

who have got a loved one deployed overseas, we stand with you, and we pray with you for the safety of your loved one. We want to send our greetings to your loved one overseas and tell him how much we appreciate you serving for the cause of freedom and peace.

Anyway, I hope you all have a great holiday. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Passage of Legislation Funding the Armed Forces for the War on Terror in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Elsewhere *December 22, 2005*

I applaud the Congress for passing legislation to fund our troops who are fighting the war on terror in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. This funding will help us con-

tinue to hunt down the terrorists, pursue our strategy for victory in Iraq, and make America more secure. I look forward to signing the bill into law.

Statement on Congressional Action To Reauthorize PATRIOT Act Reauthorization Legislation *December 22, 2005*

I appreciate the strong commitment by the majority of the House and of the Senate to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act. The terrorists are determined to strike America again and inflict even greater damage than they did on September 11, 2001. The PATRIOT Act is essential to protecting the American people against the terrorists. The act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence officials so that they can share information and work to-

gether to help prevent attacks. The Senate Democratic leader boasted last week that the Senate Democrats had “killed the PATRIOT Act.” Our Nation’s security must be above partisan politics. The PATRIOT Act has helped us disrupt terrorist plots and break up cells here in the United States. I will work closely with the House and Senate to make sure that we are not without this crucial law for even a day.

The President’s Radio Address *December 24, 2005*

Good morning. On this Christmas Eve, Laura and I send our best wishes to families across America as you gather in your homes to celebrate the holiday. Christmas is a time of joy and peace, and we hope

the holiday season brings all of you happy reunions with families and friends and time to rest and reflect as you look forward to a new year.