

have accommodated a lot more people if we had a bigger room. But Dr. Marburger told me that at the reception other family members will be there. Please give them my best, and sorry I couldn't extol your virtues in front of them, in their person. But I want to welcome you all as well to the White House. It's quite a place to go to work, as I'm sure you can imagine. And I hope you recognize it's quite a place to receive an award too.

The honorees are—you're serving America; that's what you're doing. And you're doing so in the best of—in the best of the public interest. And for that, we're grateful.

You're learning how the smallest known particles operate and interact. You're laying down the foundation for new methods of diagnosing and treating cancer and heart disease, doing research to protect Americans against threats posed by chemical weapons. You're exploring the uncharted territory of the human mind.

Your work advances important national goals. And accomplishing these goals requires the cooperation amongst scientists and engineers in our universities, our Government agencies, and, of course, in the private sector.

This award is a statement of our confidence, the Nation's confidence and the tremendous good that can come when the America Government supports the genius of the American people.

My administration is continuing a great tradition. Whether finding cures for diseases or learning how to better predict natural disasters or developing information technology that unites the world, Government-funded basic research expands knowledge and learning and helps our people to live longer and healthier and more satisfying lives. We are committed to basic research from the Federal Government. And we will keep that commitment so long as we're here.

Innovation is one of our greatest national strengths. It drives our economy. It helps protect our environment. And the truth of the matter is, it improves lives all across the globe. In all of your work, you're contributing to the strength of America and to the well-being of our people.

You probably have become scientists or engineers because you're motivated by the

thrill of discovery—I suspect that's the case—or by the quest to push outward the bounds of human knowledge. And many of you will make significant discoveries. It probably won't be household names—not all that bad, I might add. [*Laughter*] But Americans will know your work because it will touch their lives, and I hope you understand that that in itself is a great honor and a great accomplishment.

You'll blaze the trail for others who will build on your successes and then, of course, discover their own. That's the wonders of science and engineering.

I appreciate the fact that many of you are already inspiring young boys and girls to explore their interest in science and engineering. That in itself is an incredibly important contribution to our country, to excite youngsters about the promise and hope of science and promise and hope of engineering. By involving students in your work and creating opportunities for young Americans to learn about career opportunities in the sciences, you're opening minds and opening doors to future researchers. Your impact will be felt for decades to come, and that's why I've come to speak to you.

So on behalf of all Americans, I want to thank you for your commitment to improving lives and exploring new horizons. I congratulate you for your hard work. I urge you not to stop, to keep using your God-given talents and your God-given genius to make the world better for all of us.

May God bless your work, and God bless America. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Statement on Iran

July 12, 2002

We have seen throughout history the power of one simple idea: When given a choice, people will choose freedom. As we have witnessed over the past few days, the people of Iran want the same freedoms, human rights, and opportunities as people around the world. Their Government should listen to their hopes.

In the last two Iranian Presidential elections and in nearly a dozen parliamentary and local elections, the vast majority of the Iranian people voted for political and economic reform. Yet their voices are not being listened to by the unelected people who are the real rulers of Iran. Uncompromising, destructive policies have persisted, and far too little has changed in the daily lives of the Iranian people. Iranian students, journalists, and Parliamentarians are still arrested, intimidated, and abused for advocating reform or criticizing the ruling regime. Independent publications are suppressed. And talented students and professionals, faced with the dual specter of too few jobs and too many restrictions on their freedom, continue to seek opportunities abroad rather than help build Iran's future at home. Meanwhile, members of the ruling regime and their families continue to obstruct reform while reaping unfair benefits.

Iran is an ancient land, home to a proud culture with a rich heritage of learning and progress. The future of Iran will be decided by the people of Iran. Right now, the Iranian people are struggling with difficult questions about how to build a modern 21st-century society that is at once Muslim, prosperous, and free. There is a long history of friendship between the American people and the people of Iran. As Iran's people move towards a future defined by greater freedom, greater tolerance, they will have no better friend than the United States of America.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Amendments

July 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Securities and Exchange Commission and for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development. The discretionary budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2003 budget would not be increased by these requests.

This transmittal also contains FY 2003 budget amendments for the legislative

branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the legislative branch are transmitted without change. These additional amendments would increase discretionary resources for the legislative branch by \$17.7 million.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Funds for the Disaster Relief Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

July 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$500 million for the disaster relief program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These funds would allow FEMA to continue providing assistance to victims of disasters in several States, including victims of recent flooding in Texas and wild fires in Arizona and Colorado. These funds would also be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that FEMA has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate the funds made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush