

as hard as we can to encourage entrepreneurial—entrepreneurship and small-business growth.

And so, again, I want to thank the people of FedEx. This is a great example of what is possible in America. A fellow I knew long years ago, named Fred Smith, had a dream about how to better distribute mail and product. And he and a lot of other

good folks built this into a great American company.

So I want to thank the folks here for letting us come by to say hello.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:27 a.m. at the FedEx Express DCA Facility. In his remarks, he referred to Frederick W. Smith, chairman, president, and chief executive officer, FedEx Corp.

Remarks at a Reception Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month October 6, 2006

The President. Thank you. *Hola.* Please be seated.

Audience member. Viva Bush!

The President. Shhh. [*Laughter*] *Bienvenidos.* We are glad you're here. Thanks for coming. Laura sends her best. She, like me, greets you to come—to welcome you to the *Casa Blanca*—[*laughter*]—*la casa de todos.* We are glad you're here. I am glad that so many of you joined us for Hispanic Heritage Month. Today we honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans to our country, to our culture, and to our national character.

We celebrate the values *de la familia y fe.* After all, those values are at the heart of the Hispanic American community. We welcome the diversity that enriches our lives, a diversity that makes America a stronger and better country. Thanks for coming.

I am proud to welcome a friend of my family's, His Royal Highness Prince Felipe de Borbon, the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Spain. Thank you for coming. His Royal Highness is here to help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which I think is a kind gesture and a noble gesture from a very important country. We're proud you're here, sir. Thank you for coming. Please give your best to His Majesty and your mom. And I will do the same on be-

half of you to my father and her majesty, my mother. [*Laughter*]

I am proud to be here with the Attorney General of the United States, Alberto Gonzales. The U.S. Treasurer, Anna Cabral—Anna, thank you for coming; *y su esposo*, Victor. Welcome, Victor. Good to see you.

Today we've got a special guest, Ana Cristina, who will perform two songs after I finish speaking, which probably means you want me to finish speaking soon, so that Ana can come up here. We're proud you're here, Ana. I want to thank my friend Emilio Estefan for arranging for the entertainment today. He's a great buddy of ours from Miami. It's good to see you, sir.

I am proud to be here with Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Kickbusch. She's the winner of the Hispanic Heritage Award 2006. Interesting name, Kickbusch. [*Laughter*] It sounds like the political campaign. [*Laughter*] Congratulations.

I appreciate all the Ambassadors who are here. Thanks for coming. We've got Ambassadors from neighboring countries. I like to remind people that the best foreign policy is to make sure that we've got good foreign policy in our own neighborhood. And so we're glad you're here. Thanks for coming.

We've got distinguished members from the IDB, USO, all kinds of organizations. And I'm proud you're here. Thanks for coming.

We are a blessed nation to have thousands of people who claim Hispanic heritage. I firmly believe that. I know that to be true. I think our citizens must recognize the great contribution of Hispanic Americans to our country. Hispanic Americans are hard-working people. They're entrepreneurial people who dream big dreams. They're people who love their God and especially love their families. But most of all, they love their country, America.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we've got to recognize we have responsibilities in Government to make sure that all in this country can realize the American Dream. In the 21st century, the best way to do that is to make sure every child gets a good education—not just a few children—but every single child must receive a quality education.

I believe strongly that every child can learn regardless of the color of their skin or whether their parents speak English as a first language. And I know that in order to make sure every child gets educated, we've got to set high standards. And we've got to measure to determine whether or not schools are achieving that which we expect. And when we find a child cannot read at grade level, then that child deserves extra help to make sure that we make—to make sure that we meet a national objective, and that is, no child should be left behind.

I'm pleased to report that Hispanic students, in reading and math, are scoring higher, and an achievement gap in our country is beginning to close. We're making progress, but I assure you we will not rest until every child receives a quality education in our country.

I believe that America should remain the land of the entrepreneur, and that ours is a country that benefits when people have a dream and work hard to achieve that

dream. The small-business community is strong here in America. It's strong because we have entrepreneurs in our midst. And the role of government is to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. Government doesn't create wealth, but government can create an environment in which people who dream dreams have a chance to realize those dreams.

I'm proud to report that the number of Hispanic-owned businesses is growing at three times the national rate. And that's positive, particularly if you're a fellow like me who worries about whether or not people can find work, because the truth of the matter is, 70 percent of new jobs in our country are created by small businesses. And so when the small-business sector is growing, the job base is growing. And equally importantly, when the small business is growing, it means ownership is growing, and the more owners we have in the United States of America, the more hopeful country we will have for all of us.

We take pride in the service of Hispanic Americans. When we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, it's time to thank our fellow citizens for serving the country. I thank our Attorney General for serving the country. I thank the Secretary of Commerce, Carlos Gutierrez, for serving the country. They're in my Cabinet. These are men who serve at the highest councils of Government and can walk in the Oval Office any time they feel like it and say, "Mr. President, here is what's on my mind." I appreciate their counsel in helping me make good decisions on behalf of our country.

We've got Hispanic Americans all across the country who serve our country by loving a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves. Thousands of our fellow citizens feed the hungry or find shelter for the homeless or put their arm around a child who needs love in order to help create a society that is welcoming to all. And for those of you who are involved in our faith-based communities and charitable

communities, I thank you on behalf of a grateful nation.

The Hispanic community is also known for its willingness to serve in the United States military and protect our freedoms. Today, we have over 200,000 Hispanic Americans wearing the uniform of the finest military on the face of the Earth. Today, we've got members of the Hispanic community who wear our uniform with us, representing those 200,000, and I want to thank you for your service.

These fine Americans, like the other Americans in our military, are working hard to secure this country. They're answering the call to history. They have volunteered to serve in an historic time, a time when this United States will do what it takes to defend ourselves from people who spread evil by killing the innocent; at a time when the United States understands that in order to spread the peace, we will stand with those who long for liberty. I'm proud to be the Commander in Chief of such a fantastic group of men and women.

And as we renew our commitment to our Hispanic Americans, we also must renew our commitment to make sure we're a welcoming society. We are a land of immigrants, and as we debate immigration policy, we must always keep that important fact in mind. One of the important things about our country is that we provide hope, and that we recognize that we're a stronger nation when we're bound together under one God—when we bind together under one God, different cultures and different heritages.

We will conduct this debate on immigration in a way that is respectful to our heritage. We are a nation of law, and we will enforce our law. But at the same time, we must remember that in order to secure our borders, in order to make sure we fulfill our heritage, immigration reform must

be comprehensive in nature. We must understand that you can't kick 12 million people out of your country; that we must figure out a way to say to those that if you're lawful and if you've contributed to the United States of America, there is a way for you to eventually earn a citizenship.

Nobody in our land wants to grant automatic amnesty. But everybody in our land understands these people must be treated with respect and dignity. There are citizenship lines for people from our neighborhood. People ought to be given a chance to get at the back of the citizenship line and have a chance. And so I assure my friends here that I will—we will enforce the border as people expect us to do. But as we do so, we'll do so in a humane way, in a way that honors that great tradition of the United States of America, one Nation under God.

And so on this day that we recognize the contributions of our Hispanic Americans, we renew the great—our faith in the greatness of our country. I welcome you to the White House. I'm honored, Royal Highness, that you have joined us today. I thank you for serving the United States of America. And I now welcome to the stage Ana Cristina.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:29 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain; Victor G. Cabral, husband of U.S. Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral; Cuban American singer Ana Cristina Alvarez; Emilio Estefan, Jr., president, Estefan Enterprises, Inc.; and Lt. Col. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, USA (Ret.). The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The National Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation of September 14 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

The President's Radio Address *October 7, 2006*

Good morning. In recent days, we have seen shocking acts of violence in schools across our Nation. Laura and I are praying for the victims and their families, and we extend our sympathies to them and to the communities that have been devastated by these attacks.

I have asked Secretary of Education Spellings and Attorney General Gonzales to host a conference on school safety this Tuesday. We will bring together teachers, parents, students, administrators, law enforcement officials, and other experts to discuss the best ways to keep violence out of our schools. Our goal is clear: Children and teachers should never fear for their safety when they enter a classroom.

As we work to keep our classrooms safe, we must also ensure that the children studying there get a good education. I believe every child can learn. So when I came to Washington, I worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass the No Child Left Behind Act, and I was proud to sign it into law. The theory behind this law is straightforward: We expect every school in America to teach every student to read, write, add, and subtract.

We are measuring progress and giving parents the information they need to hold their schools accountable. Local schools remain under local control. The Federal Government is asking for demonstrated results in exchange for the money we send from Washington. Thanks to this good law, we are leaving behind the days when schools just shuffled children from grade to grade, whether they learned anything or not.

Earlier this week, I visited the Department of Education, where I was briefed on our progress under the No Child Left Behind Act. The most recent national tests show encouraging results. In reading, 9-year-olds have made larger gains in the past 5 years than at any point in the previous

28 years. In math, 9-year-olds and 13-year-olds earned the highest scores in the history of the test. In both reading and math, African American and Hispanic students are scoring higher, and they are beginning to close the achievement gap with their white peers.

The No Child Left Behind Act also gives parents more options. If your child's school consistently fails to show progress, you can get free, intensive tutoring for your child or transfer your child to a better public school. By shining a spotlight on schools that are not performing and offering parents and children a way out, the No Child Left Behind Act is ushering in a new era of accountability and choice. And this is putting America's children on the path to a better life.

The No Child Left Behind Act has brought good progress, yet we still have a lot of work to do. So I will be talking more about education in the coming months, especially as we discuss the reauthorization of this law next year. I will focus on three areas where we can improve. First, we must improve teacher quality, so that every child has an excellent teacher. Second, we must give more options to parents whose children are trapped in struggling schools. And third, we need to bring the same high standards and accountability of the No Child Left Behind Act to our high schools, so that every high school graduate has the tools he or she needs to go to college and to get a good-paying job.

When we set expectations high, America's children will rise to meet them. And by helping our children succeed, we're creating a brighter future for them and for our Nation.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on October 6 in the Cabinet Room at the