

It's a great honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming today, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. at the Playhouse Square Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jane L. Campbell of Cleveland; Fannie M. Lewis, Cleveland City councilwoman, ward 7; and Alex Machaskee,

board chairman, United Way of Greater Cleveland. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10). The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Statement on the Clear Skies Initiative *July 1, 2002*

Today Environmental Protection Administrator Whitman released important new information about the unprecedented health and environmental benefits of the Clear Skies Initiative that I proposed in February. For the last several months, EPA has been working to generate new information about how Clear Skies will dramatically improve air quality in every region of the country. Clear Skies will bring Americans much cleaner air and healthier forests, lakes, and estuaries. Many cities and towns will meet air quality standards for the first time in years. We will virtually eliminate the problem of acid rain, which affects so

many lakes and forests in the Northeast. We also will dramatically reduce urban smog and nitrogen and mercury deposition. Clear Skies will reduce air pollution from powerplants by 70 percent—the most significant step America has ever taken to address this problem—while using a market-based system to keep electricity prices affordable for hardworking Americans. Administrator Whitman and I look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the Clean Air Act through the passage of Clear Skies so we can improve air quality for all Americans.

## Statement on Representative J.C. Watts, Jr.'s Decision Not To Seek Reelection *July 1, 2002*

Congressman J.C. Watts has served the people of Oklahoma and the United States with honor and distinction as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

J.C. will leave behind a legacy of compassion and commitment to public service. He has been a leader in highlighting the success of faith-based and community-based organizations, and thanks to his efforts, these organizations may soon have addi-

tional resources in their fight against abuse, addiction, and poverty. His leadership was recognized by members of his party, and as Chairman of the House Republican Conference Committee, J.C. has effectively promoted the positive agenda of the Republican Party.

Though his tenure in the House is ending, he still has many talents to offer his country, and I know he will continue to