

thing. I have no doubt that our cause is just, and I have no doubt that were we to walk away from this conflict at this time, we would be doing a huge disservice to future generations.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11 a.m. in the hangar. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Amber Alert System Legislation

March 27, 2003

As we take steps abroad to make the world a safer place for all, there are important steps we can take at home to make America a safer place for children.

I commend the House for acting today on legislation that will help expand, enhance, and coordinate the successful Amber Alert system across our Nation. I look forward to legislation reaching my desk as quickly as possible so that I may sign it into law.

The prevention and investigation of child abductions will always be a top priority in my administration. That is why my administration began taking steps last year to ex-

pand and improve the Amber Alert system, including allocating existing Federal resources to this effort and appointing a Federal coordinator within the Department of Justice.

Protecting our children is a shared priority for the American people and Federal, State, and local authorities. We must use every resource possible to find and safely return missing children to their families and their homes, just as we will continue to use every tool within the law to vigorously prosecute and severely punish those who would do our children harm.

Remarks to National Veterans Organizations

March 28, 2003

Good afternoon. Thanks for coming, and welcome to the people's house. It is my honor to welcome distinguished veterans to the White House. I'm especially pleased to have met with leaders from the veterans organizations at this crucial time for our country.

The men and women who have worn the Nation's uniform set an example of service and an example of sacrifice for future generations. And the current generation of our military is not letting us down. Today's Armed Forces are upholding the

finest traditions of our country and of our military. They are making great progress in the war in Iraq. They are showing great courage, and they are making this country proud.

I'm honored that Tony Principi introduced me. I'm proud of his service to our country, not only as a Vietnam vet but now as the head of the Veterans Affairs—Department of Veterans Affairs. He's doing a really good job.

I want to thank the national commanders and presidents of our national veterans