

the fact that it's important to help these young democracies survive in the face of this radicalism and extremism that can affect our homelands. See, we share this great—same philosophical belief that liberty can prevail, and that we have a duty to help liberty to prevail if we want there to be security.

I've always found that to be very interesting. My dad fought the Japanese, and the son, one lifetime later, is talking about keeping the peace. We talk about Afghanistan and helping that young democracy. Of course, we talk about North Korea, to make sure that we deal with any weapons proliferation that might be happening. We talk about a lot of issues, but they're issues about peace. Something happened between the 18-year-old kid who joined up to be in the Navy and the 60-year-old son being the President. And what happened is, is that liberty has got the capacity to convert an enemy into an ally.

I don't know how many people would have been predicting in 1947 or '48 or after the peace treaty was signed when President Truman was the President that there would be this kind of accommodation made between two former enemies for the sake of peace. I'm not sure how many would have, particularly right after World War II. I suspect a lot of people would say this never would have happened. They were the enemy then; they'll be the enemy now.

And the reason I tell you this story is that if you really look at history, you'll find

examples where liberty has transformed regions that were warlike, where a lot of people died, into regions of peace. And that's going to happen again, so long as we have faith in that fundamental principle, so long as we don't lose our confidence in certain values that are not American values, but they're universal values.

I believe the most important priority of our Government is to protect the American people from further harm. And you just need to be reassured and so do your constituents that a lot of good people are spending every hour of every day doing just that. But I would remind you, in the long run, the best way for your children and grandchildren to be able to say that when given a tough task, this generation didn't flinch and had certain faith—had faith in certain values, is that we stay strong when it comes to liberty as a transformative agent to bring the peace we want.

Thanks for letting me come. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:11 a.m. at the Philadelphia Marriott. In his remarks, he referred to Dolores Mertz, executive board of directors national chair, and Jerry Watson, private enterprise board chairman, American Legislative Exchange Council; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Remarks at a Special Olympics Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Ceremony

July 26, 2007

Thank you all. Welcome to the Rose Garden. Thanks for that touching introduction, Laura. [*Laughter*] I am proud to salute an outstanding group of athletes, the men and women of Team USA. And I'm

pleased to announce today that Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, who is with us today, will lead the impressive delegation to the World Games in Shanghai.

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Appreciate your service.

I'd also like to extend our greetings to the representatives from Team China. You're welcome here in the Rose Garden, and I appreciate you bringing this warm weather with you. I thank Secretary Mike Leavitt for joining us. Michael, it's good to see you. Thanks for being here. We are really proud that Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the Special Olympics, took time to be here in the Rose Garden. Welcome back to the White House. Great to see you. And I'm glad you brought your boy with you—[laughter]—the chairman of the Special Olympics, Tim Shriver. Thanks for being here, Tim. These are good people.

I'm proud to be here, as well, with Liu Peng—he's the Chinese Minister of Sports—and other members of the Chinese delegation. We welcome you here. Thank you for coming, Mr. Minister. And I appreciate very much your bringing President Hu's letter on the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai. It's very kind for you to have brought his letter to me, and I'm glad to have received it.

I want to thank Hans Hickler, the CEO of DHL, who has joined us. I thank Chief LaMunyon, who Laura just talked about. He's the founder of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and he's here with his wife Sharron. Chief, appreciate you coming. Thanks for being a visionary. Glad you brought Sharron.

I thank the Special Olympic athletes, the final leg runners, and the law enforcement officials that have joined us today. Proud of your service, and proud of your compassion.

I remember when I was the Governor of the great State of Texas being a hugger. That was during the Special Olympic games. If you've never been a hugger, I strongly advise you to be one. [Laughter] That means you stand at the end of the finish line of a race and you hug the people coming across the line. It meant a lot to

me to be a hugger. It introduced me to the Special Olympics, and I have been a big backer of the Special Olympics, primarily because then, and since then, I have been inspired by the determination and the courage of our athletes.

And so we welcome you, and we welcome your families, and we welcome your coaches and your supporters. And to the family members and coaches and supporters, I thank you for helping our fellow citizens understand that the promise of this country belongs to every citizen. Over four decades, the Special Olympics has changed the lives of millions of people across the world. And we're proud to note that this noble mission began right here in America. And let me just say, I believe it is a fitting testimony to this country, that was based upon ideals of inclusion and acceptance and hope, that the games we honor today began right here in our country.

And ours is a country that constantly needs to strive to realize that vision. Interestingly enough, it was 17 years ago today that the Americans With Disabilities Act was signed into law at the White House. I know some folks here witnessed that signature. And I know a man who played a major role in getting that done, and that was the 41st President. You call him President; I call him dad. I am proud it was my dad that signed that law into being. I firmly believe millions of disabled Americans have found more opportunities to work and to contribute to our society because of that law.

There's more work to be done, and that's why my administration is building on progress through what we have called the New Freedom Initiative. It's a good initiative, and it's an important initiative, and it's an initiative that will help all Americans realize the great blessings of this country.

That's why the message of Special Olympics is important. That's why millions have joined this cause, Eunice. It started off as an idea, and now it's a worldwide movement. And that's why we look proudly upon

the “Flame of Hope,” which symbolizes the dreams of millions.

One of the athletes who is going to carry the torch today is Karen Dickerson. Karen is a tireless advocate for her fellow athletes. She’s what we’d call a fierce competitor. In the 2003 World Games in Ireland, Karen was told that she had a stress fracture in her leg. Yet through sheer will-power, she won the bronze medal. She has since run two Marine Corps Marathons. In the Boston Marathon this April, she finished in the top 10 percent of all women.

I want to thank you for being here. Karen should serve as an inspiration for a lot of folks in our country. You’re a true champ, just like every other Special Olympian that has joined us today and the millions who will be in Shanghai later on. Your success is best measured not by the medals you win but the kind of courage you show.

You follow your dreams, you never gave up, and you’ve shown us what the Olympic spirit is all about.

And so we send you to the World Games with our love and our prayers. We ask that you carry the greetings of the American people with you when you go to Shanghai and our wish for a world—and that you remind the people that our wish for our world is a more welcoming, more hopeful, and more peaceful place.

God bless you all, and good luck.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Hu Jintao of China. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Memorandum on the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign *July 26, 2007*

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: 2007 Combined Federal Campaign

Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, has agreed to serve as the Honorary National Chairman of the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign. I ask you to enthusiastically support the CFC by personally chairing the campaign in your agency and by exhorting top agency officials around the country to do the same.

The Combined Federal Campaign is an important way for Federal employees to support thousands of worthy charities. Public servants not only contribute to the campaign but also assume leadership roles to ensure its success.

Your personal support and enthusiasm will help positively influence thousands of employees and will guarantee another successful campaign.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks Following a Meeting With Economic Advisers on the National Economy *July 27, 2007*

I want to thank my economic advisers for joining me here in the Cabinet. Today

we’ve had wide-ranging discussions about