

Presidents were here. I thank you very much for the—for your presence.

I'm also really happy that another former President is with us; that would be my dad. Thanks for coming—and Mother. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Barbara and Jenna. I love them dearly. I thank them for joining the campaign trail. It was the—like the camping trip I promised to take them on and never did. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank my brothers and sisters. They have meant a lot to me. Their unconditional love is an important part of keeping perspective here in the Nation's Capital.

I am impressed by this Inaugural ceremony. It is a magnificent event. I think any President who has ever been through one is able to step back and say, "What an impressive moment, not in my life but in the life of the country." It reminds us that we serve a cause larger than ourself. We have one country, one Constitution, and one future that binds us.

As leaders, we have a common duty to achieve results for the people, regardless of our political parties. There's important work to be done, and I look forward to working with Members of both Houses and both parties to achieve that job.

We have a solemn duty to protect our people and to win the war on terror, and we will. We have other vital duties, and we will strive to achieve results on behalf of the people. I'm eager for the work. I'm looking forward to it, and I hope you are as well. I'm looking forward to putting my heart and soul into this job for 4 more years. Together, we can make this great Nation of ours a safer place and a freer place and a better place for all our fellow citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our great land.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:19 p.m. in Statuary Hall at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Prior to the President's remarks, Senator Trent Lott, chairman, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, introduced the President and presented him and Vice President Dick Cheney with engraved crystal hurricane lamps and official photos of the Inaugural swearing-in ceremony, and Representative J. Dennis Hastert, committee member, presented them with flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Adha *January 21, 2005*

I send greetings to Muslims around the world as you celebrate Eid al-Adha.

Abraham's sacrifice and service to God teach us the importance of devotion, and God's mercy encourages us to share His blessings with others. The kindness and charity practiced by Muslims during this holiday strengthen friendships, help those in need, and exemplify the compassionate spirit that makes America and the world a better place.

As Americans of Muslim faith celebrate Eid al-Adha, our Nation is reminded of

the contributions that Muslim Americans have made to our religious and cultural heritage. Your values of family, service, and community enrich our society and reflect the ideals on which our country was founded.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous celebration.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

The President's Radio Address *January 22, 2005*

Good morning. My fellow Americans, earlier this week I had the honor of taking, for the second time, the oath of office as your President. The Inaugural ceremony is simple, yet its meaning is profound. Every 4 years, the American people hold an Inauguration to reaffirm our faith in liberty and to celebrate the democratic institutions that preserve it. To place one's hand on the Bible and swear the oath is a humbling experience and a reminder of the high trust and great responsibility that the Presidency brings. With deep appreciation for your support and mindful of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I'm eager to begin the work of a new term.

In the years since I first swore to preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution, our Nation has been tested. Our enemies have found America more than equal to the task. In response to attacks on our home soil, we have captured or killed terrorists across the Earth. We have taken unprecedented steps to secure our homeland from future attacks, and our troops have liberated millions from oppression.

At home, thanks to progrowth policies and the hard work of the American people, we overcame a recession and created over 2 million new jobs in the past year alone. Now we move forward. We remain in a war the United States will continue to lead, fighting terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. We will strive to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of terrorists and tyrants. And our Nation will stand by the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq as they build free and democratic societies in their own lands because when America gives its word, America must keep its word.

As I stated in my Inaugural Address, our security at home increasingly depends on the success of liberty abroad. So we will continue to promote freedom, hope, and

democracy in the broader Middle East and, by doing so, defeat the despair, hopelessness, and resentments that feed terror.

At home too we will expand freedom. We will continue to bring high standards and accountability to our public schools so that every child can learn. We will transform our retirement and health systems, reform the legal system, and simplify the Tax Code so that all Americans enjoy the dignity and independence that comes from ownership. In this ownership society, every citizen will have a real stake in the promise of America, and our most valued institutions will be better prepared to meet the new challenges of a new time.

This week, Washington has been marked by pomp and circumstance. In a free nation, these ceremonies are more than pageantry. They underscore that public office is a public trust. America's elected leaders derive their authority from the consent of the American people, whom we serve. This is a high privilege, and that privilege carries a serious responsibility, to confront problems now instead of passing them on to future generations.

As long as I hold this office, I promise that I will serve all Americans and will work to promote the unity of our great Nation. And working together, we will secure the blessings of liberty, not only for ourselves but for generations of Americans to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:30 a.m. on January 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.