community.

The President. Thanks for making such a difference. Thanks for giving.

God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President’s remarks were videotaped during the afternoon on November 15 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for later broadcast. The public service announcement and the script were released on the White House web site on November 20.

Remarks to the Community at Fort Campbell, Kentucky
November 21, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. At ease. Thank you all very much. Laura and I are proud, really proud, to be with the men and women of the finest army in the whole world. This Thanksgiving, Americans are especially thankful for our freedom, and we are especially thankful to you, the people who keep us free.

I want to thank your general, “Commander Cody,” for his hospitality and for his leadership. I took a good look at him. I’m glad he’s on my side, and I’m glad you are, as well. I want to thank General Ellis. General Ellis has got a huge job. We’ve called upon a good man to accomplish that job.

I want to thank Sergeant Major Clifford West. I want to thank the Governors from the States represented here at Fort Campbell: Governor Paul Patton and Governor Don Sundquist, from Kentucky and Tennessee.

I want to thank the Senators who are here with us from the two States: Senator Mitch McConnell, my good friend—I hope to see him in DC for a lot of years coming; and I want to thank Jim Bunning. He was

telling me he thought my fastball, when I threw it at Yankee Stadium, had a little zip on it. Nothing like his fastballs. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Senator Fred Thompson and Senator Bill Frist, two fine United States Senators from Tennessee. I want to thank Congressman Ed Bryant from Tennessee for being here, as well. All of these men respect and support the United States military, and they represent the best of our country in the Halls of our Congress.

Congressman Ed Whitfield, who represents this district, wanted to be here today, but he’s spending the holiday with the U.S. service men and women from Kentucky who are stationed in Kosovo. They’re in our prayers this Thanksgiving, as are all the troops overseas. And I want to thank Congressman Whitfield’s dad, Mr. E.O. Whitfield, for coming here in his stead.

[*At this point, a woman cheered.*]

The President. Sounds like E.O. brought his wife. [*Laughter*]

We’re honored to be at the home of the 101st Airborne. I’ve got two words I