

the mourners have moved out of the cemetery, the music begins to speed up and the procession is joined by a joyful second line, with crowds of people dancing and celebrating the triumph of spirit over death.

Today Irvin Mayfield will play a song in the great tradition called “Just a Closer Walk With Thee.” It’s the first song he learned from his dad. He played it at his dad’s—in his dad’s memory after Hurricane Katrina, and then he retired the song. We’re honored that he’s decided to play it one last time, right here in the White House.

Irvin, we thank you for your personal courage and your dedication to others in a time of adversity. I have no doubt that with every good deed you perform and every note you play, your dad is smiling down on you. God bless you, Irvin.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Irvin Mayfield.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:23 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to civil rights leader Dorothy I. Height; Alana Beard, guard and forward, Washington Mystics; Women’s National Basketball Association; and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, former National Basketball Association center.

Statement Marking 10 Years After Attack on Khobar Towers

June 26, 2006

Ten years ago yesterday, in an attack on the Khobar Towers apartment complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, 19 members of our Armed Forces were killed and hundreds of other Americans were injured by terrorists who we believe were working with Iranian officials. We honor the courage of those who paid the ultimate price in defending our country. America will carry on the legacy of these fallen heroes by continuing the mission for which they gave their lives: defeating tyranny, defending freedom, and protecting their fellow citizens.

Laura and I offer our prayers and the gratitude of this great Nation to the families who lost loved ones in that brutal attack. These families can know that their loved ones will always be remembered and that we will re-

main determined in our efforts to bring to justice those responsible for this attack.

In remembrance of those who lost their lives ten years ago, I ask Americans to keep their families in your hearts and your prayers.

Proclamation 8032—Independence Day, 2006

June 26, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On July 4, 1776, our Nation’s Founders declared “That these United Colonies are, and of Right, ought to be free and Independent States.” This declaration marked a great milestone in the history of human freedom. On the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we pay tribute to the courage and dedication of those who created this country, and we celebrate the values of liberty and equality that make our country strong.

The patriots of the Revolutionary War acted on the beliefs that “all men are created equal” and “that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” By advancing these ideals, generations of Americans have unleashed the hope of freedom for people in every corner of the world.

As we celebrate our independence, Americans can take pride in our history and look to the future with confidence. We offer our gratitude to all the American patriots, past and present, who have sought to advance freedom and lay the foundations of peace. Because of their sacrifice, this country remains a beacon of hope for all who dream of liberty and a shining example to the world of what a free people can achieve. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

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 July 4, 2006, as Independence Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe with all due ceremony our Independence Day as a time

to honor our Founders and their legacy of freedom and remember with thankfulness the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 28, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 29.

Executive Order 13407—Public Alert and Warning System

June 26, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*), and the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended (6 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to have an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system to alert and warn the American people in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public safety and well-being (public alert and warning system), taking appropriate account of the functions, capabilities, and needs of the private sector and of all levels of government in our Federal system, and to ensure that under all conditions the President can communicate with the American people.

Sec. 2. Functions of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(a) To implement the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall:

- (i) inventory, evaluate, and assess the capabilities and integration with the public alert and warning system of Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local public alert and warning resources;

- (ii) establish or adopt, as appropriate, common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures for the public alert and warning system to enable interoperability and the secure delivery of coordinated messages to the American people through as many communication pathways as practicable, taking account of Federal Communications Commission rules as provided by law;
- (iii) ensure the capability to adapt the distribution and content of communications on the basis of geographic location, risks, or personal user preferences, as appropriate;
- (iv) include in the public alert and warning system the capability to alert and warn all Americans, including those with disabilities and those without an understanding of the English language;
- (v) through cooperation with the owners and operators of communication facilities, maintain, protect, and, if necessary, restore communications facilities and capabilities necessary for the public alert and warning system;
- (vi) ensure the conduct of training, tests, and exercises for the public alert and warning system;
- (vii) ensure the conduct of public education efforts so that State, territorial, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and the American people understand the functions of the public alert and warning system and how to access, use, and respond to information from the public alert and warning system;
- (viii) consult, coordinate, and cooperate with the private sector, including communications media organizations, and Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governmental authorities, including emergency response providers, as appropriate;
- (ix) administer the Emergency Alert System (EAS) as a critical component of the public alert and warning system; and