

And so I'm looking forward to serving with you this year and next year. I thank you for your sacrifices. I have confidence in the future of this country, because we're a country full of such decent and courageous and loving people.

Thanks for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:26 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, incoming commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Statement on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

January 26, 2007

On the second International Day of Commemoration, we remember and mourn the victims of the Holocaust.

Sixty-two years after the liberation of Auschwitz, we must continue to educate ourselves about the lessons of the Holocaust and honor those whose lives were taken as a result of a racist ideology that embraced a national policy of violent hatred and bigotry. It is also our responsibility to honor the survivors and those courageous souls who refused to be bystanders and instead risked their lives to try and save the Nazis' intended victims.

Remembering the victims, heroes, and lessons of the Holocaust is particularly important today as Holocaust denial continues, urged on by the Iranian regime, which perversely seeks to call into question the historical fact of the Nazis' campaign of mass murder. We must continue to condemn the resurgence of anti-Semitism, that same virulent intolerance that led to the Holocaust, and we must combat bigotry and hatred in all their forms, in America and abroad.

May God bless the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. And may we never forget.

The President's Radio Address

January 27, 2007

Good morning. This week, I appeared before Congress to report on the state of our Union. I asked Members of the House and Senate from both sides of the aisle to join me in confronting the great challenges before us, so we can build a future of hope and opportunity for all Americans.

Two key challenges we face are reducing our dependence on oil and expanding access to affordable health care. I have asked Congress to take several vital steps to address these issues. And while some Mem-

bers gave a reflexive partisan response, I was encouraged that others welcomed this opportunity to reach across the aisle. One Democratic Senator said the initiatives I put forward were "serious proposals" and encouraged his fellow Democrats to "respond in a constructive way." Another Senate Democrat pledged to work toward these goals "through sincere bipartisan efforts." This is a good start, and I look forward

to working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to reform our health care system and increase energy security.

Our Nation's dependence on oil leaves us vulnerable to hostile regimes and terrorists who can hurt our economy by disrupting our oil supply. To protect America against supply disruptions, I have asked Congress to double the current capacity of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We also must diversify our Nation's energy supply, and the way forward is through technology. On Wednesday, I visited DuPont's Experimental Station in Wilmington, Delaware, where researchers are developing new methods of producing cellulosic ethanol and other advanced biofuels using everything from grasses to cornstalks to agricultural wastes. By expanding our use of renewable and alternative fuels like ethanol, we can become less dependent on oil and confront the serious challenge of climate change.

To increase the supply of alternative fuels, I've asked Congress to join me in setting a mandatory fuel standard to require 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels in 2017, nearly five times the current target. At the same time, we need to reform and modernize fuel economy standards for cars the way we did for light trucks, and conserve up to 8.5 billion more gallons of gasoline by 2017. By taking these steps, we can help achieve a great goal: reducing the use of gasoline in the United States by 20 percent in the next 10 years and cutting our total imports by the equivalent of three-quarters of all the oil we now import from the Middle East.

We must also work together to ensure that Americans have accessible and affordable health care. The Government has an obligation to provide care for the elderly, the disabled, and poor children, and we will meet these responsibilities. For all other Americans, private insurance is the best way to meet their needs. And this week, I proposed two new initiatives to

help more Americans afford their own insurance.

First, we should establish a standard tax deduction for health insurance that will be like the standard tax deduction for dependents. Families with health insurance will pay no income or payroll taxes on \$15,000 of their income. Single Americans with health insurance will pay no income or payroll taxes on \$7,500 of their income. With this reform, more than 100 million men, women, and children who are now covered by employer-provided insurance will benefit from lower tax bills. This reform will also level the playing field for those who do not get health insurance from their employers. On Thursday, I met an uninsured mother of two children from Overland Park, Kansas. The restaurant where she works does not offer health insurance, and she cannot afford to buy it on her own. My plan would help put a basic health insurance plan within reach of this mom and millions of uninsured Americans like her.

Second, we must help States that are developing innovative ways to cover the uninsured. States that make basic private health insurance available to all their citizens should receive Federal funds to help them provide this coverage to the poor and the sick. I have proposed using existing Federal funds to create Affordable Choices grants. These grants would give our Nation's Governors more money and flexibility to get basic private health insurance to those most in need.

Over the next few weeks, I will be talking more about my energy and health care proposals. We've set important goals, and now Republicans and Democrats must work together to make them a reality. Together, we can reduce our dependence on oil, improve health care for more of our citizens, and make life better for all our citizens.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on January 26 in the Cabinet Room at the

White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 26, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In the address, the Presi-

dent referred to Esmerelda Wergin, waitress, Ninfa's Tortilla and Taqueria. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Deborah Orin-Eilbeck *January 28, 2007*

Laura and I were saddened to learn of the death of Deborah Orin-Eilbeck. Deb had a distinguished, decades-long career as a journalist, covering every Presidential campaign since 1980 and joining the New York Post's Washington bureau in 1988. Deb fought a valiant battle against cancer with the same tenacity, devotion, and deter-

mination that she brought to her work in the White House briefing room through numerous administrations.

Laura and I send our condolences to Deb's husband, Neville Eilbeck, and to her family, friends, and colleagues. She will be missed by all of us at the White House who cared deeply for her.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Members of the Securing America's Future Energy Organization *January 29, 2007*

A group of our fellow citizens from around the country, different backgrounds, have given me a report called "Recommendations to the Nation on Reducing U.S. Oil Dependence." These citizens have spent time thinking about the national security implications for a country which is dependent on oil from hostile regimes or sources of oil that could be affected by terrorist attack. And I really want to thank you for this comprehensive approach to reducing our dependency on oil. Some really smart ideas in here.

The reason I have asked to come and talk to them is, I wanted to assure them that this administration is committed, as well, to diversifying away from our reliance upon oil. And I believe, like they believe, that we've got fantastic opportunities to use new technologies to secure the American

people and, at the same time, be better stewards of the environment.

Their plan and my plan are very—have got commonalities, and we're going to work together to get Congress to enact a comprehensive plan. I believe there's an appetite in the Halls of Congress to become less dependent on oil. I believe there's a knowledge in Congress that when we spend money on cellulosic ethanol that will make us less dependent on oil.

And I'm going to continue to call upon citizens' groups and concerned citizens to work with Members of Congress so we can—I can sign a comprehensive plan that will assure the American people that as we look forward into the 21st century that we'll be more energy dependent and good stewards of the environment.

So thank you for your efforts. I appreciate your work. I'm honored to be at the