

our hearts and prayers. And let us be mindful that even in this modern age, our world still requires compassion, tolerance, and generosity from each of us.

Laura and I send our condolences to all whose hearts are filled with grief this New Year's Day. And to our fellow Americans, we wish you peace and happiness in the coming year.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:20 a.m. on December 31, 2004, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 1, 2005. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 31, 2004, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address. The proclamation of January 1 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Statement on the Death of Representative Robert T. Matsui *January 2, 2005*

Laura and I are saddened by the passing of Bob Matsui. Bob Matsui was a dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction and integrity in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than 25 years. In the Congress, he was a leader of his party admired by colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Through long-time service on the House Ways and Means Committee, he helped pass important legislation on issues ranging from trade to small business to child welfare to mass

transit. He was always devoted to California and his native Sacramento, where he served on the city council and as vice mayor in the 1970s. A third-generation Japanese American, Bob was interned along with his family during World War II. Four decades later, he played a leading role in Congress in securing passage of the landmark Japanese American Redress Act. Laura and I send our prayers and condolences to Doris, their son Brian, and the entire Matsui family.

## Remarks on Mobilizing Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunamis Disaster Relief *January 3, 2005*

I thank you all for coming. I'm honored to be standing here with two former Presidents, President Bush 41, President Clinton 42. We have come together to express our country's sympathy for the victims of a great tragedy. We're here to ask our fellow citizens to join in a broad humanitarian relief effort.

Eight days ago, the most powerful earthquake in 40 years shook the island of Su-

matra. The earthquake caused violent tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, which left an arc of destruction from Thailand to the Horn of Africa. The devastation in the region defies comprehension. More than 150,000 lives are estimated to be lost, including 90,000 in Indonesia alone. As many as 5 million people are thought to be homeless or without food or shelter. Thousands more are missing, and millions are vulnerable to disease.