

times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This isn't one of those times. This is a time that requires firm resolve, clear vision, and a deep faith in the values that make this a great nation.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. I certainly won't. I was there in the ruins of the Twin Towers on September the 14th, 2001. The workers there—I can still hear them—were chanting at me, “Whatever it takes.” I was doing my best to console folks who had just come out of the rubble. A guy grabbed me by the arm. He looked me straight in the eye and said, “You do not let me down.” Ever since that day, I wake up trying to figure out how best to protect our country. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Four years ago, as I traveled your great State asking for the vote, I made a pledge. I said that if you gave me the chance to serve, I would uphold the honor and the dignity of the office to which I had been elected. With your help, with your hard work, I will do so for 4 more years.

God bless. Thanks for coming. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:03 p.m. at the Bangor International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Zell Miller of Georgia, who made the keynote address at the Republican National Convention; Peter Cianchette, Maine State chairman, and Jim Tobin, New England regional chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Brian Hamel, candidate for Congress in Maine's 2d Congressional District; Charlie Summers, candidate for Congress in Maine's 1st Congressional District; country music entertainer Mark Wills; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Remarks to Army Reservists and National Guard Troops Departing for Iraq From Bangor

September 23, 2004

The President. I want to thank you all very much.

Troops. Hooah!

The President. I appreciate your service to the country. I appreciate being in the presence of such fine men and women. May God bless you all. May God keep you safe. May God bless America as well. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:47 p.m. aboard a World Airlines plane at the Air National Guard Base at Bangor International Airport. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Passage of Legislation To Extend Tax Relief

September 23, 2004

The tax relief I worked with Congress to pass is putting more money into the hands of the American people and helping to grow our economy. As the economy strengthens, the last thing hard-working American families need is a tax increase. I commend the Members of Congress for acting to extend marriage penalty relief, the \$1,000 child tax credit, and the broader 10-percent individual tax rate—which would otherwise expire this year and raise taxes on nearly 94 million Americans. This legislation will give families and small businesses added certainty and keep us on the path to greater prosperity, and it brings us one step closer to making the tax relief permanent.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5765

September 23, 2004

“The Lord, the Lord God is gracious and compassionate, patient, abounding in kindness and faithfulness, assuring love for a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, and granting pardon.”

Exodus: 34:6–7

On Yom Kippur, Jews around the world gather to mark the holiest day of the year, the Sabbath of Sabbaths. Jewish tradition teaches that on this day, we receive God's mercy through acts of atonement, prayer, and charity. During this season of prayer and intense reflection, may you find comfort in