

students or the poor, but asks a little bit from everybody.

And making sure that we can still invest in things like early childhood education and making sure that we're investing in research and science so that we can continue to maintain our cutting edge internationally, rebuilding our infrastructure so that we continue to have the best infrastructure in the world—these are not things that, in the past at least, have been Democrat and Republican.

I come from the “Land of Lincoln,” and it turns out that was the first Republican President’s agenda as well. He wanted to build railroads and locks and dams, and he started the National Foundation for Science and started land-grant colleges because he understood that we have a free market and the genius of America is unleashing the capacities of our people. But he also understood that there’s a role for Government to play to make sure that everybody is getting a fair shot, to make sure that there are ladders of opportunity, to make sure that everybody can realize their full potential.

So these aren’t Democratic ideas, these are American ideas. Unfortunately, they’ve gotten caught up in some partisan politics. And we’re going to do everything we can over the next year and a half to break through that.

So, occasionally, I may make some of you angry because I am going to reach out to Republicans. I’m going to keep on doing it. Even if some of you guys think I’m a sap, I will keep on doing it—[laughter]—because I think that’s what the country needs. But what I also believe in is that when Democrats have the opportunity to set the agenda, then we don’t have a country where just a few are doing really, really well; we’ve got a country where potentially everybody has a chance to do well if they’re

willing to work hard and if they’re willing to take responsibility.

That’s what we’re fighting for. That’s why you’re here. And I hope that all of you recognize that despite the fact that I’ve got a lot of gray hair and I don’t look exactly like I did the first time I came to Dallas as a potential Senate candidate, the same passion and the same values that motivated me then are the values that motivate me now and that we win elections to give us the possibility of actually getting stuff done on behalf of the American people. We don’t win elections just to have a party on Inauguration Day, and we don’t win elections just so we’ve got a title on our door, and we don’t win elections just because it’s sport. We win elections so that we have the possibility of delivering for the American people. And delivering means sustained work after the election.

So I can’t do that by myself. I can only do it with you. And as Larry helpfully reminded me, I understand that Texas is a so-called red State, but you’ve got 10 million Democrats here in Texas. And beyond the fact that there are a whole lot of Democrats in Texas, there are a whole lot of people here in Texas who need us and who need us to fight for them. And I don’t know about you, but I intend to fight for them as long as I have the honor of holding this office and probably a little bit after that as well.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:06 p.m. at the residence of Naomi Aberly and Laurence H. Lebowitz. In his remarks, he referred to former U.S. Trade Representative Ronald Kirk. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony for the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas *April 25, 2013*

Thank you. Please be seated. To President Bush and Mrs. Bush; to President Clinton and now former Secretary Clinton; to President

George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Bush; to President and Mrs. Carter; to current and former world leaders and all the distinguished guests

here today: Michelle and I are honored to be with you to mark this historic occasion.

This is a Texas-sized party. And that's worthy of what we're here to do today: honor the life and legacy of the 43d President of the United States, George W. Bush.

When all the living former Presidents are together, it's also a special day for our democracy. We've been called "the world's most exclusive club," and we do have a pretty nice clubhouse. But the truth is, our club is more like a support group. The last time we all got together was just before I took office. And I needed that. Because as each of these leaders will tell you, no matter how much you may think you're ready to assume the office of the Presidency, it's impossible to truly understand the nature of the job until it's yours, until you're sitting at that desk.

And that's why every President gains a greater appreciation for all those who served before him, for the leaders from both parties who have taken on the momentous challenges and felt the enormous weight of a nation on their shoulders. And for me, that appreciation very much extends to President Bush.

The first thing I found in that desk the day I took office was a letter from George, and one that demonstrated his compassion and generosity. For he knew that I would come to learn what he had learned: that being President, above all, is a humbling job. There are moments where you make mistakes. There are times where you wish you could turn back the clock. And what I know is true about President Bush, and I hope my successor will say about me, is that we love this country and we do our best.

Now, in the past, President Bush has said it's impossible to pass judgment on his Presidency while he's still alive. So maybe this is a little bit premature. But even now there are certain things that we know for certain.

We know about the son who was raised by two strong, loving parents in Midland, famously inheriting, as he says, "my daddy's eyes and my mother's mouth." [Laughter] The young boy who once came home after a trip to a museum and proudly presented his horrified

mother with a small dinosaur tailbone he had smuggled home in his pocket. [Laughter] I'll bet that went over great with Barbara.

We know about the young man who met the love of his life at a dinner party, ditching his plans to go to bed early and instead talking with the brilliant and charming Laura Welch late into the night.

We know about the father who raised two remarkable, caring, beautiful daughters, even after they tried to discourage him from running for President, saying, "Dad, you're not as cool as you think you are." [Laughter] Mr. President, I can relate. [Laughter] And now we see President Bush the grandfather, just beginning to spoil his brandnew granddaughter.

So we know President Bush the man. And what President Clinton said is absolutely true: To know the man is to like the man, because he's comfortable in his own skin. He knows who he is. He doesn't put on any pretenses. He takes his job seriously, but he doesn't take himself too seriously. He is a good man.

But we also know something about George Bush the leader. As we walk through this library, obviously, we're reminded of the incredible strength and resolve that came through that bullhorn as he stood amid the rubble and the ruins of Ground Zero, promising to deliver justice to those who had sought to destroy our way of life.

We remember the compassion that he showed by leading the global fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria, helping to save millions of lives, and reminding people in some of the poorest corners of the globe that America cares and that we're here to help.

We remember his commitment to reaching across the aisle to unlikely allies like Ted Kennedy, because he believed that we had to reform our schools in ways that help every child learn, not just some; that we have to repair a broken immigration system; and that this progress is only possible when we do it together.

Seven years ago, President Bush restarted an important conversation by speaking with the American people about our history as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. And even though comprehensive immigration

reform has taken a little longer than any of us expected, I am hopeful that this year, with the help of Speaker Boehner and some of the Senators and Members of Congress who are here today, that we bring it home for our families and our economy and our security and for this incredible country that we love. And if we do that, it will be in large part thanks to the hard work of President George W. Bush.

And finally, a President bears no greater decision and no more solemn burden than serving as Commander in Chief of the greatest military that the world has ever known. As President Bush himself has said, "America must and will keep its word to the men and women who have given us so much." So even as we Americans may at times disagree on matters of foreign policy, we share a profound respect and reverence for the men and women of our military and their families. And we are united in our determination to comfort the families of the fallen and to care for those who wear the uniform of the United States.

On the flight back from Russia, after negotiating with Nikita Khrushchev at the height of the cold war, President Kennedy's secretary found a small slip of paper on which the Presi-

dent had written a favorite saying: "I know there is a God. And I see a storm coming. If he has a place for me, I believe I am ready."

No one can be completely ready for this office. But America needs leaders who are willing to face the storm head on, even as they pray for God's strength and wisdom so that they can do what they believe is right. And that's what the leaders with whom I share this stage have all done. That's what President George W. Bush chose to do. That's why I'm honored to be part of today's celebration.

Mr. President, for your service, for your courage, for your sense of humor, and most of all, for your love of country, thank you very much. From all the citizens of the United States of America, God bless you. And God bless these United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:42 a.m. at the George W. Bush Presidential Center on the campus of Southern Methodist University. In his remarks, he referred to Barbara P. Bush and Jenna Bush Hager, daughters, and Margaret Laura "Mila" Hager, granddaughter, of former President George W. Bush.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for the Victims of the Explosion at the West Fertilizer Company Plant at Baylor University in Waco, Texas *April 25, 2013*

Please. Thank you, Senator Cornyn, Governor Perry, President Starr, gathered dignitaries, the community of Baylor and Waco, most of all, the family and the friends and neighbors of West, Texas.

I cannot match the power of the voices you just heard on that video. And no words adequately describe the courage that was displayed on that deadly night. What I can do is offer the love and support and prayers of the Nation.

The Book of Psalms tells us: "For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us. We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance." We went through fire and through water; yet

you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

For this State, for our country, these have been trying and difficult days. We gather here in Texas to mourn brave men who went through fire and all those who have been taken from us. We remain mindful of our fellow Americans in flooded States to the north who endure the high waters. We pray for those in Boston who have been tested and the wounded whose greatest tests still lie ahead.

But know this: While the eyes of the world may have been fixed on places far away, our hearts have also been here, in your time of tribulation. And even amidst such sorrow and so much pain, we recognize God's abundance.