

of extraordinary accomplishment and ability. He has a good heart. He has the qualities Americans expect in a judge, experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility. He has profound respect for the rule of law and for the liberties guaranteed to every citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws, not legislate from the bench.

He's also a man of character who loves his country and his family. I'm pleased that his wife, Jane, and his two beautiful children, Jack and Josie, could be with us tonight. Judge Roberts has served his fellow citizens well, and he is prepared for even greater service.

Under the Constitution, Judge Roberts now goes before the United States Senate for confirmation. I've recently spoken with leaders Senator Frist and Senator Reid and with senior members of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman Specter and Senator Leahy. These Senators share my goal of a dignified confirmation process that is conducted with fairness and civility. The appointments of the two most recent Justices

to the Supreme Court prove that this confirmation can be done in a timely manner.

So I have full confidence that the Senate will rise to the occasion and act promptly on this nomination. It is important that the newest Justice be on the bench when the Supreme Court reconvenes in October. I believe that Democrats and Republicans alike will see the strong qualifications of this fine judge, as they did when they confirmed him by unanimous consent to the judicial seat he now holds.

I look forward to the Senate voting to confirm Judge John Roberts as the 109th Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Roberts, thank you for agreeing to serve, and congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:02 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Judge Roberts. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Meeting With Associate Justice-Designate Roberts

July 20, 2005

Good morning, how are you? I just had a cup of coffee with the nominee and told him I thought things were off to a very good start for his nomination. I'm not surprised; he's highly qualified for the job. He's the kind of person that will bring great dignity to the Court. Judge Roberts is off to the Senate this morning to begin his consultations. I'm confident the Senators will come to realize what I've come to realize: We're lucky to have a man of such wisdom and intellectual strength willing to serve our country.

I'm also confident that the process will move forward in a dignified, civil way. In

my conversations with Senators last night, we discussed how important it is that Judge Roberts get a fair hearing, a timely hearing, and a hearing that will bring great credit to our Nation and to the United States Senate. And so I told Judge Roberts over coffee that we'll provide all the support that's necessary for the Senators to be able to make up their minds, that we will push the process forward, because he and I both agree that it's important that he be sworn in prior to the Court reconvening in October, and that I wished him all the best.

So I appreciate you coming by for coffee this morning.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the Baylor University 2005 NCAA Women's Basketball Champions July 20, 2005

The President. Congratulations. Welcome. I thought I'd have my picture with you, and then we'll go into the Oval Office.

It is my honor to welcome some highly successful women from the neighborhood. [Laughter] First, I want to congratulate the coach. She's—obviously knows what she's doing. But I love her spirit. I love her can-do spirit that says, "We're going to win, and we're proud to win."

And I appreciate the women who are here too. The Lady Bears were really great. And I know I'm supposed to be working hard, but I watched you. [Laughter] And I was really impressed. And I want to thank you for being such great athletes and such wonderful role models. And I appreciate you representing Baylor University, which

is a great university, so well, with such class.

I'm here to welcome you to the Rose Garden and congratulate you for a job well done and wish one of you a happy birthday.

[Laughter]

All right, have at it. [Laughter]

[At this point, team members presented the President with gifts.]

The President. Ten, two, and four. [Laughter] Congratulations. All right, anybody want to see the Oval Office? Let's go look at it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:28 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kim Mulkey-Robertson, head coach, Baylor University women's basketball team.

Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in Baltimore, Maryland July 20, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's good to be back in Baltimore, home of the mighty Orioles and my friend Rafael Palmeiro. I had the honor of calling—I call him Raffy—the other day to congratulate him on his 500 home run, 3,000 hit club membership. And I know you're proud of him here. He's a—as you can tell, I'm a baseball guy. And one of the things about Baltimore is you're great baseball fans, and I think we're all thrilled that our friend Rafael Palmeiro is such a great player.

It's also an honor to be here at the Port of Baltimore. It's an impressive place to chopper over. There is a lot of action here in Baltimore. And I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by to talk about how to secure this port, other ports, the borders, and our country. That's the task at hand. And for those of you involved with protecting our homeland, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your hard work.

I want to thank the Governor for welcoming me, and I appreciate the first lady