

I thank Rob for his service and good advice and, most of all, his friendship. I want to tell his wife Jane, that after 14 years of commuting to Washington, he's going to be back home in Ohio, especially on the weekends.

Rob is a tough act to follow, but that's why I picked Jim Nussle. He's a man of integrity, a man of vision, a man well qualified to hold this job. I ask the Senate to act quickly on his nomination. When confirmed, he'll make an outstanding OMB Director.

Congratulations to you.

[At this point, Director-designate Nussle made brief remarks]

*The President.* Good job. Well done.

[Office of Management and Budget Director Robert J. Portman made brief remarks]

*The President.* Good job. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:49 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Nussle and Director Portman.

## Statement on the Deaths of Firefighters in Charleston, South Carolina June 19, 2007

Laura and I mourn the devastating loss of some of America's bravest. Our prayers are with the families and friends of nine firefighters from Charleston, South Carolina, who selflessly gave their own lives to protect their community. These firefighters

were true heroes who demonstrated great skill and courage. Their unwavering commitment to their neighbors and to the city of Charleston is an inspiration to all Americans.

## Remarks at the Congressional Picnic June 19, 2007

*The President.* Thank you all for coming. Laura and I welcome you to the South Lawn. This is an opportunity to thank the Members of Congress and their families for serving the United States.

First, I want to recognize the Speaker. Madam Speaker, thank you for joining us. It means a lot that you've come. I appreciate the leadership of the House and the Senate who've joined us. For all the wives and husbands, thank you for standing by your spouse. It's not easy to be in public office. It's a lot easier, though, when you have somebody who loves you to help you do your job. And so Laura and I want to thank you all, in particular. We're proud

to be serving with you. Occasionally, we might have our differences, but one thing we all agree on is, we represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank our chef, Paul Prudhomme, from New Orleans, Louisiana—one of the great chefs in America. Thanks for coming, Paul. I thank Tony Snow and his bunch of, well, mediocre musicians—[laughter]—no, great musicians. Beats Workin', thanks for coming. Kermit, come up here. Kermit, we're proud to have you.

*Kermit Ruffins.* Well, thanks for having us.