

Oct. 5 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2005

The President. I'm proud of you. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his

remarks, he referred to Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, former commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Visit With Wounded Troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

October 5, 2005

Once again, I had the honor of thanking the docs and nurses that provide such incredible care to our wounded soldiers. Every time I come here, I'm amazed by the courage and decency and strength of those who wear the Nation's uniform. It is such an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such fine men and women.

I ask for God's blessings on them and their families as they recover from their sacrifice and service.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the National Endowment for Democracy

October 6, 2005

Thank you all. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm honored once again to be with the supporters of the National Endowment for Democracy. Since the day President Ronald Reagan set out the vision for this endowment, the world has seen the swiftest advance of democratic institutions in history. And Americans are proud to have played our role in this great story.

Our Nation stood guard on tense borders. We spoke for the rights of dissidents and the hopes of exiles. We aided the rise of new democracies on the ruins of tyranny. And all the cost and sacrifice of that struggle has been worth it, because from Latin America to Europe to Asia, we've gained the peace that freedom brings.

In this new century, freedom is once again assaulted by enemies determined to rollback generations of democratic progress.

Once again, we're responding to a global campaign of fear with a global campaign of freedom. And once again, we will see freedom's victory.

Vin, I want to thank you for inviting me back. And thank you for the short introduction. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Carl Gershman. I want to welcome former Congressman Dick Gephardt, who is a board member of the National Endowment for Democracy. It's good to see you, Dick. And I appreciate Chris Cox, who is the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a board member for the National Endowment of Democracy, for being here as well. I want to thank all the other board members.

I appreciate the Secretary of State, Condi Rice, who has joined us—alongside her, Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld. Thank you all for being here. I'm proud as well