

live in dangerous times. He also knows that this is a moment of great hope and opportunity. John's broad experience and sound judgment and unquestioned integrity will make him an outstanding Deputy Secretary of State.

And so, John, I thank you once again for agreeing to serve our Nation. Congratulations.

And now Secretary Rice will administer the oath.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 a.m. at the U.S. Department of State. In his remarks, he referred to former Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Deputy Secretary Negroponte.

Remarks Honoring the 2006 National Basketball Association Champion Miami Heat *February 27, 2007*

Thank you all. Please be seated. It is such a joy to welcome the NBA champs, the Miami Heat, to the White House. Glad you all are here. This is the Miami Heat's first NBA championship. I congratulate you on a tremendous achievement, even though you beat a Texas team. *[Laughter]*

I can assure you, however, then-Governor Bush, the Governor of Florida, was thrilled, as were a lot of Florida fans. We've got a lot of members of the congressional delegation in the room. We got you a Senator here. We got Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, Alcee Hastings, Robert Wexler, Ander Crenshaw, Jeff Miller, Kendrick Meek, Ron Klein, and Tim Mahoney. Thank you all for coming.

Most importantly, we got members of the Miami Heat family with us today. I'm really proud of Micky Arison and Madeline, who is with us, as well as Nick. As you know, I used to be in pro sports. I never had the pleasure of winning anything. *[Laughter]* Must be pretty cool. *[Laughter]*

I welcome Pat Riley, the president and head coach of the Heat. I welcome Randy Pfund, the general manager. I want to thank all the folks who make the organization run: the equipment people, the people that figure out how to get you to the plane

on time, the folks who never really get much credit for making a franchise become a championship franchise. And we welcome you all here.

I want to say something to the spouses of the players: Welcome. You've got a tough life, in many ways, with your spouse on the road all the time, and you deserve as much of this championship as they do. And so we welcome you here to the White House as well.

All the fans who are here: Thanks for coming. These players did something that they weren't supposed to do. Remember, they went into the Eastern Conference championship as the underdog. Nobody thought they could win. And then they get against the Mavericks, and they're 2 down and 13 points behind with minutes remaining—7 minutes remaining in the third game. In other words, they lose that game; it's over. They weren't supposed to win. And they did something no team has done in nearly 30 years, which is win four straight and become the NBA champs. And your fans are really proud of you.

This is a team with some of the NBA's bright stars. Dwyane Wade led the team in scoring—most valuable player in the finals. He was on the—sportsman of the year for Sports Illustrated. All it said was,

Dwyane Wade plays to win. Unfortunately, he hurt his shoulder. I know a lot of NBA fans, whether they like the Heat or not, are pulling for Dwyane to get back into action. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Or take Alonzo Mourning. A lot of folks here in DC remember Alonzo Mourning. I don't know if the people understand it, but Alonzo had a kidney illness that a lot of folks said: "Well, he'll never get back on the court again." He not only got back on the court; he blocked a lot of shots—[laughter]—which helped this team become the NBA champ.

And then, of course, probably one the most well-known figures in the United States of America is a fellow that's hard to miss—[laughter]—a fellow Texan—[laughter]—big Shaq. He scored his 25,000th point in his career last night—or recently. And we congratulate you for that—last night, yes, last night. And—but he was an important figure in seeing to—seeing this team to the championship.

But as Coach Riley gave me—he said: "Just remember, the motto wasn't, 'Each star matters'; the motto was, '15 strong'." In other words, it was a team effort that got these men here to the White House. Yes, they had the stars; everybody knew who they—who the stars are, but it was the capacity to play together, to put the team ahead of themselves, that enabled them to be here at the White House, saying, "Congratulations, NBA champs."

And I appreciate very much—[applause]. So they asked Dwyane Wade—he was the fellow that was the Sports Illustrated man—he said, "We did this together." In other words, he recognized, in spite of the fact that he had a fine series, that he couldn't have done it without his teammates.

Pat Riley had a lot to do with this team playing as a team. A team requires a good, solid leader in convincing people to put the team ahead of themselves. And that's exactly what Pat Riley has done. I'd say he's accomplished. After all, he's won seven

NBA rings; that's all. [Laughter] They asked him about this ring, and I think it's interesting what he said. He said, "I would have traded them all for this one." He cares about this team. And obviously, the players responded to his leadership.

But what impresses me the most about the Miami Heat is their work in the community. That's what impresses me about them. I mean, I'm in awe of their athletic skills. Standing next to Shaq is an awe-inspiring experience. [Laughter] But I want to share some of the stories of these players and what they have done in their communities.

Alonzo Mourning dedicated his entire salary from the Heat to charities that help low-income kidney patients and underprivileged youth. It wasn't 10 percent—[applause]. I would suggest not popping up on every story—[laughter]—because you're going to be tired. [Laughter] This is a giving team. [Laughter]

Antoine Walker founded the Eight Foundation to provide education and sports opportunities for inner-city kids in his hometown of Chicago. He came from Chicago; he's putting something back in the community from whence he came.

Dwyane Wade has given a lot of his salary to his church. He donates basketball shoes to a youth sports program at his alma mater, which happens to be Marquette University. He founded Wade's World Foundation, which gives children educational and social opportunities, such as the chance to spend the day at Disney World.

And then, of course, you've got the big man, Shaq. He works as a reserve police officer with the Miami Beach Police Department. He gives new meaning to the phrase "the long arm of the law." [Laughter]

Heat players volunteer their time in all kinds of causes, ranging from reading to drug prevention to youth basketball. This is a championship team on the court, and this is a championship team off the court,

and it is my high honor to welcome to the White House as the NBA champs.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:52 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his

remarks, he referred to former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and Micky Arison, owner, Nicholas Arison, limited partner, and Shaquille O'Neal, center, Miami Heat.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Service Organizations *February 28, 2007*

One of the most enjoyable things I do as the President is to hear stories of my fellow citizens, stories of compassion, stories of care. I just talked to social entrepreneurs who have decided to help improve the lives of our service men and women and their families. There are some remarkable acts of kindness by people who have taken it upon themselves to serve their country by helping a neighbor in need. And whether it be helping the chaplains help kids, or whether it be helping a family of the injured, whether it be working at Walter Reed, or supporting troops getting ready to go into combat, these good men and women really represent the very best of America.

I ask my fellow citizens to support our troops and their families. There are all

kinds of ways you can find out how to do so. AmericaSupportsYou.mil, for example, is a web site that if you really do want to participate like these citizens have, that you can find out a way to contribute your time, your money, your talents to really send a message that America supports these brave volunteers who are out defending our country in the war on terror.

And so I thank you all for joining us. It's been my great pleasure to hear from you. I'm proud to be the President of a country with so many decent citizens. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Zimbabwe *February 28, 2007*

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed no-

tice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2007.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to