

Through your service and sacrifice in the war on terror, you are making America safer. You're making America safer for not only those of us who live today but for future generations of Americans. Your sacrifice has made it possible for our children and grandchildren to grow up in a safer world.

Many here today have endured long separations from your families. We understand that, and we thank you for that. Some are preparing to do so. Others have suffered terrible injuries, wounds you will carry with you for the rest of your lives. Still others have lost loved ones in this struggle, heroes who gave their lives so that we might live in freedom. We hold them in our hearts; we lift them up in our prayers.

We're grateful to you, and we are grateful to your families who love and support you. Your families miss you, and they worry about you, and they pray for you, always wondering where you are and if you're safe. By their sacrifice, they also serve. Our Nation is grateful to our military families.

You, those who wear our uniform, have given much, and much more will be asked of you in the months and years ahead. In

Afghanistan and Iraq, the liberty that has been won at great cost now must be secured. We still face terrorist enemies who wish to harm our people and are seeking weapons that would allow them to kill on an unprecedented scale. These enemies must be stopped, and you are the ones who will stop them.

The road ahead will be difficult and dangerous, but we can proceed with courage and with confidence. History moves toward freedom because the desire for freedom is written in every human heart. And the cause of freedom is in the best of hands, the hands of the United States Armed Forces.

And so, thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice. May God bless you, and may God bless your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:18 p.m. at the MCI Center. In his remarks, he referred to Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; and actor Kelsey Grammer.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 18, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice,

stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21, 2004 (69 FR 2991).

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national

emergency on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle

East peace process and to maintain in force the economic sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. The notice of January 17 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at “America’s Future Rocks Today—A Call to Service” January 18, 2005

Thank you all. I hope you’ve enjoyed this fantastic concert. I’m traveling—as you can see, I’m traveling in pretty good company today, with the First Lady of the United States, Laura, the mother of Barbara and Jenna who we love dearly.

Listen, I want to thank all the entertainers who were here today. How about Hilary Duff. She was fantastic. Thank you, Hilary. JoJo—JoJo is here—[*applause*—yes. Ruben Studdard—you talk about a success story. Ryan Cabrera—I appreciate Ryan being here. How about 3 Doors Down? Pretty cool guys, right? Seem cool to me. Fuel—I appreciate Fuel being here.

Jason Sehorn—I’m honored that my friend Jason—and I’m really proud and pleased that he brought his wife, Angie Harmon. I want to thank Steve Baldwin for being with us today. I’m honored that Steve was here. Erika Harold, Miss America 2003—what a fine person Erika is. How about Kelly Perdew, “The Apprentice.” Next thing you know, the guy will be running for President. Nancy O’Dell—I’m honored that Nancy is with us. I appreciate you all coming.

Listen, I’m particularly thrilled to be standing on the stage with some of America’s soldiers in the army of compassion. So the theme of this Inauguration is to celebrate freedom and to honor service. Today Laura and I went by and we were able to thank some of the men and women who wear our Nation’s uniform for their service to our country, for their sacrifice for our freedoms. And today, at this concert, we’re particularly thrilled that we’re honoring service.

You know what that means? It means love a neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself. Take time out of your life to make somebody else’s life better. By helping heal a broken heart or surrounding a friend with love or feeding the hungry or providing shelter for the homeless, you can help change America for the better, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

I want to thank you all for setting such a fantastic example. Thank you for your service.

And my call to you all is that as you enjoy the great freedoms of America and as you enjoy yourself at this Inauguration,