

Americans expect their President to conduct the people's business. I will continue to uphold this solemn obligation for as long as this office remains in my trust. In the meantime, I join the American people in wishing President-elect Obama every success. Laura and I wish the Obama family as much joy and happiness as our family has found in this wonderful house.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on November 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 7, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks Following a Visit With Wounded Troops and Their Families at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

November 10, 2008

Admiral, thank you very much for leading an amazing group of men and women who provide such compassion and skill for those who have been wounded.

You know, I'm—appreciate the families who were so gracious to me here. One of the things I tell them is that their loved one is going to get fabulous medical care, and they do. It's inspiring to see the hard work. It's also inspiring to see the courage of the patients. I met some of the men that I'd seen 6 months ago; I came back, and they're totally different looking people. That's because of the good health care. It's

also because of their mental framework. They've decided that nothing's going to get them down, and they battled back. And they're—a lot of them are doing really well.

So I want to thank you for your time, and it's been an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such fine men and women.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rear Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, USN, commander, National Naval Medical Center.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 10, 2008

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Exec-

utive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2008.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of

the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks on Arrival in New York City *November 11, 2008*

### *Veterans Day*

As you can see, I have the honor of traveling with men and women who have volunteered to serve our Nation in a time of war. Behind me are five outstanding Americans representing each branch of the military service. I am with them today because we are celebrating Veterans Day.

Veterans have inspired troops such as these; veterans have inspired me. I was raised by a veteran. I appreciate the commitment to our country that the veterans have made. I am committed to making sure that today's veterans get all the health care and support they need from the Federal Government for agreeing to serve in a time of danger.

Our Nation is blessed because our liberties have been defended by brave men

and women in the past. And we are blessed to have brave men and women defend our liberties today.

God bless our veterans. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. at John F. Kennedy International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to CPO Shenequa Cox, USN, Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii; PO1 Christopher O. Hutto, USCG, Sector Jacksonville Aids to Navigation Team; S. Sgt. Michael Noyce Merino, USA, B Company, 1-163d Cavalry Regiment, Montana National Guard; SrA. Alicia Goetschel, USAF, 100th Security Forces Squadron; and Sgt. John Badon, USMC, Basic School for Martial Arts Center of Excellence.

## Remarks at a Rededication Ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City *November 11, 2008*

Thank you all. Thank you for the warm welcome. Be seated. Charles and Rich, thanks a lot. I gratefully accept the Freedom Award. And I'm honored to be with you today as we rededicate a great monument to freedom, the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. At this ceremony, we recognize nearly 55,000 Americans who served aboard the USS *Intrepid*, including some who are here today. And we commemorate Veterans Day by honoring all those who have worn the uniform of the Army, Navy,

Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. Thank you for serving our great Nation.

I am proud to be traveling with the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush, the most patient woman in America. [Laughter] Governor, thank you for joining us. Secretary Kempthorne, Senator Hillary Clinton, I'm proud to be with you. Thank you for being here. Congressman Pete King, Congressman Charlie Rangel, Congressman Anthony Weiner, thank you all for joining us today. Looking forward to that lame duck session, aren't we? [Laughter]