

We stand for a culture of responsibility in America. We're changing the culture of America from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you're worried about the quality of the education in which you live, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you have a responsibility to tell the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in this new responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we would like to be loved ourselves.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This is not one of those times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high and the challenges are difficult, a time when resolve is needed.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. I remember a lot about that day. I remember the workers in hardhats who were shouting, "Whatever it takes." I remember the guy who pointed at me and said, "Don't let me down." As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

In these times, I've also been a witness to the character of this Nation. Not so long ago, some had their doubts about the American character, our capacity to meet serious challenges, our capacity to serve a cause greater than self-interest. But Americans have given their answer. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We will need all of these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every part of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our country, the best days lie ahead.

God bless you all. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:52 p.m. at the Shrine Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Brad Freeman, California State finance chairman, Gerald L. Parsky, California State chairman, and Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; and Bill Simon, former California gubernatorial candidate, and his wife, Cindy.

Statement on Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

March 3, 2004

For 17 years, Ben Nighthorse Campbell has been a strong advocate in the Congress for the people of Colorado. He has been a leader in seeking the protection of our public lands and natural resources and a tireless champion for Native Americans. Ben is a patriot who has served his country in Congress, as an airman in Korea, and as a competitor in the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Laura and I send our best to Ben, his wife, Linda, and their family.

Proclamation 7759—American Red Cross Month, 2004

March 3, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton and chartered by the Congress in 1905 to provide humanitarian services to the United States in times of need. Today, the Red Cross remains dedicated to relieving suffering by helping our citizens prepare for and respond to emergencies and natural disasters.