

Africa, and in the flak-filled skies over France and Germany.

Americans on the home front responded with equal gallantry and strength. Stepping forward to close the gap left by departing servicemen, the very young, the elderly, minority workers, and women filled America's factories and shipyards. Working around the clock, they built the ships, planes, tanks, and guns that armed the forces of freedom and made our Nation the "Arsenal of Democracy." In fields, on farms, and in neighborhood Victory Gardens, they produced the food to sustain our Nation, our troops, and our Allies. Millions left their homes to do their part, and few American families were untouched by the hardships and sacrifices demanded by this unprecedented effort.

While more than half a century separates us from the attack on Pearl Harbor, we still can learn much from the example, achievements, and heroic deeds of those Americans who preserved the flame of liberty and passed it around the world. They taught us that America is the world's best hope for freedom and democracy and that we must never shrink from the responsibilities of that leadership. They taught us the need for constant vigilance, a powerful military, and strength of character. They showed us that, when Americans are united in heart and mind, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

As we remember Pearl Harbor, let us also remember and give thanks for that great and gallant leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose memorial we dedicated earlier this year in our Nation's Capital. In December of 1941, in one of our Nation's darkest hours, he proclaimed his faith in the ultimate victory of freedom over tyranny that, sadly, he did not live to see:

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph. So help us God.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, has designated December 7, 1997, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 1997, as

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the Americans who served at Pearl Harbor. I also ask all Federal departments and agencies, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on this day in honor of those Americans who died as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:10 p.m., December 8, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 9.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 1

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to the White House from Camp David, MD.

December 2

In the evening, the President attended a professional basketball game at the grand opening of the MCI Center. Prior to the game, he toured the new facility and visited with members of the Washington Wizards and the Seattle SuperSonics. During the game, the President was interviewed on cable television's ESPN and TNT.

The White House announced that the President named former Representative Howard Wolpe as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State to Africa's Great Lakes region.

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Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

The White House announced that the President will travel to New York and Florida on December 10–11.

December 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Akron, OH, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Chicago, IL. In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

December 4

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended a screening of the film “Amistad” at the Warner Theater.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jose Luis Ruiz as a member of the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters.

December 5

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted a holiday reception in the Diplomatic Reception Room.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 29

Statement by the Press Secretary: Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations Resolution on Partition

Released December 1

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released December 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Director of Communications Ann Lewis on the President’s initiative on race

Statement by the Press Secretary on appointment of the Special Envoy to Africa’s Great Lakes region

Announcement of appointment of Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Released December 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released December 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling, Council on Environmental Quality Chair Kathleen McGinty, and the Vice President’s National Security Adviser Leon Fuerth on the Vice President’s visit to Kyoto, Japan, for the conference on the international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions

Released December 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Canada Tony Wayne and NSC Senior Director for European Affairs Donald K. Bandler on the European Union-United States summit

Fact sheet: The New Transatlantic Agenda

Fact sheet: U.S.-European Union Relations

Announcement of appointment of four members of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare