

love—if you want to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, start a program to help the homeless, to feed people.

I support legislation—Rick Santorum is the sponsor in the Senate, along with Joe Lieberman—that encourages charitable giving by allowing non-itemizers to deduct charitable gifts, so that we can get more money in the hands of people who are trying to help people in need. We ought not to allow the Federal Government to discriminate, when it comes to the distribution of Federal money, against faith-based grassroots programs. Faith-based initiatives is an integral part of the next step of welfare reform, and I encourage the Congress—the Senate—to get this bill moving. And if there's any differences with the House, get it reconciled and get it on my desk. And the same on welfare reauthorization.

I want to thank the Senators for being here. I want to thank the House Members for working on it. We need to get this done. It's for the good of the American people.

You know, this is a fabulous country we have. I don't know what the enemy was thinking when they hit us. They must have thought all we were going to do was file a lawsuit or something. *[Laughter]*

But we're not only going to fight evil—we're not only going to fight evil with a focused effort to defeat terrorism, but we're going to fight evil by doing some good in our country. It's the millions of acts of

kindness and compassion which take place every single day which really define the America that we all know. It's those business folks, people in the business community, in the private sector, who said, "What can I do to help? How can I help somebody?" And when they end up helping somebody who's been on welfare, they realize they're more help than the person they're trying to help.

And that's what this is all about. I want to thank you all again. I want to thank those who have had the courage to stand up and seek self-esteem and independence. I want to thank the—those who have been mentors and provided love in the darkest days of people who wondered whether there was any hope in our society. And I want to thank corporate America, those who have sat up and said, "I'm going to be a good citizen. Not only am I going to provide for my shareholders and my employees, I'm going to provide for people who need a helping hand."

It's such an honor to be here today. Again, I want to thank the four good souls who have agreed to stand up here. Thank you for your example. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Statement on the Death of Canadian Troops in Afghanistan April 18, 2002

All Americans are deeply saddened by the deaths yesterday of four brave Canadian military personnel in Afghanistan and by the injuries sustained by eight others. I immediately expressed to Prime Minister Chretien my deepest sorrow and sympathy

at this tragic accident. Canada's fallen heroes and their families are in our hearts and prayers.

Canada is a vital member of a mighty coalition against terrorism and hatred. It is shouldering great burdens and making

tremendous sacrifices to make the world a safer place for all people. It is doing so in defense of the values that define the Canadian nation and that unite our two peoples.

As I told the Prime Minister, we will work together with Canada in a thorough

and timely investigation to determine exactly how yesterday's tragedy in Afghanistan occurred. We will draw every possible lesson from what happened and do everything we can to protect coalition forces engaged in this vitally important mission.

Statement on House of Representative Action on Tax Relief Legislation *April 18, 2002*

I commend the House for its bipartisan passage of legislation to make permanent last year's tax relief. Tax relief is right for America, and it has been right for our economy. Taxpayers need to know they can

count on continued lower tax rates as they plan and invest for the future. I urge the Senate to act on this measure because failure to do so would penalize every American who pays Federal income taxes.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Strengthen Border Security and Urging Action on Immigration Legislation *April 18, 2002*

Improving our Nation's border security is vital to protecting Americans from future terrorist attacks. I commend the Senate for passing legislation that strengthens border security and gives our law enforcement officials additional tools to secure our homeland. I look forward to Congress sending me this important legislation as soon as possible so that I can sign it into law.

I also continue to urge Congress to act to strengthen families and make America

more welcoming. Congress should pass a temporary extension under 245(i) so that immigrants eligible to become legal residents will not be forced to leave the country and their families to have their immigration status resolved.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish version of this statement.

Remarks at the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner *April 18, 2002*

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. I'm honored to be your President, and I'm honored to be a proud backer of the Crawford Texas Volunteer Fire

Department. [Laughter] Anybody here from—

Audience members. We love you, George! [Laughter]