

is possible in America. And I fully understand that laws are important; no question about it. And spending money is important; there's no question about that. But there's nothing more important than heart and courage and desire.

And so it's my honor to welcome here to the podium Mr. Allen Briscoe, who is a man who has overcome tough odds to be a great, proud dad and successful American.

Welcome.

[At this point, Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe made brief remarks.]

*The President.* So there you have it. I want to—I want to thank you all for—I want to thank you all for sharing—just a—not quite yet.

*Participant.* Stay?

*The President.* Yes, you stay right there.

[Laughter]

*Participant.* Yes, sir. [Laughter]

*The President.* I want to thank you all for sharing your story with us. And we could have had some great stories here,

long—we could have taken a lot of time with some of the great stories here. And I want to thank you all for coming.

This is a fabulous country in which we live. It is, and it's because the people are fabulous. For those who represent corporate America, keep doing what you're doing. You have a responsibility to the country in which you thrive. You've got a responsibility to help people; you do. Those of us in Government have a responsibility to pass good law that will help people. And for those of you who have overcome incredible obstacles, thanks for the example you've set.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:53 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former welfare recipients Alfred and Ann Briscoe. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks at the Congressional Barbecue June 5, 2002

Welcome. Laura and I are really happy to give you all a taste of Texas. We want to thank our friends Asleep At The Wheel out of Austin, Texas, for your fantastic music. Thank you all very much. And I want to thank our friends from Buffalo Gap, Texas, the people who brought the food. That would be Tom Perini and—[*inaudible*]*—*we want to thank them and all the people who served the food. We want to thank you all for coming tonight.

First I want to say something to the spouses and the family members who are here. Thank you for your service to the country. We appreciate your patience and we appreciate you supporting your loved

ones in their important jobs of representing the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, the United States of America.

The last time we were supposed to have this party was on September the 11th. And we have come together here in Washington and around the Nation for a great and noble cause, and that is to defend freedom. The defense of our freedoms here in America is not a Republican calling or a Democratic calling; it is an American calling. And I want to thank all the Members of Congress.

I want to thank you for your support here in Washington, and I want to thank you for going home to your districts and

your States and explaining to our citizens, our fellow citizens, what's ahead. This country is patient, and this country is united, and this country is plenty tough when it comes to defending that which we hold dear. And a lot of it has to do with what you do when you go home, and I want to thank you for that a lot. It means a lot.

It is much easier to be the Commander in Chief when the people are pulling in the same direction. And they're pulling in the same direction, much to the chagrin of the enemy.

So it's our great pleasure to welcome you here. I know sometimes we have

squabbles with the legislative branch. If only you did it the way the Vice President and I wanted you to do it, everything would be fine. [*Laughter*] But I admire—I admire those who serve in the Senate and the House. I admire your steadfast love of democracy, and I appreciate so very much your love of our country.

May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:48 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Tom Perini, chuckwagon cook, Perini Ranch Steakhouse.

## Address to the Nation on the Proposed Department of Homeland Security *June 6, 2002*

Good evening. During the next few minutes, I want to update you on the progress we are making in our war against terror and to propose sweeping changes that will strengthen our homeland against the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks.

Nearly 9 months have passed since the day that forever changed our country. Debris from what was once the World Trade Center has been cleared away in a hundred thousand truckloads. The west side of the Pentagon looks almost as it did on September the 10th. And as children finish school and families prepare for summer vacations, for many life seems almost normal.

Yet, we are a different nation today, sadder and stronger, less innocent and more courageous, more appreciative of life, and for many who serve our country, more willing to risk life in a great cause. For those who have lost family and friends, the pain will never go away, and neither will the responsibilities that day thrust upon all of us.

America is leading the civilized world in a titanic struggle against terror. Freedom

and fear are at war, and freedom is winning. Tonight over 60,000 American troops are deployed around the world in the war against terror: more than 7,000 in Afghanistan; others in the Philippines, Yemen, and the Republic of Georgia, to train local forces. Next week Afghanistan will begin selecting a representative government, even as American troops, along with our allies, still continuously raid remote Al Qaida hiding places.

Among those we have captured is a man named Abu Zubaydah, Al Qaida's chief of operations. From him and from hundreds of others, we are learning more about how the terrorists plan and operate, information crucial in anticipating and preventing future attacks.

Our coalition is strong. More than 90 nations have arrested or detained over 2,400 terrorists and their supporters. More than 180 countries have offered or are providing assistance in the war on terrorism. And our military is strong and prepared to oppose any emerging threat to the American people.