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Tree. Leon and Faith's fathers, Major Clifford Patterson and Lt. Commander Robert Elseth, served in the United States military. Both of these good men were lost in the attack on the Pentagon.

Leon and Faith, we thank you for helping us celebrate Christmas. You remind us of the comfort of Christmas, that hope never fails and love never ends.

And now, would you please help Laura light up our beautiful tree.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. on the Ellipse during the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace. In his remarks, he referred to Peter F. Nostrand, chairman, Christmas Pageant of Peace, and television weatherman Doug Hill, who played Santa Claus.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

December 6, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for passing legislation that will restore our Nation's authority to negotiate trade agreements. Trade promotion authority will give me the flexibility I need to secure the greatest possible trade opportunities for America's farmers, workers, families, and consumers.

Trade promotion authority is a key part of our trade agenda. It will help us pursue and complete trade agreements, including the global trade negotiations launched last month in Doha, Qatar. By promoting open trade, we expand export markets and create high-paying jobs for Americans, while providing opportunities for other nations as a result of free trade.

Now that the House has acted, I urge the Senate to move quickly to send me a trade promotion authority bill I can sign.

Proclamation 7511—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2001

December 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On the morning of December 7, 1941, America was attacked without warning at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the air and naval forces of Imperial Japan. More than 2,400 people perished and another 1,100 were wounded, triggering our entry into World War II.

Today, we honor those killed 60 years ago and those who survived to fight on other fronts in the four succeeding years of world war. We also remember the millions of brave Americans who answered our country's call to the battlefield, to the factory, and to the farm, remembering Pearl Harbor by their deeds, their devotion to duty, and their willingness to fight for freedom. The attack at Pearl Harbor fired the American spirit with a determination that freedom would not fall to tyranny; and the United States and its allies fought to victory, preserving a world in which democracy could grow. The tragedy of December 7, 1941, remains seared upon our collective national memory, a recollection that serves not just as a symbol of American military valor and American resolve, but also as a reminder of the presence of evil in the world and the need to remain ever vigilant against it.

Now, another date will forever stand alongside December 7—September 11, 2001. On that day, our people and our way of life again were brutally and suddenly attacked, though not by a complex military maneuver, but by the surreptitious wiles of evil terrorists who took cruel and heartless advantage of the freedoms guaranteed by our Nation. Their target was not chiefly our military, but innocent civilians. We fight now to defend freedom, secure civilization, and ensure the survival of our American way of life.

As we fight to defend what we believe is right, we remember the sacrifice of those who have gone before us—not only the heroes of Pearl Harbor but all the men and women of the greatest of generations who

defeated tyranny. We are grateful for their service, and honor it by pledging to do our best to secure for our children, our grandchildren, and all of posterity the continuing blessings of liberty.

The Congress, by Public Law 103–308, as amended, has designated December 7, 2001, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2001, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this and every December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:51 a.m., December 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Norfolk, Virginia

December 7, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. I'm grateful for this warm welcome on the deck of the "Big E." America is proud of this fine carrier, and we're really proud of her crew. You're serving at a crucial moment for the cause of peace and freedom, and your country thanks you.

This is a fitting place to mark one of the most fateful days in American history. On December the 7th, 1941, the enemy attacked. Today is an anniversary of a tragedy for the United States Navy. Yet, out of that tragedy, America built the strongest Navy in the world. And there is no better symbol of that strength than the U.S.S. *Enterprise.*

What happened at Pearl Harbor was the start of a long and terrible war for America. Yet, out of that surprise attack grew a steadfast resolve that made America freedom's defender. And that mission—our great calling—continues to this hour, as the brave men and women of our military fight the forces of terror in Afghanistan and around the world.

We are joined this afternoon by some distinguished guests. The Governor of this great Commonwealth is with us, Jim Gilmore. Members of the congressional delegation from Virginia are here with us, and I want to thank them for coming as well. I want to thank my friend Tony Principi, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who is here, a Naval Academy grad who served our country with bravery and distinction during the Vietnam era.

I want to thank Gordon England, the Secretary of the Navy, who is doing such a fine job representing the Navy in the Pentagon. I want to thank Admiral Natter, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. I always like a good Southern accent up here on the East Coast. [*Laughter*] I thank Sandy Winnefeld, the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. *Enterprise.* And I want to thank the crew of this fine ship and all your families who are here as well. And I thank General Kernan for being here as well.

We are especially honored to share this anniversary with 25 living witnesses to Pearl Harbor on December the 7th, 1941. Thank you all for being here. They saw the attack and knew its victims by name. They can recall the last moments of peace, the first moments of war, and the faces of lost friends, forever young in memory. These veterans represent the noble history and traditions of the United States military. And I ask the Navy of today to please join me in honoring these fine men from the military of yesterday.