

Yes. Then we've got—The Second Amendments will be playing tonight. That would be Congressman Collin Peterson, Dave Weldon, Kenny Hulshof, Thaddeus McCotter—he's that rock-and-roll dude, Thaddeus McCotter—and Congressman Jon Porter. Once you get through those two bands, then a real group of musicians will be here, and we're fortunate Riders in the Sky will be playing for you tonight.

I hope you enjoy this as much as Laura and I enjoy it. We're really glad you're here. God bless you all, and God bless our great country. Please welcome The Compassionates.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:50 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth *June 12, 2006*

I send greetings to all those observing Juneteenth.

President Lincoln called the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 the “central act” of his administration and “the greatest event of the nineteenth century.” The joyous news of freedom did not reach Galveston, Texas, until two and a half years after emancipation when Major General Gordon Granger arrived and announced that the Civil War was over and all slaves were free. Ever since, Americans have marked June 19th with special celebrations and traditions commemorating this historic moment.

On this day, we honor the vision of President Lincoln, and we will keep striving to build a Nation where the dignity of every person is respected, where people are

judged by the content of their character, and where the hope of the American dream reaches every neighborhood and every citizen. Together, we can continue to advance the ideals of liberty and justice that make our country strong and help more Americans realize the full promise of this great Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 16. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate Heather Wilson in Albuquerque, New Mexico *June 16, 2006*

Thank you very much. Thanks for coming. It's great to be back in New Mexico again. It just seemed like I was here the other day. *[Laughter]* This time I've come because I cannot tell you how important

it is to reelect Heather Wilson to the United States Congress.

I have spent enough time in Washington, DC, to be able to distinguish between the real, genuine person and those who are