

Yet, those failures cannot diminish the honor and achievement of more than 200,000 military personnel who have served in Iraq since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The character of the men and women who wear our uniform has been shown in countless acts of goodness and decency and unselfish courage. Our American military comes from all parts of the country. Six are members of the graduating class, and we thank them all.

One person can do so much harm or so much good. One person can show the compassion and character of a whole country in an hour of testing. Never doubt that you can make a difference, because the call that comes to you is yours alone. And a great deal depends upon your answer. By bringing care and hope into other lives, you can fill your own life with purpose. By caring for life at every stage, you can

make our country a more just and welcoming place. By showing the generosity of America, you can help change the world. Each of you has gifts to offer, and I am confident you will use those gifts where they are needed.

I wish you well on the journey ahead. I thank you for the warm welcome and the honorary degree. I leave today a proud member of the Concordia University Wisconsin Class of 2004.

May God bless you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the field house. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, president, Concordia University Wisconsin; and Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr., USA (Ret.), former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Following his remarks, the President received an honorary doctorate of laws from the university.

The President's Radio Address *May 15, 2004*

Good morning. This week, our Nation was sickened by the murder of an American civilian, Nicholas Berg. The savage execution of this innocent man reminds us of the true nature of our terrorist enemy and of the stakes in this struggle. The terrorists rejoice in the killing of the innocent and have promised similar violence against Americans, against all free peoples, and against any Muslims who reject their ideology of murder. Their barbarism cannot be appeased, and their hatred cannot be satisfied. There's only one way to deal with terror: We must confront the enemy and stay on the offensive until these killers are defeated.

And this is precisely what our Armed Forces and the forces of our coalition are doing. In and around Fallujah, U.S. marines are conducting joint patrols with local Iraqis to take back the city from Saddam

loyalists and foreign fighters and other militants. In nearby towns, marines are conducting raids to disrupt enemy attacks on our supply routes and to root out anticoalition fighters.

To the south, in and around the cities of Najaf and Karbala, U.S. Army soldiers and Iraqi security forces are systematically dismantling the illegal militia led by the radical cleric Al Sadr that has incited violence and attempted to seize control. Iraqi security forces ejected elements of this militia from a mosque in Karbala that was being used to store ammunition. The Iraqi people oppose the actions of this illegal militia, and Shi'a religious leaders have called on it to withdraw. Recent days have seen demonstrations in which ordinary Iraqis have taken to the streets, calling on the militia to withdraw from their cities and towns.

As we attack and defeat the enemies of freedom in Iraq, we will continue to work with Iraqi leaders to build a free, democratic, and independent government. The United Nations special envoy, Mr. Brahimi, is now back in Iraq, consulting with diverse groups of Iraqis. In the next few weeks, important decisions will be made on the makeup of an interim government. And on June 30th, the flag of a free Iraq will be raised, and Iraq's new interim government will assume a sovereign authority.

America will keep its commitment to the independence and national dignity of the Iraqi people. Yet the vital mission of our military in helping to provide security will continue on July 1st and beyond. Under the leadership of Major General David Petraeus, coalition forces are training thousands of Iraqis to protect a free Iraq from external aggression and internal subversion. Our forces will remain in Iraq to assist the Iraqi people until Iraqis can secure their own country.

Our country has great respect for the Iraqi people, and we are determined to expose and punish the abuse of Iraqi detainees. Charges have been filed against seven soldiers, and the first trial is set to begin next week. My administration and our military are determined that such abuses never happen again.

All Americans know that the actions of a few do not reflect the true character of the United States Armed Forces. No mili-

tary in the history of the world has fought so hard and so often for the freedom of others. Today, our forces are keeping terrorists across the world on the run. They're helping the people of Afghanistan and Iraq build democratic societies, making America more secure. By their example, the people of those countries and of the countries around the world are coming to know that freedom is the answer to hopelessness and terror. Our service men and women are defending America with unselfish courage, and their achievements have brought pride and credit to this Nation.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:56 a.m. on May 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to American hostage Nicholas Berg, who was killed in Iraq in early May by senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Muqtada Al Sadr, Iraqi Shiite cleric whose militia engaged in an uprising in Iraq that began in early April; Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General; and Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, incoming chief, Office of Security Transition—Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Peace Officers Memorial Service *May 15, 2004*

Thank you all very much. I'm so very honored to join all of you in paying respects—our respects to our Nation's fallen law enforcement officers. Every year on this day, we pause to remember the sacrifice and faithful services of officers lost in the line of duty throughout our Nation's

history. And we add to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial the names of men and women lost in the past year as well as some who fell in the line of duty in other times. They accepted the hard responsibilities of a great and essential calling.