

superintendent, School District of Philadelphia; political activist Rev. Alfred C. Sharpton, Jr.; Eileen Spagnola, principal, General Philip Kearny School; Adam Bruck-

ner, assistant coach, Major Indoor Soccer League's Philadelphia Kixx; and Lawrence Jones, president, Pennsylvania Coalition for Charter School.

## Statement on the Death of Father Richard John Neuhaus *January 8, 2009*

Laura and I are saddened by the death of Father Richard John Neuhaus. Father Neuhaus was an inspirational leader, admired theologian, and accomplished author who devoted his life to the service of the Almighty and to the betterment of our

world. He was also a dear friend, and I have treasured his wise counsel and guidance.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Father Neuhaus's family, friends, and fellow clergy during this difficult time.

## Statement on Senator Christopher S. "Kit" Bond's Decision Not To Seek Reelection *January 8, 2009*

Senator Kit Bond has been a wonderful public servant and statesman for the people of Missouri. During more than three decades of service as Governor and United States Senator, Kit has been a tireless advocate for our children, our military, and our Nation's intelligence community. He played a vital role in the effort to modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Be-

cause of his leadership, we are protecting the liberties of our citizens while gathering vital information we need to prevent attacks on our soil.

I have been honored to work with Senator Bond during my time as President, and Laura and I wish Kit, Linda, and their son Samuel all the best in the future.

## The President's Radio Address *January 10, 2009*

Good morning. This week, I gave my official farewell speech to the men and women of America's Armed Forces in a ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia. For the past 8 years, I have had no higher honor than serving as the Commander in Chief of these brave patriots. And when Laura and I depart for Texas later this month, we will take with us many inspiring memo-

ries of the valor that we have seen these brave Americans display time and again.

We saw their valor on September the 11th, 2001, in servicemembers rushing into smoke-filled corridors to save their colleagues at the Pentagon and in planes patrolling the skies above New York City and Washington, DC.