

Statement on the Report of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education

September 26, 2006

Today Education Secretary Margaret Spellings released the report of a commission whose focus was to help make America's higher education system more affordable and more accessible and to provide parents and students with information that will help them make better-informed choices. I strongly support the thrust of this important report and look forward to working with Secretary Spellings, the higher education community, the Congress, and the States to ensure that our higher edu-

cation system remains the finest in the world.

America's colleges and universities have always played an important role in advancing innovation, opportunity, and prosperity throughout our Nation and the world. We must all work to provide our students with the knowledge and skills they need to shape a hopeful future for our country.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this statement.

Statement on the Death of Byron Nelson

September 26, 2006

I was saddened to learn today of the passing of Byron Nelson. Byron Nelson was a legend in the game of golf, setting extraordinary standards for excellence on the course. More importantly, he was a true

gentleman and role model for generations of golfers. Laura and I join fellow Texans and the sports world in extending our sympathies to his wife, Peggy, and his family and friends.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Military Commissions Legislation

September 27, 2006

Earlier this month, I discussed with the American people a CIA program that has proven to be one of our most effective tools in the war on terror. Under this program, suspected terrorists have been detained and questioned about threats against our country. Because a Supreme Court decision put the future of this program in question, I asked Congress to provide legislation to save this important tool.

Today the House passed legislation that would allow this vital program to continue

and help keep our country safe. The "Military Commissions Act of 2006" addresses the Supreme Court's ruling regarding the application of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and clarifies the standards for U.S. personnel who detain and question unlawful enemy combatants. The act also creates a comprehensive statutory structure for military commissions so that we can prosecute suspected terrorists.

I appreciate the House's commitment to strengthening our national security. I urge