

grown; our Thanksgiving traditions have evolved—after all, they didn't have football back then. [Laughter] Yet the source of all our blessings remains the same. We give thanks to the Author of Life who granted our forefathers safe passage to this land, who gives every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth the gift of freedom, and who watches over our Nation every day.

I wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving. I offer Thanksgiving greetings to

every American citizen. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:24 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to John H. Hager, chairman, Republican Party of Virginia; and Beverly A. Washington, sheriff, Charles City County, Virginia. The related Thanksgiving Day proclamation of November 15 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the Resignation of Frances Fragos Townsend as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism *November 19, 2007*

Over the past 4½ years, Fran Townsend has served my administration with distinction as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. Fran has always provided wise counsel on how to best protect the American people from the threat of terrorism. She has been a steady leader in the effort to prevent and disrupt attacks and to better respond to natural disasters.

Fran's remarkable career as a public servant has spanned more than two decades. She has prosecuted violent crimes, narcotics offenses, mafia cases, and white collar fraud as an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn and as an assistant U.S. attorney in Manhattan. During her career, Fran worked to protect the American people as the Counsel to the Attorney General for Intelligence Policy, the Assistant Com-

mandant for Intelligence at the U.S. Coast Guard, and as the Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism at the National Security Council.

With her extensive experience, intellect, and candor, Fran has ably guided the Homeland Security Council. She has played an integral role in the formation of the key strategies and policies my administration has used to combat terror and protect Americans. She has traveled the world to meet with allies in the global war on terror and has partnered extensively with first-responders at the State and local level to enhance our preparedness. We are safer today because of her leadership.

Laura and I wish Fran, her husband John, and their two sons James and Patrick, all the best.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony *November 20, 2007*

The President. Good morning. Welcome to the Rose Garden. Thanks for coming.

We're glad you're here at the White House. Each of you is taking part in a tradition