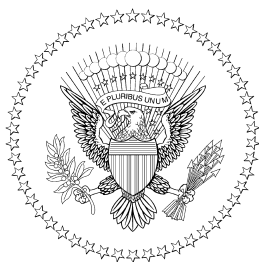


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, July 3, 2006
Volume 42—Number 26
Pages 1219–1257

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on June 30, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, June 30, 2006

Executive Order 13406—Protecting the Property Rights of the American People

June 23, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen the rights of the American people against the taking of their private property, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to protect the rights of Americans to their private property, including by limiting the taking of private property by the Federal Government to situations in which the taking is for public use, with just compensation, and for the purpose of benefiting the general public and not merely for the purpose of advancing the economic interest of private parties to be given ownership or use of the property taken.

Sec. 2. Implementation. (a) The Attorney General shall:

- (i) issue instructions to the heads of departments and agencies to implement the policy set forth in section 1 of this order; and
- (ii) monitor takings by departments and agencies for compliance with the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.
- (b) Heads of departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law:
 - (i) comply with instructions issued under subsection (a)(i); and
 - (ii) provide to the Attorney General such information as the Attorney General determines necessary to carry out subsection (a)(ii).

Sec. 3. Specific Exclusions. Nothing in this order shall be construed to prohibit a taking of private property by the Federal Government, that otherwise complies with applicable law, for the purpose of:

- (a) public ownership or exclusive use of the property by the public, such as for a pub-

lic medical facility, roadway, park, forest, governmental office building, or military reservation;

- (b) projects designated for public, common carrier, public transportation, or public utility use, including those for which a fee is assessed, that serve the general public and are subject to regulation by a governmental entity;

- (c) conveying the property to a nongovernmental entity, such as a telecommunications or transportation common carrier, that makes the property available for use by the general public as of right;

- (d) preventing or mitigating a harmful use of land that constitutes a threat to public health, safety, or the environment;

- (e) acquiring abandoned property;

- (f) quieting title to real property;

- (g) acquiring ownership or use by a public utility;

- (h) facilitating the disposal or exchange of Federal property; or

- (i) meeting military, law enforcement, public safety, public transportation, or public health emergencies.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

- (b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to a department or agency or the head thereof; or

- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

- (c) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with Executive Order 12630 of March 15, 1988.

- (d) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity against the United States, its departments,

agencies, entities, officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 23, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., June 27, 2006]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 28. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 24, 2006

Good morning. This past week, I traveled to Austria and Hungary, where I had productive meetings with our European allies. We discussed the challenges and opportunities we share, including the importance of spreading prosperity at home and around the world. It's good to be back home, and I'm pleased to report that our economy is strong, growing, and delivering prosperity to more of our people.

Let me give you a few facts. In the first quarter of 2006, our economy grew at an impressive annual rate of 5.3 percent. Since August of 2003, America has created more than 5.3 million new jobs, more than all 25 nations of the European Union combined. Productivity is growing, and wages are beginning to rise. And because taxes are low, workers are keeping more of the money they earn.

Our economy is heading into the summer on the fast track, and one of the best ways to keep our momentum going is to restrain spending in Washington, DC. Earlier this month, Congress took an important step by passing an emergency spending bill that stayed within the strict spending limits I set. The bill included necessary funding for high priorities, such as equipping our military and rebuilding the gulf coast, and it showed discipline in other areas. Congress deserves credit for meeting my spending limits, and I was pleased to sign the emergency spending bill into law.

As Members of Congress show restraint on spending bills, they also need to make reforms in the spending process. Under the

current system, many lawmakers are able to insert funding for pet projects into large spending bills. This process is called earmarking, and it often results in unnecessary spending. For example, a bill to fund our military can be loaded up with unjustified earmarks and other spending that may not add to our national security.

This leaves Members of Congress with two bad options—they can either vote against the whole bill, including all the worthwhile spending, or they have to accept the whole bill, including the wasteful spending. The President is left with the same dilemma—either he has to veto the entire bill or sign the bill and approve the unnecessary spending.

There's a smarter way to handle taxpayer dollars, and it begins with granting the President a tool called the line-item veto. A line-item veto would allow the President to remove wasteful spending from a bill while preserving the rest of the legislation. Forty-three of our Nation's 50 Governors have line-item veto authority, and they have used that authority to remove needless spending from otherwise good bills.

Ten years ago, Members of Congress from both parties voted to grant President Clinton the line-item veto. However, the Supreme Court ruled that version of the line-item veto unconstitutional because it took too much spending authority away from the Congress. I proposed a new version of the line-item veto that fixes the problem and gives the President a clear and constitutional way to cut wasteful spending. Under my proposal, the President would identify a list of unnecessary items that should be removed from a larger spending bill. Congress would then be required to hold a prompt up-or-down vote on the list.

A line-item veto would give the President a way to insist on greater discipline in the budget. A line-item veto would reduce the incentive for Congress to spend wastefully because when lawmakers know their pet projects will be held up to public scrutiny, they will be less likely to suggest them in the first place. Most importantly, a line-item veto would benefit American taxpayers by ensuring greater respect for their hard-earned dollars.

This past Thursday, the House of Representatives passed a bill granting line-item-veto authority. This was a victory for the taxpayers and for spending restraint. I call on the Senate to show a bipartisan commitment to fiscal discipline by passing the line-item veto so we can work together to cut wasteful spending, reduce the deficit, and save money for American taxpayers.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on June 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Organizations That Support the United States Military in Iraq and Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters

June 26, 2006

The President. I have just had a remarkable discussion with some of my fellow citizens who have dedicated their lives to making sure our troops know that this country supports them as they help secure our country and spread freedom.

One of the amazing things about America is that people are desirous of coming together to support a neighbor in need. And we've got kids who are overseas defending this country, and we've got people at this table who are supporting their families, their loved ones, and most importantly, the troops who are in harm's way.

There's an organization called America Supports You. I would hope my fellow citizens would look on the web page, americasupportsyoudotmil, to determine how you can help support our troops if you so desire. I would urge Americans to do that, and around the table are leaders of the different organizations that make up this umbrella group. We've heard from people that are helping families of the wounded. We're talking to people who are using their position in different fields, like the entertainment

field, to go over and provide hope for our troops. We're talking to moms and wives of those who have volunteered to serve our country.

But I want to thank you all for joining us, and thank you for serving your country. I told the folks here that the politics in Washington can be rough. But make no mistake about it, I am determined to succeed. And we will implement a plan to achieve victory, which is necessary, and that they need to tell the troops that no matter how tough it looks here in the Nation's capital, that I know we're doing the right thing, and I know we will win.

I'll take a couple of questions. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Iraq/U.S. Armed Forces

Q. Mr. President, General Casey saw you on Friday, and it's been reported that he's talked about withdrawing two brigades from Iraq by this year. Can you tell us what he recommended to you?

The President. First of all, I did meet with General Casey, and I met with him because it's very important for me, as well as Secretary Rumsfeld, to meet with our commander on the ground. I've told the American people our commanders will be making the decisions as to how to achieve victory, and General Casey, of course, is the lead person. So we had a good visit with him.

And we talked about a lot of things. The first thing we talked about was the joint operations with the Iraqi forces to secure Baghdad and how that's going. We talked about the actions we're taking in Ramadi. The coalition is in the lead in Ramadi, and we're trying to make sure Ramadi does not become a safe haven for Al Qaida. And so he explained to me the tactics on the ground, what we're doing to secure that city and to run the Al Qaida-types out.

We talked about the Iraqi training mission. And as you well know, our standards are, as Iraqis stand up, the coalition will be able to stand down. And he talked about that kind of progress.

But in terms of our troop presence there, that decision will be made by General Casey, as well as the sovereign Government of Iraq, based upon conditions on the ground. And

one of the things that General Casey assured me of is that whatever recommendation he makes, it will be aimed toward achieving victory. And that's what we want. And victory means a free Government that is able to sustain itself, defend itself. It's a Government that will be an ally in the war on terror. It's a Government that will be able to fight off Al Qaida and its desires to have a safe haven.

And so I did visit with General Casey, and I came away once again with my trust in that man. I've told the people here around the table that the decisions that I will make will be based upon the recommendations of people like General George Casey.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, how much closer do you believe North Korea is to launching the long-range missile, and how concerned are you about this? What if they just launch a satellite—

The President. Toby, I have said that the North Koreans should notify the world of their intentions, what they have on top of that vehicle and what are their intentions. We have not heard from the North Koreans, so I can't tell you what their intentions are. I have made clear to our partners on this issue—that would be Japan and South Korea and China and Russia—that we need to send a focused message to the North Koreans in that this launch is provocative. And I was pleased to hear that the Chinese have delivered that message to the North Koreans, and we would hope that the leader in North Korea listened to the Chinese.

So we don't know; we don't know. That's part of the problem. It's a nontransparent society that ought to be sharing its intentions with the rest of the world.

Hutch [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

Environment

Q. I know you are not planning to see Al Gore's new movie, but do you agree with the premise that global warming is a real and significant threat to the planet that requires action—

The President. I think—I have said consistently that global warming is a serious problem. There's a debate over whether it's

manmade or naturally caused. We ought to get beyond that debate and start implementing the technologies necessary to enable us to achieve a couple of big objectives: one, be good stewards of the environment; two, become less dependent on foreign sources of oil for economic reasons and for national security reasons.

That's why we're pressing for clean coal technology. That's why the hydrogen initiative is robust. In other words, we want our children being able to drive cars not fueled by gasoline but by hydrogen. That's why I've been a strong advocate of ethanol as an alternative source of fuel to run our cars. I strongly believe that we ought to be developing safe nuclear power. The truth of the matter is, if this country wants to get rid of its greenhouse gases we've got to have the nuclear power industry be vibrant and viable. And so I believe in—and I've got a plan to be able to deal with greenhouse gases.

April [April Ryan, American Urban Radio Networks].

Voting Rights Legislation

Q. Mr. President, what are you doing to ensure that the Voting Rights Act is reauthorized by the midterm elections, as you're saying that's one of your top priorities? And also, do you support foreign ballots—foreign language ballots?

The President. I am working very carefully with Members of Congress to implement that which I said when I signed the proclamation for Rosa Parks, is I want this Voting Rights Act extended. And so we're working with Members of the United States Congress to see if we can't get it done.

Bank Records/War on Terror

Q. Sir, several news organizations have reported about a program that allows the administration to look into the bank records of certain suspected terrorists. My questions are twofold: One, why have you not gone to Congress to ask for authorization for this program, 5 years after it started? And two, with respect, if neither the courts nor the legislature is allowed to know about these programs, how can you feel confident the checks and balances system works?

The President. Congress was briefed. And what we did was fully authorized under the law. And the disclosure of this program is disgraceful. We're at war with a bunch of people who want to hurt the United States of America, and for people to leak that program and for a newspaper to publish it, does great harm to the United States of America. What we were doing was the right thing. Congress was aware of it, and we were within the law to do so.

The American people expect this Government to protect our constitutional liberties and, at the same time, make sure we understand what the terrorists are trying to do. The 9/11 Commission recommended that the Government be robust in tracing money. If you want to figure out what the terrorists are doing, you try to follow their money. And that's exactly what we're doing. And the fact that a newspaper disclosed it makes it harder to win this war on terror.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:41 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; and Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea.

Remarks at a Reception for Black Music Month

June 26, 2006

Glad you're here. Thank you all. Welcome to the White House, and thank you for joining us as we celebrate Black Music Month.

I wish Laura were here, but she's got a good excuse. She's in New Orleans. She went down there to talk to the American Library Association's Annual Conference, and she spoke about the importance of rebuilding school libraries up and down the gulf coast of our country. She sends her best. I wish she could be here to hear the music. I know she's going to love it as much as I will love it.

I'm looking forward to introducing our artists here in a second. I do want to recognize Alphonso Jackson, who's a member of my Cabinet. Thank you for coming, and thank you for bringing us here. And it's good to

see the Federal coordinator for the gulf coast rebuilding effort, Don Powell. Thank you for being here, sir. I welcome Chip Pickering from Mississippi and Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn from Tennessee. Thank you both for coming. I'm proud you're here.

It is always a special treat to be in the presence of Dr. Dorothy Height. Good to see you, Dr. Height.

And with us we have two great athletes, Alana Beard—thank you for coming, Alana—and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Proud you're here. I don't know whether you know this, but Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a jazz expert, and he is working on a documentary about the connection between jazz and basketball. [Laughter] Pretty good combination. [Laughter]

During this month, we recognize the great contributions that black music has made to our Nation. That's why we're here. We express our gratitude to the artists whose works have inspired our Nation and have brought such beauty into the world.

Black music was often born of great pain, from the music of slaves who sang to warn others that the master was coming to the music of faith that helped African Americans endure tremendous suffering and overcome injustice. Black music is a really important part of our Nation's history and culture, and that's why we're celebrating it here today.

Some of the finest performances by black musicians have been heard right here in the White House, and we're going to continue that tradition today. During—in 1878, during the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes, soprano Marie Selika became the first black artist to perform here in the White House. A few years later, the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University became the first black choir to perform here. They moved President Chester Arthur to tears with a rendition of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Like the man they sang about, the Jubilee Singers could not find an inn that would welcome them here in Washington, DC. Those times have changed; thank goodness.

In more recent times, the White House has been graced by performances by artists like Louis Armstrong and Pearl Bailey, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Duke Ellington, and Lionel Hampton. These

men and women created some of the greatest music America has ever produced, and they honored our country by sharing their gifts right here in the people's house. We're about to have the same type of performances here—if I can ever quit talking. *[Laughter]*

This year, Black Music Month celebrates the music of our Nation's gulf coast, soul and blues and jazz. And I'm honored that we've got three tremendous performers who represent the best of these three great traditions.

Patti Austin is one of America's most talented singers and songwriters. Her extraordinary career began at the age of 4 when she made her debut alongside her godmother, Dinah Washington, at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater. Since then, she's recorded 16 solo albums featuring everything from soul to standards. Recently Patti earned her sixth Grammy nomination with her tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. Patti is an incredible artist. Laura and I have been privileged to see her perform at the Kennedy Center. I think you're going to like her a lot. *[Laughter]* She's sung at the White House for every President since Ronald Reagan.

When she was rehearsing her performance for President Reagan, Patti was singing so powerfully the piece of molding fell from the ceiling here in the East Room. *[Laughter]* Be forewarned. *[Laughter]* When Patti sings, she brings down the house. *[Laughter]* I'm proud to join the distinguished line of Presidents who have welcomed her here to the White House.

With us today is B.B. King, "King of the Blues." B.B. was raised in the Mississippi Delta, where he picked cotton for 35 cents a day, and then he played after work on the street corners for dimes. He says that when he sang gospel songs: "They'd pat me on the head but wouldn't ever put anything in the hat." *[Laughter]* So he would change, "my Lord" to "my baby"—*[laughter]*—and then they always gave him a tip. *[Laughter]*

One night in the 1950s, B.B. King was playing in an Arkansas town called Twist when two men got in a fight over a woman and knocked over a kerosene stove and set the whole place on fire. B.B. got out, but then he realized he had left his guitar behind. And so he went back inside; he braved the flames; and he rescued the guitar. Later, he

learned that the lady who had inspired the brawl was named Lucille. So that's what he named his guitar.

Since then, B.B. and Lucille have played more than 10,000 shows. They have thrilled audiences all over the world. B.B. has notched an incredible 74 entries on the Billboard charts, and his work has influenced virtually every major guitar player over the last half-century. He remains gracious and humble, what folks in Mississippi call "free-hearted."

B.B. says this about his career: "I'm trying to get people to see that we are our brother's keeper." He went on to say, "Red, black, brown, yellow, rich, and poor, we all have the blues." It's hard to have the blues when you're about to hear B.B. King perform. At 80, this ageless star is still going strong, and we are thrilled to welcome him back to the White House.

We're also pleased to welcome Irvin Mayfield. Irvin is the cultural ambassador of New Orleans and artistic director of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra. At just 28 years old, Irvin has already become one of America's finest trumpet players, in the great New Orleans jazz tradition. He's more than a musician; he's a decent, big-hearted man.

Last year, as Hurricane Katrina roared through New Orleans, the rising water took his dad, Irvin, Sr. The pain of losing his father was suddenly unimaginable. Yet in his father's name, Irvin pushed back his grief, and he went to work. He pulled out his trumpet; he pulled together his orchestra and started performing to help others who had lost homes and loved ones. He helped dry New Orleans' tears through the inspiring power of his music, and he hasn't stopped.

He's using his God-given talent to help rebuild his beloved homeland—his hometown, one brick and one note at a time. After the storm, Irvin made this solemn vow: No breached levee will wash away the culture of New Orleans.

There's a wonderful and unique tradition in New Orleans called the jazz funeral. The funeral procession parades slowly through the streets followed by a band playing a mournful dirge as it moves to the cemetery. Once the casket has been laid in place and

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

- (x) ensure that under all conditions the President of the United States can alert and warn the American people.

(b) In performing the functions set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce, the heads of other departments and agencies of the executive branch (agencies), and other officers of the United States, as appropriate, and the Federal Communications Commission.

(c) The Secretary of Homeland Security may issue guidance to implement this order.

Sec. 3. Duties of Heads of Departments and Agencies.

(a) The heads of agencies shall provide such assistance and information as the Secretary of Homeland Security may request to implement this order.

(b) In addition to performing the duties specified under subsection (a) of this section:

- (i) the Secretary of Commerce shall make available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, to assist in implementing this order, the capabilities and expertise of the Department of Commerce relating to standards, technology, telecommunications, dissemination systems, and weather;
- (ii) the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security requirements for the public alert and warning system necessary to ensure proper coordination of the functions of the Department of Defense with the use of such system;
- (iii) the Federal Communications Commission shall, as provided by law, adopt rules to ensure that communications systems have the capacity to transmit alerts and warnings to the public as part of the public alert and warning system; and
- (iv) the heads of agencies with capabilities for public alert and warning shall comply with guidance issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security under subsection 2(c) of this order, and shall develop and maintain such capabilities in a manner consistent and interoperable with the public alert and warning system.

Sec. 4. Reports on Implementation. Not later than 90 days after the date of this order, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, a plan for the implementation of this order, and shall thereafter submit reports from time to time, and not less often than once each year, on such implementation, together with any recommendations the Secretary finds appropriate.

Sec. 5. Amendment, Revocation, and Transition.

(a) Section 3(b)(4) of Executive Order 12472 of April 3, 1984, as amended, is further amended by striking “Emergency Broadcast System” and inserting in lieu thereof “Emergency Alert System”.

(b) Not later than 120 days after the date of this order, the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, shall issue guidance under section 2(c) of this order that shall address the subject matter of the presidential memorandum of September 15, 1995, for the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, on Presidential Communications with the General Public During Periods of National Emergency, and upon issuance of such guidance such memorandum is revoked.

(c) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure an orderly and effective transition, without loss of capability, from alert and warning systems available as of the date of this order to the public alert and warning system for which this order provides.

Sec. 6. General Provisions. (a) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with:

- (i) applicable law and presidential guidance, including Executive Order 12472 of April 3, 1984, as amended, and subject to the availability of appropriations; and
- (ii) the authorities of agencies, or heads of agencies, vested by law.

(b) This order shall not be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management

and Budget relating to budget, administrative, and legislative proposals.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 26, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 27, 2006]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 28.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting Legislation To
Implement the United States-Oman
Free Trade Agreement**

June 26, 2006

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This FTA enhances our bilateral relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region. The FTA will benefit the people of the United States and Oman, illustrating for other developing countries the advantages of open markets and increased trade.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Congressional approval of this FTA will mark another important step towards creating a Middle East Free Trade Area. Like our FTA with Bahrain that the Congress approved in December 2005, and our FTA with Morocco that was approved in July 2004, this FTA offers another important opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation. Oman is leading the pursuit of social and economic reforms in the region, including by selling state-owned businesses, encouraging foreign investment connected to broad-based development, and providing better protection for women and workers. It

is strongly in our national interest to embrace these reforms and do what we can to encourage them.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 26, 2006.

**Remarks to the Manhattan Institute
for Policy Research**

June 27, 2006

Thank you very much. Thanks for letting me come by to say a few words. Larry, thanks for the introduction. I do want to congratulate the Manhattan Institute for being a think tank for new ideas and better ways for our Nation to handle some of the problems we face. I appreciate your thought; I appreciate your works. For those of you who support the Manhattan Institute, I thank you for supporting them. For those of you who serve on the Board of Trustees, thanks for helping. And thanks for inviting me here today.

I want to talk about our economy. I want to talk about ways that we can—the executive branch can work with the Congress to convince the American people we’re being wise about how we spend our money. One of the things I want to assure you is that I believe that this country ought not to fear the future; I believe we ought to put good policy in place to shape the future. And by that I mean we shouldn’t fear global competition. We shouldn’t fear a world that is more interacted. We should resist temptations to protect ourselves from trade policies around the world. We should resist the temptation to isolate ourselves. We have too much to offer for the stability and peace and welfare of the world than to shirk our duties and to not accept an international community.

I know some in our country are fearful about our capacities to compete. I’m not. I believe that we can put policies in place that will make sure we remain the most entrepreneurial country in the world, that we’re capable of competing in the world. And one way to do so is to keep progrowth economic policies in place and be wise about how we spend the people’s money. And that’s what I want to talk about.

I do want to thank my Director of Office of Management and Budget, Rob Portman, who has joined us today. He has done a spectacular job as the person partially responsible for tearing down trade barriers and to making sure our Nation was treated fairly in the trade arena when he was head of USTR. And now I've asked him to come over and manage OMB. It's a powerful position. The person who knows how the money is being spent is generally the person who's got a lot of influence in government. So I put a good friend in there to make sure we're able to work with the Congress to bring some fiscal austerity to the budget.

I want to thank Senator Thad Cochran, who is the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. It's awfully generous of the Senator to be here today. He's a good fellow and a fine United States Senator, and we're proud to have him in our midst.

I want to thank Senator Judd Gregg, who's the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. I've known Judd a long time. I've had to—when I was running for President, I was asked to debate my opponent a couple of times, and one of the things you do prior to debating your opponent is you have somebody serve as the opponent, and that happened to be Judd Gregg in both elections. [Laughter] And I had to kind of reconcile myself with the fact that he whipped me in—every time we debated. [Laughter] He's a good man who's just introduced some interesting ideas onto the floor of the United States Senate about how to deal with some of the fiscal problems and financial problems this Nation faces.

I'm proud to be here with John McCain—speaking about debates—[laughter]—we had a few. But one thing we agree upon is that this country needs to have a line-item veto. And I'm proud the Senator is here, and I appreciate you coming. I might add, one of the many things we agree upon.

I'm proud to be here with Congressman Paul Ryan, who's the House bill sponsor of the line-item veto, as well as Congressman Mark Udall. Thank you both for being here. Congratulations on getting that bill out of the United States House of Representatives. I'm also honored that Congressman Mike Castle, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, and

Congressman Henry Cuellar from the great State of Texas, has joined us. Thank you all for coming.

For those of you who are working the Halls of Congress to get a line-item veto out, thanks for doing what you're doing. One of the reasons I've come to give you a speech on the line-item veto is to encourage you to continue working hard with members of both political parties to get the job done.

We're growing. This economy of ours is strong. And that's good news. It's amazing where we've come from, if you really think about it. We've been through a recession; we've been through a stock market correction; we've been through corporate scandals; we've been through an attack on our country; we've been through two major operations to defend the United States of America; and we've been through amazing natural disasters and high energy prices. And yet we're growing. We're the envy of the industrialized world. The growth in the last year was 3.5 percent; it was 5.3 percent in the first quarter of this year. That's good news. It means the entrepreneurial spirit is strong, that people are investing and people are making wise decisions with their money. And as a result of the growing economy, the national unemployment rate is 4.6 percent. That's low. That means your fellow citizens are going to work. That means people are having a chance to put food on the table. And that's a positive indication of how strong our economy is.

We're a productive nation. Productivity is on the increase. That's a result of investments that are being made in the private sector. A productive economy is one that will yield higher wages for the American people. The more productive you are, the more likely it is your wages will go up, which means a higher standard of living for the American people. And I want to thank the Manhattan Institute's support for progrowth economic policies, policies that really send a clear signal that we are still the land of dreamers and doers and risk-takers.

The cornerstone of our policy has been to keep taxes low, see. We believe, and you believe, that the more money a person has in their pocket, the more likely it is this economy is going to grow. We trust people to make the right decisions on how to spend,

save, and invest. That's certainly not necessary—necessarily the common policy here in Washington. There's some good and decent folks who think they can spend your money better than you can. I just don't agree with them. And one of the reasons why this economy is strong is because we cut the taxes on everybody who pays taxes in the United States. If you have a child, you got extra money. If you're married, we did something about the marriage penalty. It doesn't make any sense, by the way, to penalize marriage. Society ought to be encouraging marriage.

If you're an investor, you got tax relief because we cut the taxes on the dividends and capital gains. If you're a small business, it's likely that you pay taxes at the individual income tax rate because you're more likely than not to be a sole proprietorship or a subchapter S corporation. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small business, and it made sense to let our small-business entrepreneurs keep more of their own money to save and invest and expand their businesses. The tax relief we passed is working, and the Congress needs to make the tax relief we passed permanent.

One of the benefits of keeping taxes low and growing your economy is that you end up with more tax revenues in the Federal Treasury. I know that seems counterintuitive to some people. You'll hear people say, "Let's balance the budget by raising taxes." By the way, that's not the way Washington works. They'll raise your taxes and figure out new ways to spend your money.

It turns out that when you encourage economic vitality and growth, the Treasury benefits from it. In 2005, tax revenues grew by almost \$274 billion, or 15 percent. That's the largest increase in 24 years. The economy is continuing to grow, and tax revenues are growing with it. So far this year, tax revenues are more than 11 percent higher than they were at the same point last year, which is significantly better than projected. These increased tax revenues are part of how we intend to cut the deficit in half by 2009. In other words, Rob Portman will be giving a report to the Nation about how we're doing on the tax revenues—I think you're going to find that progrowth economic policies means that more revenues are coming into the

Treasury than anticipated, which makes it easier to deal with a current account budget deficit.

But there's a second part of the equation to dealing with the current account budget deficit, and that is, how we spend your money. Now, I'm going to talk about discretionary spending in a minute, but I just want you to understand that a significant problem we face is in our mandatory programs. And I know you know that. Those would be programs called Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid.

As you might recall, I addressed that issue last year, focusing on Social Security reform. I'm not through talking about the issue. I spent some time today in the Oval Office with the United States Senators, and they're not through talking about the issue either. It's important for this country. I know it's hard politically to address these issues. Sometimes it just seems easier for people to say, "We'll deal with it later on." Now is the time for the Congress and the President to work together to reform Medicare and reform Social Security so we can leave behind a solvent balance sheet for our next generation of Americans.

If we can't get it done this year, I'm going to try next year. And if we can't get it done next year, I'm going to try the year after that, because it is the right thing to do. It's just so easy to say, "Let somebody else deal with it." Now is the time to solve the problems of Medicare and Social Security, and I want your help. I need the Manhattan Institute to continue to agitate for change and reform. You've got a big voice. You got creative thinkers, and if you don't mind, I'd like to put this on your agenda and let you know the White House and Members of the Senate and the House are anxious to deal with this issue and get it done once and for all.

In the meantime, we've got to do everything we can to control the spending that Congress votes on and approves every year. That's called discretionary spending. My administration is doing its part on discretionary spending. Every year since I took office, we've reduced the growth of discretionary spending that is not related to the military or homeland security. And the reason why we haven't reduced the growth on spending

for the military is because so long as we've got troops in harm's way, they're going to have whatever it takes to win the war on terror.

We will not shortchange the people who wear the uniform of the United States military. As the Commander in Chief of this fine group of men and women, I have got to be able to look in the eyes of their loved ones and say, one, "The mission is worth it," and two, "This Government and the people of the United States support your loved ones with all we got." And that's exactly how I'm going to continue to conduct this war on terror.

But apart from defending our country, the last two budgets have cut nonsecurity discretionary spending—have cut the nonsecurity discretionary spending. And that's not easy. It's not easy to do that, but the Congress delivered, at least on last year's appropriations bills. And they're working on this year's appropriations bills. Our view is, taxpayers' dollars should be spent wisely or not at all. One of Rob Portman's jobs is to analyze programs that are working or not working. Look, every program sounds good, I know. But we're focusing on the results of the programs: Are they achieving the objectives that we expect?

One of the first tests of this year on whether or not the administration can work with the Congress on fiscal restraint was on a supplemental spending bill. That's a bill that was passed to provide emergency spending for our troops overseas and for citizens that had been hit by Katrina and to prepare for the dangers of a pandemic flu. I felt those were important priorities that needed to be a part of the supplemental bill, and so we sent that bill up.

Obviously, there was some noise coming out of the Congress at first; people had different opinions. And that's a good thing about democracy—you'll find there's all kinds of different opinions here in Washington, DC. People had different views about what ought to be in that bill.

Part of my job is to help bring some fiscal discipline to Washington. So I said that if the Congress exceeded a limit that I thought was wise, I would veto the bill. Congress acted responsibly. And it was hard work, and I applaud Senator Cochran for his hard work

on this measure. He brought the House together with the Senate, and they took out \$15 billion in spending that had been added to the bill. It came under the spending limit I had set. And it's a good example of fiscal restraint set by the Congress. I appreciate so very much your leadership on that issue, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for working with us.

I believe another crucial test for the Congress is to whether or not the Congress will pass a line-item veto. And that's what I want to talk to you about today. A line-item veto would be a vital tool that a President could use to target spending that lawmakers tack on to the large spending bills. That's called earmarking, and that's become quite a controversial subject here in Washington, DC.

I happen to believe that, a lot of times, earmarking results in unnecessary spending. See, part of the job of the President and the leaders in the Congress is to set priorities with the people's money. If you don't set priorities, the tendency is to overspend. And sometimes—a lot of times, the earmark doesn't fit into the priorities that have been set through the budgetary process. A lot of times earmarks are inserted into bills at the last minute, which leaves no time, or little time, for debate. Part of the process—a good process is one in which Members are able to debate whether or not spending meets a priority, whether it makes sense. Earmark sponsors are often not required to provide their colleagues with a reasoned justification for proposed spending. And not surprisingly, the process often results in spending that would not have survived had it not been subject—subjected to closer scrutiny. Part of a good legislative process is for Members to take a good look at whether or not a spending request meets a priority or not.

And the process has changed. And according to the Congressional Research Service, the number of earmarks has increased from about 3,000 to 13,000 over the last decade. In other words, this process is taking place more and more often. I don't think that's healthy for the process. Matter of fact, I think it's circumventing the process. Now, that's up—obviously, up for the Legislature to determine whether I'm right or not. The President proposes, and the legislative body disposes, and I'm proposing a way to help deal

with this problem. And that way is to pass a line-item veto.

Now, here's why it's necessary. First of all, part of the problem with the line-item veto is that it's oftentimes deemed to be unconstitutional. As a matter of fact, I know there are people in this room that helped pass the line-item veto in 1996. President Clinton was the President then, and the Congress—in my judgment—wisely gave him the line-item veto. And yet shortly thereafter, when he started using the line-item veto, the Supreme Court struck it down because they concluded that it unconstitutionally permitted the President to unilaterally change a law passed by the Congress. In other words, the bill didn't pass constitutional muster.

And so we dealt with this issue. We figured out that, obviously, any line-item veto would again be challenged to our highest Court. And so we proposed the following type of legislation: When the President sees an earmark or spending provision that is wasteful or unnecessary, he can send it back to the Congress. And Congress is then required to hold a prompt up-or-down vote on whether to retain the targeted spending. In other words, the Congress is still in the process.

The line-item veto submitted would meet the Court's constitutional requirements. And that's important. Members of Congress need to know that we've thought carefully about this, and we've worked with them to make sure that that which is passed is constitutional.

The other thing the line-item veto needs to do is, it will shine the light of day on spending items that get passed in the dark of the night, and that will have—in my judgment—a healthy—it will send a healthy signal to the people that we're going to be wise about how we spend their money.

The bill I submitted will be an effective tool for restraining Government spending because it will address a central dilemma created by unwarranted earmarks. And here's the dilemma: When Members of Congress are faced with an important bill that includes wasteful spending in the bill, they have two bad options. On the one hand, they can vote against the whole bill, including the worthwhile spending, or they can vote for the whole bill, including the wasteful spending.

When such a bill comes to the President, it creates a dilemma. I've negotiated year after year on a top-line budget number. And Congress has met that top-line budget number, which means it's very difficult for the President, then, to veto the appropriations bills that have met the top-line budget number, because the next year's budget negotiations will be meaningless. You can imagine Members of the United States House or Senate walking into the President's office and saying, "Wait a minute; we met your number last year, and you vetoed the bill, so forget negotiations."

I want to be a part of the budgetary process. It's an important part of the President's working with Congress, and I'm not going to deal myself out of the budgetary process. So my point is, they can meet the size of the pie, but I may not like some of the slices of the pie. And therefore, what do we do about it? And one way to deal with it is the line-item veto. The President could approve the spending that is necessary, could redline spending that is not, and then let the Congress decide whether or not the President is right. It's a fair process; I believe it's a necessary process.

Many Members in Congress, I know, want to do the right thing. And so one of the interesting things about the line-item veto is, it will help deal with that dilemma I described, either all or nothing when it comes to voting for appropriations bills. You know, sometimes a Member of Congress gets a special project for the district, and they go back and tout the project. Then you have Members who don't agree with earmarking, and they don't have any special project to tout to the district. And yet the people in their district are voting for the special project for the other person's district. And I think the line-item veto—I know the line-item veto would help resolve this dilemma.

You see, if there's an opportunity for the President to redline certain programs and hold them up to the light of day, it will probably mean Members of Congress are less likely to propose the earmarks in the first place. Rather than being able to move a special project into the bill without hearing, this—the President would have the opportunity to say, "Wait a minute; this doesn't

make much sense; it doesn't seem to fit into the priorities; this special project, this unusual study"—[laughter]—"or this particular project, this doesn't make sense."

I believe that part of a budgetary reform program is the line-item veto, the opportunity to put the light on such programs. And that will help Members resolve the dilemma of either voting for an important bill with bad items in it or being a part of trying to put bad items in it in order to justify their existence in the Congress.

The good thing about the line-item veto, it has bipartisan support. We've got a Democrat Member from the United States Congress who supported that bill strongly. Governors have had the line-item veto. I met with Senator Ben Nelson earlier this morning in the Oval Office—he talked about what an effective tool it was to have the line-item. Did you have it, Engler, when you were Governor? Engler had it. It's an important part of relating with the legislative process. And by the way, these aren't just Republican Governors with the line-item veto; they're Democrat and Republican Governors who are using that line-item veto effectively.

The line-item veto has bipartisan support in the Congress. Thirty-five Democrats joined more than 200 Republicans in the House to get the bill passed. That's a good sign. I was disappointed, frankly, though, that more Democrats didn't vote for the bill, especially those who are calling for fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. I mean, you can't call for fiscal discipline on the one hand and then not pass a tool to enhance fiscal discipline on the other hand. You can't have it both ways, it seems like to me.

Now the Senate is going to take up the measure. And again, I want to thank the Senators who are here for strategizing on how we can get the bill moving. Senator Frist is committed to getting the bill moving. Senator McCain is one of the important cosponsors, as is Senator John Kerry. I remember campaigning against him in 2004, and I remember him talking about the line-item veto, and I appreciate the fact that he's living up to the political promises he made. It's a good sign, and I applaud Senator Kerry for taking the lead on the line-item veto. And I hope

members of his party listen to his justifications for that important piece of legislation.

What's really interesting is, we've had Senators on record for the line-item veto. After all, the Senate passed a line-item veto in 1996. And for those Senators who passed the line-item veto in 1996, I hope they still consider it an important vote in 2006. Ten years hasn't made that big a difference. It was good enough 10 years ago; it's good enough today, for those who voted for the line-item veto.

Oh, I know this town is full of all kinds of politics, but we ought to set politics aside. We need to set politics aside when it comes to reforming Social Security and Medicare, and we need to set politics aside so that the President can work with the Congress to bring fiscal discipline to our budgets. That's what the taxpayers expect from those of us who are honored to serve.

So that's my opinion on the line-item veto. I hope you can feel—tell I feel strongly about it. I think it makes sense, no matter who the President may be. I think it makes sense for a Republican President to have a line-item veto, and I think it makes sense for a Democrat President to have a line-item veto. And I urge the United States Senate to pass this important legislation so we can reconcile whatever differences there are between the House and the Senate version and show the people that we are serious about being responsible with their money.

Thanks for letting me come by and say hello.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lawrence J. Mone, president, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research; and former Gov. John Engler of Michigan.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the National Endowment for Democracy Award Recipients

June 27, 2006

It has been my honor to welcome four amazing individuals to the Oval Office. These four folks are from the continent of Africa. They're here to receive the National Endowment for Democracy's award, which is an

award to honor courage and fortitude and strength in promoting freedom.

And we have had an amazing discussion. My spirits are enriched by talking to freedom lovers and freedom fighters. We've got a man from the Sudan who talked eloquently about free press. We had a doctor from Zimbabwe who talked about the human condition and the need for the United States to make sure we stay engaged with the democracy movements and help people who are hungry.

I talked to two really unusual ladies, one from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is very concerned about free elections, and she wants to make sure people in the rural part of her country are represented in free elections.

And then we had an amazing discussion with a lady from Sierra Leone but who's working in Liberia. And one of the most amazing stories is when she recounted the fact that she was escaping Liberia in the mid-1990s and had to get on a fishing boat to escape the authorities who wanted to bring—to do her harm because she expressed her desire for people to be free.

Again, I want to thank all of you for doing what you have done. I'm proud to be in your company. I'm proud to have you here in the Oval Office. I thank you for being witness to this universal fact: that liberty is universal in its application; that people everywhere desire to be free; that freedom is not just—belongs to the American citizens, freedom belongs to everybody. And you're courageous in your fight and your desire to spread the concept of freedom.

Congratulations on winning a very important award. Congratulations on being so courageous. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to National Endowment for Democracy's 2006 Democracy Award recipients Alfred Taban, Reginald Matchaba-Hove, Immaculee Birhaheka, and Zainab Hawa Bangura.

Remarks During a Run With Staff Sergeant Christian Bagge

June 27, 2006

The President. So I first met Christian when I went to Walter Reed—Brooke Army, San Antonio, Texas. And he said, "I want to run with you." He was in bed. He had lost both legs. I looked at him, like, you know, there's an optimistic person. But I could tell in his eyes that he meant it. And after a lot of hard work and a lot of compassionate care, this fine man is here on the South Lawn running with the President. And he ran the President into the ground, I might add. [Laughter]

But I'm proud of you. I'm proud of your strength; I'm proud of your character. Thank you for your service.

It's an amazing sight for me to be running with a guy who, last time I saw him, was in bed wondering whether or not—I was wondering whether or not he'd ever get out of bed. There was no doubt in his mind that he would.

Thanks for your service.

S. Sgt. Bagge. Your welcome, Mr. President.

The President. Good man. God bless you.

S. Sgt. Bagge. It's a privilege.

The President. We're not through running yet. Get out of the way. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:02 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. S. Sgt. Christian Bagge, USA, was injured in Iraq in June 2005 while serving in the Oregon National Guard.

Statement on Senate Action on a Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Prohibit Desecration of the American Flag

June 27, 2006

Today a bipartisan majority of United States Senators voted to protect our Nation's most important symbol through a Constitutional amendment to authorize Congress to prohibit the desecration of the American flag. Unfortunately, the final count fell short of the votes needed to send this important proposed amendment to the States for ratification.

By showing respect for our flag, we show reverence for the ideals that guide our Nation and we show appreciation for the men and women who have served in defense of those ideals.

I commend the Senators from both parties who voted to allow the amendment ratification process to protect our flag to go forward, and continue to believe that the American people deserve the opportunity to express their views on this important issue.

NOTE: The statement referred to S.J. Res. 12.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for International Assistance Programs

June 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2007 Budget amendments for International Assistance Programs. The total discretionary budget authority in my FY 2007 Budget would not be increased by these requests.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Personnel in St. Louis, Missouri

June 28, 2006

I want to thank you all for coming. I just had a discussion with fellow citizens in the Guard, Reserve, and active duty who have been in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I want to thank you for sharing your insights with me. Thank you for your service to the country.

I told these men and women that their service is necessary for the security of the United States of America and that they're serving in historic times. And one day, their children will be able to look back and say, "My dad or my mom went to Iraq and Af-

ghanistan and helped a young country become a democracy, and therefore, the world is more peaceful for it."

One of the things I am going to do is, I'm going to meet with the family members of these good people and express our country's gratitude for their service as well. A lot of times, military families don't get proper thanks, and I can't wait to meet your loved ones and tell them firsthand that the country appreciates your service.

One thing I told these good folks is that this country stands with the people wearing our Nation's uniform. We're with you. We know the work is hard, but the work is necessary. And we're winning—and we're winning. And the world is going to be better off because of your courageous service, and I thank you for it.

Thanks for letting me come by and visit. I appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:41 p.m. at the VFW Overland-St. Ann Memorial Post 3944.

Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial Candidate James M. Talent in St. Louis

June 28, 2006

The President. Thanks for coming. Thanks a lot. Thanks for the warm welcome.

Audience Member. Four more years! [*Laughter*]

The President. No more wife. [*Laughter*]

Thanks for supporting Jim Talent. He is a decent, honorable, can-do man who deserves to be reelected to the United States Senate.

Laura and I are very fond of Jim and Brenda. Jim is very fond of Laura, to the point where he was hoping she would be the keynote speaker. [*Laughter*] But the Senator and I both married very well. You know, you cannot succeed in this line of work unless you've got a supportive family. It's really important. And the Talents have the right priorities—their faith and their family and their country. And that's another reason why he's a great United States Senator. So not only do I want to thank Jim for his service, I do want to

thank Brenda for being such a fabulous partner to Jim. And I also want to welcome Michael and Chrissy, the Talent children. Thanks for coming.

Laura sends her best. She not only sends her best to the Talents, she sends her best to Uncle Bucky and Aunt Patty. She sends her best to all our friends here in St. Louis. She is a fabulous First Lady, and I am proud to call her—proud she's my wife.

I want to thank your Governor for joining us, Matt Blunt, and Melanie. Thank you for serving. Governors can make a big difference in the States—the State in which they live, and you are doing just that.

Where's Branch? Yes. He was afraid he couldn't make it through the speech. [*Laughter*] It's good to see old Branch. I think I remember getting to know Branch kind of before Branch became Branch—[*laughter*—during the 2004 campaign. But thank you all for coming, and thanks for your service. I'll tell your old man you're doing all right. [*Laughter*]

I thank the Lieutenant Governor, Peter Kinder, for being here. Governor, it's good to see you again. Thanks for your service. I thank all the statehouse folks who are here. Thanks for serving. It's not an easy job to serve the communities in which you live, but it's important jobs. And so thanks for setting a good example.

I appreciate so very much my friend Jack Oliver, who happens to be the finance chairman for this effort. And Rachel—thanks for coming, Rachel. It's a pretty big sacrifice for you to be here tonight. Is there a doctor in the house? [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you all for—for those of you who organized this event. This is a big, successful event, and it takes a lot of hard work. So for all of those who have helped organize this event, thanks a lot. It's important. You can't win without friends. And the Talent for Senate race is a vital race for the United States of America, and you're helping him.

I want to thank the grassroots activists who are here. You're the folks who make the phone calls and put up the signs and turn out the vote. I want to thank you in advance for what you're going to do when we're coming down the stretch, which is to make sure

that Jim Talent is not only backed financially but backed with your hard work and labor. He deserves your support. He has got a record to run on. He has made the people of Missouri proud, and he needs to be sent back to Washington, DC, for 6 more years.

These are historic times in which we live, and it is essential that we have people in the United States Senate who are clear-eyed realists who see the world the way it is, not the way we would hope it would be. And the reason why it's important to have clear-eyed realists is because it's essential we do not forget the lessons of September the 11th, 2001. And one lesson is, is that in order to secure the homeland, we must defeat the enemy overseas so they do not hurt us here at home. And therefore, we must have a United States Senate who understands that we must stay on the offense in order to protect America.

The second lesson is that when you see a threat, you must deal with that threat before it fully materializes. What that means is, is that oceans can no longer protect us, and if there's an enemy out there that's willing to do us harm, we must have United States Senators who are willing to take action to protect the homeland. And Jim Talent understands the world in which we live.

Oh, I know some of them in Washington are trying to rewrite history. But we all saw a threat in Saddam Hussein. See, he had threatened his neighbors; he invaded his neighbors. He was a sworn enemy of the United States of America. He harbored terrorists. He had used weapons of mass destruction. He was hoping the world would look the other way so he could manufacture weapons of mass destruction, at the very least. He defied U.N. resolution after U.N. resolution. Republicans and Democrats looked at the same intelligence and saw a threat. And when he defied the U.N., we removed Saddam Hussein, and America and the world are better off for it.

Iraq is a central front in the war on terror; it's not the only front. Today I went to the VFW hall and was able to thank in person men and women who have served in both Afghanistan and Iraq, two crucial fronts in the war on terror. But Iraq is now the central front, and we've got a plan to succeed, a plan

for victory, a plan that will enable a new ally in the war on terror to govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself as a free nation. The stakes are vital, and it is important that Missouri send a United States Senator who understands that retreat is not an option for the United States of America.

One thing about old Jim Talent, he understands what I understand, is that when you put a man or woman in uniform and ask them to go into harm's way, they deserve the full support of the United States Government. We will complete the mission, and I will make my judgments as to the troop levels necessary to achieve victory not based upon political polls or focus groups but based upon the measured judgment of our commanders on the ground.

Make no mistake about it: There's a group in the opposition party who are willing to retreat before the mission is done. They're willing to wave the white flag of surrender. And if they succeed, the United States will be worse off, and the world will be worse off. These are historic times. We will defeat the enemy by, one, bringing them to justice before they hurt us again, and we will defeat the enemy—we will defeat their hateful ideology by spreading liberty.

There's an interesting debate in the world today—it's an interesting debate as to whether or not liberty is universal or not. Jim Talent and I understand there's an Almighty; we understand a great gift of the Almighty is freedom for every man, woman, and child on this Earth. I'm not talking about just for Methodists or Texans. *[Laughter]* I'm talking about the universality of freedom. Everybody wants to be free, and everybody is desirous to be free. And freedom yields the peace we're looking for. The way to win this war on terror is not only to defeat the enemy abroad, but it's also to defeat them by spreading a hopeful ideology, an ideology which has worked in the past.

You see, tomorrow I'm going to have an interesting day—every day is interesting when you're the President. *[Laughter]* I'm going to welcome Prime Minister Koizumi from Japan. And so we'll have the deal tomorrow, which is going to be a lot of fun, there on the South Lawn. And then we'll meet and have the press conference and a

nice dinner. And then on Friday—Friday, we're going to Graceland. *[Laughter]* The Prime Minister, my dear friend, loves Elvis. *[Laughter]* So what better place to go.

Isn't it interesting, though, when you think about this moment in history compared to what life was like 60 years ago. You see, I guarantee you there's some folks here whose relatives were in combat against the Japanese, the sworn enemy of the United States, a nation which had launched an attack on our country, killing—by the way, we lost more on September the 11th than we did on Pearl Harbor. But, nevertheless, it was an attack on the Nation, and our Nation responded with force. President Roosevelt understood when you're going after an enemy, you use all your assets. That's what I understand too. If you're going to commit your military, you commit it, so we can achieve victory. That's what he understood.

And yet 60 years later, I'm meeting with the Prime Minister of the former enemy. I find that to be really interesting. One reason why I'm able to is because a fellow from Missouri named Harry S. Truman had faith in the universality of liberty. He understood that people desire to be free. And the reason I'm able to call Prime Minister Koizumi friend and ally is because Japan became a democracy in her own image, a democracy that recognizes the traditions and history of the Japanese people. Democracies don't fight each other. Democracies work together to yield the peace. Liberty has the capacity to change an enemy into a friend.

And what you're seeing today in the Middle East is the spread of liberty. And it's hard work. It's hard work to replace tyranny with democracy, but it's necessary work. We're laying the foundations for peace. Someday, an Iraqi leader will be coming to America to sit down and to help keep the peace, and generations of America will be safer for it. And Jim Talent understands the stakes.

I also appreciate the fact that he understands the nature of the enemy, and he understands we've got to be smart about how we defend the homeland. I've sworn to uphold the Constitution, and I will. I'm also expected to defend the United States of America. And when we think somebody from Al Qaida is calling in to somebody in the

United States from out of the country, we want to know why. We want to know why somebody is talking to Al Qaida, in order to protect the United States of America.

I told the American people we would defend ourselves. I remember all the kind of recommendations that we were getting, by the way, after 9/11. The 9/11 Commission took a look and said, "You need to do more on cutting off the money of the terrorist organizations." Newspapers editorialized: Make sure you do what you need to do to cut off their funding. One way to win the war on terror is to starve the enemy of money. I thought that made a lot of sense.

And so the Treasury Department launched a program to track the flow of terrorist money. See, we wanted to watch the money that the terrorists were moving around. It's one way to help protect the American people. It's one way for us to do the job that you've expected us to do. The program we put in place is legal. We got a lot of lawyers in Washington who scrutinize that which we do. It's legal. It has been briefed to the United States Congress. Like the terrorist surveillance program, this program of chasing terrorist financing was briefed to Members of Congress. We want them to understand what we're doing. We have an obligation in the executive branch to work with the legislative branch.

This program has been a vital tool in the war on terror. Last week, the details of this program appeared in the press. There can be no excuse for anyone entrusted with vital intelligence to leak it, and no excuse for any newspaper to print it.

The American people expect the Government to protect them. That's what you expect. It's our most important job. Jim Talent understands, our most important job is to protect the American people. And they want our people to have the tools necessary to achieve victory in the war on terror and to do our job. The disclosure of this valuable program makes it harder for us to identify terrorist cells and their activities. It makes it harder for us to build international cooperation. It makes it harder to protect the American people. It's tough enough to fight the terrorists; we shouldn't have to worry about news organizations revealing important

information that makes it more important—makes it more difficult to protect our country.

We'll uphold our values; we'll follow the law; and I will do everything in my power to protect the American people. And it's important to have a United States Senator like Jim Talent who understands the stakes.

One of the issues in this campaign is going to be who best to spend your money—you or the Federal Government. *[Laughter]* That's right. You know, it's amazing—I would hope people, when they go to the polls, would take a look at the economic record that we've achieved, a record that is really pretty remarkable when you think about what the economy has been through. We've been through a recession, a stock market correction, corporate scandals, an attack on the United States of America, two major theaters in the war on terror to defend ourselves, natural disasters, and high energy prices. And yet the economic growth of the United States is the envy of the industrialized world. The national unemployment rate is 4.6 percent. We've created millions of new jobs in the last couple of years. The entrepreneurial spirit is high. Small businesses are flourishing. More people own a home than ever before in our Nation's history. Productivity is high.

This economy is strong, and we intend to keep it that way. And one reason it's strong is because we cut the taxes on the American people. We didn't cut just some taxes; we cut taxes for everybody who pays taxes. Talent and I don't believe we use the Tax Code to play political favorites. We said, "If you're paying taxes, you deserve tax relief." And guess who benefits? People with children; investors, because we've reduced the dividend—the taxes on dividends and capital gains; small businesses—most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax rate because they're sole proprietorships or subchapter S's. When you hear them talking about, "Oh, we're just going to tax the rich," what Talent's opponent is really saying is, "We're going to tax small businesses," and that's bad for job creation in Missouri. Jim and I believe we need to get rid of the death tax once and for all.

You know, it's amazing when you listen to the debate up there in Washington about the budget. We've got a plan to cut the budget in half by—the deficit in half by 2009, and we're on our way to doing that. You know what's amazing is, when you cut the taxes, it causes the economy to grow. And when the economy grows, it yields more tax revenues than you anticipated. That's what's happening. That's what progrowth economic policies do for your budget.

The problem in Washington is, is that sometimes they take those revenues and don't apply it to the deficit; they apply it to additional programs, see. And so one of the reasons I like Talent so much is, he understands that to get the deficit cut in half, you got to be wise about spending your money. And we're doing a fine job on it.

Now, I recognize that the budgets have gone up—but for this reason: So long as we have a troops in harm's way, we're going to spend what is ever necessary to get he or she the equipment, the training, and the pay to win the war on terror. That's what we owe the folks. That's what we owe their families.

But we have cut nonsecurity discretionary spending, last year, and we intend to do it again this year. And that's hard to do because every program sounds good. But if you listen to the debate about—the other side—how they want to balance the budget, they say, "Let's just raise some taxes to balance the budget." That's not the way Washington works. If the other side gets in power, they will raise your taxes, and I promise you, they will figure out new ways to spend your money. The best way to balance the budget is to keep the taxes low and to set priorities with the people's money and to be wise and fiscally sound, just like Jim Talent is.

And I need this tool to be able to do my job: the line-item veto. And Jim Talent is one of the Senate sponsors and leaders on the line-item veto.

Health care is an issue. And so we took a look at the Medicare program. My attitude is this—and I know Jim agrees with me: If you're going to provide health care for our seniors, let's make sure it's modern. Makes sense for the taxpayers and certainly makes sense for the seniors. And the Medicare system—which was signed by Lyndon Baines

Johnson, by the way—had become stale and old. I will give you an example. Our system would pay for a ulcer surgery—20, \$15,000, whatever it costs—but not a dime for the medicine that would prevent the ulcer surgery from being needed in the first place. In other words, medicine was changing, but Medicare didn't.

And so we got together and said, "How can we improve this for the seniors? How can we make it work?" And we also added another feature to a new and improved Medicare. We said, "If you're poor, you shouldn't have to choose between medicine and food." We said, "If you're a poor senior, you shouldn't have to make that difficult choice of the medicine necessary to keep you going or the food necessary to keep you going."

And so we modernized Medicare. We improved the system. We delivered on behalf of the seniors. And Jim Talent gets a lot of credit for modernizing Medicare. And he's running against a person who said she would have voted against the bill, this bill that is positive for seniors, was necessary for our seniors. And I am proud to have signed it, and I am proud to have worked with Jim Talent to make the Medicare work better.

We have got a national security and economic security problem when it comes to energy. We've got to do something about our addiction to oil. I know it sounds odd for some to think—a Texan to say, but that's the way I feel. [*Laughter*] I understand the consequences of living in a global economy. When the demand for hydrocarbons goes up in China and India, it affects the price of gasoline here in St. Louis, Missouri. That's the way it works. I'm worried about a situation where sometimes we get our hydrocarbons from people that don't like us, and that creates a national security problem.

I'm proud to be standing side by side with Jim Talent and his efforts to promote alternative sources of energy like ethanol. He led the renewable fuel standard in the Halls of the United States Senate. He is more than a talker; he's a doer. He's getting stuff done for Missouri and the American people.

I appreciate his work on methamphetamine eradication. He's a leader in the United States Senate. You've got a problem

in Missouri, and we've got a problem around the country in methamphetamines. Jim Talent is working hard to deliver positive legislation and decent appropriations to fight methamphetamines. And I want to thank you for your fight and thank you for your struggle.

He gets things done. There's a lot of noise in Washington. But, you know, when you find somebody who is a positive person, who is able to accomplish things, you've got to send him back to Washington, DC. Talent can deliver for the people of Missouri and for the people of the United States. He's got a proven track record. He deserves to be reelected. I love his values.

I love the fact that he understands the judiciary needs to be filled with people who aren't going to legislate from the bench but will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States. I'm proud that he stood up strong for Judge Roberts and Judge Alito, two really fine members of the Supreme Court. It's another issue in this campaign. Who do you want in the Senate to be able to confirm and battle for what kind of judges? You want judges that are—that understand the limitation of the judiciary. We got plenty of legislators in Washington. That's not the role of a judge. The judge is to interpret the Constitution of the United States. Jim Talent understands this. Most Missouri citizens understand the proper role of the judiciary. He's in tune with Missouri.

He's in tune with Missouri when it comes to taxes. He understands the farm issue. He understands small businesses. He is in tune with the elders and seniors of Missouri. He's a good man who's delivered a lot for the people of this State. He stands on solid moral ground. You don't have to worry about his honesty. You never have to worry about his integrity. He's a decent, honorable person that deserves reelection to the United States Senate. Thanks for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:24 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton. In his remarks, he referred to Melanie Anderson Blunt, wife of Gov. Matt Blunt of Missouri, and their son William Branch Blunt; Rachel Oliver, wife of Jack L. Oliver III, finance chair, Jim Talent for U.S. Senate; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Henry M. Paulson, Jr., as Secretary of the Treasury

June 28, 2006

I commend the Senate for moving swiftly to confirm Henry Paulson as Secretary of the Treasury. I look forward to working with Hank to keep our economy and financial markets strong, and to continue our efforts to choke off sources of terrorist financing. I thank Chairman Grassley, Senator Baucus, and Senator Schumer for their leadership during the confirmation process. I congratulate Hank and his family on his confirmation and thank him for his service to our Nation.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Additional Funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs

June 28, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed fully offset FY 2006 request for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to address the security of personal information of veterans and service personnel.

I am requesting these additional resources for VA to cover the increased costs to the VA information technology account in FY 2006 as a result of providing credit monitoring and fraud watch services for veterans and service members impacted by a security breach that occurred on May 3, 2006. The total cost of this effort, estimated to be \$160.5 million in FY 2006, is fully offset.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan

June 29, 2006

President Bush. Good morning. Laura and I are welcome—are proud to welcome

and honored to welcome our friend Prime Minister Koizumi back to the White House. Japan and the United States have built a strong alliance and a close friendship. Decades ago, our two fathers looked across the Pacific and saw adversaries, uncertainty, and war. Today, their sons look across that same ocean and see friends and opportunity and peace.

The friendship between our two nations is based on common values. These values include democracy, free enterprise, and a deep and abiding respect for human rights. These values have created a better life for both our peoples, a firm alliance between our two nations, and a common approach to our engagement with the world.

These values are under attack by terrorist networks that bring death and destruction to all who oppose their hateful ideology, so the United States and Japan are working together to defend our shared values and win the war on terror.

Japanese naval vessels have refueled hundreds of coalition ships as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Japan is now the third largest donor nation for reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. In Iraq, Japanese Self-Defense Forces have helped improve the lives of citizens in a key Iraqi province that will soon return to Iraqi control. And Japan continues to provide critical airlift support to coalition forces in Iraq. The people of Japan can be proud of the contribution their Self-Defense Forces have made in the war on terror, and Americans are proud to serve alongside such courageous allies.

Japan and the United States are cooperating to address other threats to our security. Our two nations are working together through the six-party talks, insisting that North Korea meet its pledge to abandon all nuclear weapons and its existing nuclear programs. Japan and the United States are also founding members of the Proliferation Security Initiative that is working to keep dangerous weapons from rogue states and terrorist groups. And our two nations are repositioning our forces to counter the emerging threats of the 21st century.

As we meet threats to our security, we're also working together to improve the lives of our people and address common chal-

lenges. Our two economies are the largest in the world, and we are working to expand trade and investment opportunities for both our peoples. Japan and the United States are working together for a successful conclusion to the Doha negotiations, which would add to the prosperity of our nations and help lift millions in the developing world out of poverty.

With prosperity comes responsibility. So our two nations helped build the Asian-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, so we can make the latest energy technologies more widely available, reduce pollution, and increase energy efficiency.

Americans cherish our friendship with the Japanese people and value our alliance with the nation of Japan. And we honor the leadership of Japan's Prime Minister Koizumi. He's a man of vision; he's a man of integrity; and I'm proud to call him my friend. I thank the Prime Minister for coming to the White House. And I'm looking forward to joining him tomorrow at Graceland. *[Laughter]* Officially, he's here to see the President—but I know the highlight of his visit will be paying his respects to the King. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your leadership, and welcome back to America.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Good morning.

Audience Member. Good morning.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Our Japan children very good. *[Laughter]* You can learn both Japanese and English. In the future, it's useful to you all.

First of all, allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to President Bush, the Government, and the people of the United States for putting on such a splendid welcome ceremony for me.

In Japan, I am known as "Lucky Man." And I feel that I am lucky in the United States as well. Look at this fine weather; I feel that this weather is also welcoming me.

I believe it is no exaggeration to say that over the past 5 years, there has been no world leader, alongside Mr. Bush—President Bush, among the world leaders with whom I have felt so much heart to heart, felt so deep a friendship and trust, and have cooperated with.

And I believe having personal and good relations between the two leaders is good not

just for the two friends, the two of us. From now on, I'll engage in the discussions with President Bush on—as Japan and the United States are allies on various matters, not simply of bilateral relations but on the questions of how best we, our two countries, could cooperate together as allies in addressing various international issues.

I sincerely hope that my visit this time will enable our two countries to continue to cooperate and develop together, and as allies in the international community, make even greater contributions to the numerous challenges in the world community.

And in concluding, I would like to express my heartfelt wishes for further prosperity of the Government and the people of the United States of America.

Thank you again. Such a wonderful hospitality. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:11 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where Prime Minister Koizumi was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke partly in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan

June 29, 2006

President Bush. Thank you all. Please be seated. Mr. Prime Minister, as I said on the South Lawn, we are delighted to have you here in Washington. The Prime Minister and I have got a very friendly relationship. We've just had 2 hours of discussions. We talked about a lot of areas of mutual concern. I've reminded the Prime Minister—the American people, Mr. Prime Minister, over the past months, that it was not always a given that the United States and America [Japan]* would have a close relationship. After all, 60 years we were at war—60 years ago, we were at war, and today we talked about North Korea and Iran and Iraq and trade and energy cooperation.

It's an amazing fact that we're able to have these discussions. To me it shows the power

of liberty and democracy to transform enemies to allies and to help transform the world. And one thing about the Prime Minister is, he understands that. He's a firm believer that—in universal values. He believes in freedom, and he's willing to act on those beliefs. And we have been a strong partner in peace, Mr. Prime Minister.

You've had a remarkable tenure as the Prime Minister of your country. You have led with courage. You have made hard decisions. You've helped us change our relationship so that Japan and the United States will be able to work even closer together in the 21st century. You made the hard decision to help realign our troops in your part of the world to better accommodate the needs of the Japanese people, and at the same time, keep in position a relationship that will be necessary for peace and stability.

I want to thank you for opening your markets to U.S. beef. I think the Japanese people are going to like the taste of U.S. beef. As a matter of fact, I had a good slice of beef last night, and you told me you did as well, and you look like you're feeling pretty good. [Laughter]

Prime Minister Koizumi. Very good. [Laughter]

President Bush. Right, good. We had an interesting discussion about energy. And one of the things that Japan and the United States can do is, we can help provide technologies that will improve the climate as well as reduce our dependence on hydrocarbons. We discussed the Nuclear Suppliers Group that we're a part of and our contributions to some research and development that will help speed up fast breeder reactors and new types of reprocessing so that we can help deal with the cost of globalization when it comes to energy; make ourselves more secure, economically, as well as make us less dependent on hydrocarbons from parts of the world that may not agree with our policies.

As I mentioned, we discussed Iraq and Afghanistan. By the way, the Japanese defense forces did a really good job when they were in Iraq. And they're able to leave because they did such a good job. And now the Iraqis will be running the province in which the Japanese forces used to be. Nevertheless, the

* White House correction.

Prime Minister, as he mentioned in the comments, will continue to provide airlift capacity and naval help.

The North Korean issue is one, obviously, that's got everybody's attention now. And we discussed this issue in length. We both agree that it's very important for us to remain united in sending a clear message to the North Korean leader that, first of all, launching the missile is unacceptable. There have been no briefings as to what's on top of the missile. He hasn't told anybody where the missile is going. He has an obligation, it seems like to me and the Prime Minister, that there be a full briefing—to those of us who are concerned about this issue—as to what his intentions are. It makes sense, doesn't it? It's a reasonable thing for somebody to do.

We talked about the six-party talks, and to make sure we remain bound up in sending a clear message to the leader of North Korea. I also talked about one of the most touching moments of my Presidency, when the mom of the abducted daughter came to the Oval Office and talked to me about what it was like to have a young daughter abducted by the North Koreans. And it really broke my heart. I told the Prime Minister it was a moving moment for me. I just could not imagine what it would be like to have somebody have taken, you know, my daughter—one of my daughters—and never be able to see her again. And the woman showed such great courage, Mr. Prime Minister, when she came and shared her story with me. It took everything I could not to weep, listening to her.

It also reminded me about the nature of the regime—what kind of regime would kidnap people, just take them offshore, you know; what kind of person would not care about how that woman felt.

And so we talked about the need to work together to bring a resolution to this issue about nuclear weapons. And I reminded the Prime Minister—he didn't need reminding, but I'm going to share with him once again my deep concern about the human condition inside North Korea. He shares that condition—after all, he's the Prime Minister of a country that has suffered a lot as a result of abductions. So we spent time talking about

All in all, it was a visit that I knew was going to be a good one, because I know the man; I know what he's like. He's a good thinker; he's a strategic thinker; he's a clear speaker. And plus, as you all know, it's become quite well-known that we're going to end the visit at Graceland tomorrow. He's an Elvis fan. Laura and I gave him a jukebox as a gift, and I can't—what was the first song you put on? It wasn't "Hound Dog;" it was—

Prime Minister Koizumi. "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You."

President Bush. See, he loves Elvis, and I couldn't think of a better way to honor my friend, by going to Graceland. But it also sends a signal about how close our relationship is.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, we're glad you're here. Thanks for your friendship; thanks for your alliance; and thanks for your leadership.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you very much. With President Bush, I had a very candid exchange of views. Over the past 5 years, I've really had a close friendship with President Bush, and thanks to that, we've been able to have a very candid exchange of views. And I believe this is not just limited to close relations between us, personally, but I believe this close relationship is necessary in the future between Japan and the United States as well.

Japan and the United States is in a Japan-U.S. alliance in the world, and we reconfirmed that we can cooperate with each other on various challenges, maintain Japan's security and deterrence, and reduce burdens on local communities. On these points we were able to have a very important agreement, and we're most grateful for that.

In the meeting, we discussed not just Japan-U.S. bilateral relations but numerous challenges that the world community faces today—Afghanistan, North Korea, poverty reduction—reduced poverty for people who suffer from various diseases. We shared a common perception, and by doing so, we'll be able to cooperate with each other.

Now, Japan, in a way different than the U.S., has been supporting the nation-building in Iraq by the Iraqis themselves. The ground self-defense forces stationed in

Samawa, having accomplished their mission, will be withdrawing. But as a responsible member of the international community, through cooperation with various countries concerned and through cooperation with the United Nations, Japan will continue provide support and help the Iraqis get back on their feet.

With regard to North Korea, we spent a lot of time, and I expressed my views, and President Bush also expressed his thoughts. President Bush was kind enough to meet with Mrs. Sakie Yokota. And he told me he was very moved on that occasion. Anyone, if one's daughter is abducted, naturally will be grieved. And this feeling need to be shared by Americans and Japanese. We discussed that sort of thing.

We do have the six-party talks framework. Japan and the United States, I believe, need to maintain close coordination and encourage North Korea to become a responsible member of the international community.

With regard to Iranian nuclear proliferation, Japan also is concerned about this problem. The United States attaches importance to cooperation with EU and other countries concerned. Japan certainly supports that U.S. stance of seeking resolution through a dialog regarding the nuclear proliferation issue. The Iranian issue remains a grave issue for the entire world economy, and Japan wishes to cooperate with the United States and other countries concerned on this matter as well.

On U.N. reforms, building on the results achieved so far, we would like to work out with the G-4 a proposal that can be supported by the United States and achieve reforms of the United Nations and the Security Council. Japan and the United States will maintain close coordination, partnership. We need to do that and address various challenges.

The Japan-U.S. alliance is not just an alliance for our two countries; it is an alliance for the world. And in the interest of the world, we were able to confirm that we need to cooperate with each other. And I think this was a very substantive, fruitful meeting. And I would like to thank President Bush and the U.S. for a very warm, hospitable welcome.

President Bush. We've agreed to take two questions a side. Walking in, I reminded the Prime Minister of one of Elvis's greatest songs, "Don't Be Cruel"—[laughter]. So keep that in mind, Hunt [Terence Hunt, Associated Press], when you ask your question.

Hamdan v. Rumsfeld

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You've said that you wanted to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, but you were waiting for the Supreme Court decision that came out today. Do you intend now to close the Guantanamo Bay quickly? And how do you deal with the suspects that you've said were too dangerous to be released or sent home?

President Bush. Thank you for the question on a court ruling that literally came out in the midst of my meeting with the Prime Minister—and so I haven't had a chance to fully review the findings of the Supreme Court. I, one, assure you that we take them very seriously; two, that to the extent that there is latitude to work with the Congress to determine whether or not the military tribunals will be an avenue in which to give people their day in court, we will do so.

The American people need to know that this ruling, as I understand it, won't cause killers to be put out on the street. In other words, there's not a—it was a drive-by briefing on the way here; I was told that this was not going to be the case. At any rate, we will seriously look at the findings, obviously. And one thing I'm not going to do, though, is I'm not going to jeopardize the safety of the American people. People have got to understand that. I understand we're in a war on terror, that these people were picked up off of a battlefield. And I will protect the people and, at the same time, conform with the findings of the Supreme Court.

Q. Do you think the prison will close?

President Bush. Well, I haven't had a chance to fully review what the Court said, Terry. I wish I had, and I could have given you a better answer. As I say, we take the findings seriously. And again, as I understand it—now please don't hold me to this—that there is a way forward with military tribunals in working with the United States Congress.

As I understand, certain Senators have already been out expressing their desire to address what the Supreme Court found, and we will work with the Congress. I want to find a way forward.

In other words, I have told the people that I would like for there to be a way to return people from Guantanamo to their home countries, but some of them—people need to be tried in our courts. The Hamdan decision was the way forward for that part of my statement, and again, I would like to review the case. And we are; we've got people looking at it right now to determine how we can work with Congress, if that's available, to solve the problem.

North Korea

Q. On North Korea, I'd like to ask a question of both of you, Prime Minister and President. On North Korea, I understand you spent a lot of time to exchange views. It is said that the North Koreans are preparing to launch Taepodong-2. To resolve this missile issue, what kind of cooperation do you think is possible between Japan and the United States? And also, did you discuss possibly referring the matter to the U.N. Security Council?

On the abduction issue and human rights issue, I understand, Mr. President, you've shown deep concern for the resolution of the abduction issue. What sort of cooperation do you think is possible between the U.S. and Japan?

President Bush. Do you want to go? Yes, please.

Prime Minister Koizumi. The North Koreans—I believe, in the first place, we need to try and approach the North Koreans not to launch Taepodong-2, through various efforts, and should they ever launch the missile, that will cause various pressures—we would apply various pressures. And we discussed that. I believe it is best that I do not discuss what specific pressures we were talking about.

As we approach the North Koreans, we shall maintain close cooperation and coordination with the United States, including the abduction issue.

President Bush. —all kinds of opportunities, and the U.N. is an opportunity to ex-

press our common concern. You know, another interesting opportunity is, over time, to work on missile defenses. The Japanese cannot be—afford to be held hostage to rockets. And neither can the United States or any other body who loves freedom. And so one really interesting opportunity is for—to share and cooperate on missile defenses.

You know, the leader of North Korea is just going to have to make a decision: Does he want to be isolated from the world, or is he interested in being an active participant in, kind of, the nations of the world who care about their people and desire peace? It's his choice to make. We've made our choice. We believe it's important for nations such as Japan and the United States to be active participants in the world in a positive way. And that's what we're doing.

You know, a lot of the focus of our relationship is based upon, obviously, Iraq and Afghanistan, but the truth of the matter is, Japan and the United States make mighty contributions to end suffering because of disease and hunger. And that's why I appreciate the Prime Minister's leadership. He understands that with economic might comes serious responsibilities in the world. And the United States takes those responsibilities seriously, and so does Japan. Matt [Matt Spetalnick, Reuters].

Hamdan v. Rumsfeld

Q. Yes, Mr. President. We can assume you've at least been given some of the broad strokes of the Supreme Court's decision on Guantanamo—

President Bush. No, I just gave you the answer on that. I'll be glad to answer another question—I gave you the broad strokes I've been given.

Q. Right, but this—can you comment on what looks like a judicial repudiation of your administration's policy on the treatment of terror suspects post-9/11?

President Bush. Matt, I can't—I wish I could comment, and would, obviously. I'm a person who generally comments on things. I haven't been briefed enough to make a comment on it, except for the following things. I'm sorry you had to waste your question, but we will conform to the Supreme Court. We will analyze the decision. To the

extent that the Congress has given any latitude to develop a way forward using military tribunals, we will work with them.

As I understand, a Senator has already been on TV. Haven't seen it; haven't heard what he said, but as—they briefed me and said he wants to devise law in conformity with the case that would enable us to use a military tribunal to hold these people to account. And if that's the case, we'll work with him.

I can't comment any more than I have just done in the first question; otherwise, I would have. I just haven't been fully briefed enough to answer your question, Matt.

Japan-U.S. Relations

Q. Over the past 5 years, Prime Minister Koizumi and President Bush have built up the best sort of relationship between the two of you in the history of Japan and the United States. Now, what is the greatest reason for having maintained this policy of attaching greatest importance to Japan-U.S. relations?

And a question for President Bush: Various problems have occurred after 9/11. And in the Prime Minister Koizumi's policy of attaching importance to Japan-U.S. relations, what was the case—instance where you were most appreciative of Prime Minister Koizumi's position? And what sort of impact has it had on your feeling and stance toward Japan?

Prime Minister Koizumi. Well, attaching importance to our relations with the United States—well, after the Second World War, throughout—over the past 6 years, Japan has maintained that policy. We've recognized the importance of a Japan-U.S. alliance and also maintain a stance of international cooperation and coordination. It's because we have learned the lessons of World War II, we took up this policy in believing that this was good for Japan. In the past, today, and the future, as well maintain Japan-U.S. alliance and international cooperation. This is a very important fundamental policy of Japan that should never change.

Last year, President Bush visited Kyoto in Japan and had one-on-one meeting. Some seem to think that the—to the extent Japan-U.S. relations is undermined, that could be complemented by better relations with Asia

and other countries. And I've said I do not subscribe to that view. The better the Japan-U.S. relations, my view is that we will be able to have better relations with China and other countries in Asia.

Now, some in the mass media took up on that and misinterpreted my position. In other words, they thought that I was saying, to the extent Japan-U.S. relations remain good, I couldn't care less what Japan's relations would be with other countries. That is not at all what I said. I've been saying that there is no country in the world that has as important bilateral relations as Japan-U.S. bilateral relations. But I have no view such as having better relations with the United States at the expense of relations with other countries.

My view is that by having better relations with the United States, I can have better relations with other countries. And from that perspective, in the post-war years, Japan has achieved remarkable growth and development. It is because we've learned lessons from the past in our relations with the United States and determined to maintain friendly relations with the United States. And that is what we have done to date.

In the future as well, Japan-U.S. alliance is something that will be—contribute to the resolution of various challenges in the world—by maintaining friendly ties between Japan and the United States. Attaching importance to our relations with the United States does not sacrifice our views and our relations with other countries. Please do not misunderstand.

President Bush. It's a pretty tricky question. I hate to point out one area where that has influenced my thinking about Japan's contributions for fear of diminishing the contributions in other areas. Because the truth of the matter is, we live in a very complex world, and by—cooperating to solve problems makes the world a better place. However, since you asked, I'll answer. I would think it is the Prime Minister's understanding of the capacity for democracies to help change the conditions of the world. And, therefore, his strong support for helping a new Afghanistan democracy grow and his willingness to do something a lot of other leaders in Japan have been unwilling to do,

which is to commit self-defense forces to help the growth of a new democracy.

And I tell the American people this: I use the Prime Minister all the time in my speeches, as the press corps will tell you, incredibly bored of hearing. But, nevertheless, I do share the example with the people about my relationship with the Prime Minister. It is just—it strikes me as just amazing. A lot of people take it for granted. I don't, because 60 years ago, we were at war. And something happened between our visit to Graceland and when our respective fathers looked at each other with deep suspicion. And what happened was, Japan developed a Japanese-style democracy based upon shared values. And today, we're able to discuss peace. It is a remarkable transformation of a relationship. We just happen to be the beneficiaries of that transformation. I also believe, however, that there are people who are coming up who have shedded the bonds of tyranny are also the benefits of this relationship.

And so Japan is making a mighty contribution to new democracy, which I strongly believe is in our Nation's interests, and I strongly believe will yield peace. And I firmly believe that the example that we show today will be repeated over the decades, particularly with newly-elected leaders in the Middle East. And the Prime Minister understands that. And I'm grateful for the contribution of the Japanese people to the cause of peace.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you very much, American people, for "Love Me Tender." [Laughter]

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:33 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea. Prime Minister Koizumi and some reporters spoke in Japanese, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan: The Japan-U.S. Alliance of the New Century

June 29, 2006

President George W. Bush of the United States of America hosted Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan for an Official Visit to the White House on June 29, 2006, that celebrated their close personal friendship and the deep and increasing ties between the American and Japanese people.

The two leaders agreed that the U.S.-Japan partnership stands as one of the most accomplished bilateral relationships in history. They reviewed with great satisfaction the broadened and enhanced cooperation achieved in the alliance under their joint stewardship, and together heralded a new U.S.-Japan Alliance of Global Cooperation for the 21st Century.

The U.S.-Japan Alliance Based on Universal Values and Common Interests

The United States and Japan stand together not only against mutual threats but also for the advancement of core universal values such as freedom, human dignity and human rights, democracy, market economy, and rule of law. These values are deeply rooted in the long historic traditions of both countries.

The United States and Japan share interests in: winning the war on terrorism; maintaining regional stability and prosperity; promoting free market ideals and institutions; upholding human rights; securing freedom of navigation and commerce, including sea lanes; and enhancing global energy security. It is these common values and common interests that form the basis for U.S.-Japan regional and global cooperation.

Bilateral Political, Security and Economic Cooperation

The President and Prime Minister welcomed the tremendous progress in the U.S.-Japan security relationship achieved during their tenures. Bilateral security cooperation has deepened as a result of ballistic missile

defense cooperation and legislation in Japan to deal with contingencies.

The two leaders welcomed the establishment of common strategic objectives of February 2005 as well as the conclusion of watershed agreements to transform the alliance for the future. These agreements, including the most significant realignment of U.S. and Japanese forces in decades, constitute historic steps forward that make the U.S. military presence more enduring and effective, and ensure the capabilities necessary for the alliance to cope with diverse challenges in the evolving security environments. The two leaders agreed that full and prompt implementation of these agreements is necessary, not only for Japan and the United States, but also for peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia's historic transformation is underway, creating a region that increasingly embraces the universal values of democracy, freedom, human rights, market economy, and rule of law. The two leaders pledged to work together to shape and support this transformation. In this regard, the two nations will continue to work on common challenges in the region such as (a) promoting individual freedoms; (b) increasing transparency and confidence in the political, economic, and military fields; and (c) protecting human dignity, and resolving humanitarian and human rights problems including the abduction issue.

The two leaders affirmed that robust U.S.-Japan cooperation embraces the dynamism of China, and helps to maintain peace and tranquility in Northeast Asia. They reaffirmed the importance of advancing strategic dialogues with friends and allies in the region such as Australia. They called on North Korea to fulfill denuclearization pledges made in the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks and to continue to adhere to its missile test moratorium. They discussed the need for the few isolated regimes in the region to respect human rights and democratic principles including an inclusive political dialogue.

The two leaders reaffirmed their common efforts on a wide range of global activities including recent successes in the war on terrorism, support for the new government in

Iraq, and cooperation on counter-proliferation activities, including on Iran. The President praised Japan's humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as Japan's support provided to coalition forces operating in the Indian Ocean.

Mindful of Japan's significant role and contributions at the U.N., Japan and the United States will intensify their cooperation, and work together in realizing Japan's permanent membership at the Security Council.

They pledged to continue close cooperation under the Strategic Development Alliance and to work together on other global challenges such as capacity-building for natural disaster response and prevention and response to avian/pandemic influenza. They also agreed to work on the interrelated challenges of energy security, clean development, reducing pollution, and climate change.

Building upon the progress achieved over the last five years under the U.S.-Japan Economic Partnership for Growth, the two leaders agreed to explore ways to further deepen the mutually-beneficial bilateral economic relationship as well as to enhance cooperation on regional and global economic issues.

Such an expanded partnership would include: promoting growth and economic reform; promoting and maintaining open markets; ensuring efficient movement of legitimate goods, services, people, and investments, while tackling threats from terrorism; strengthening intellectual property rights protection and enforcement; enhancing global energy security; and fostering transparent and favorable business climates in both countries.

The two leaders also affirmed their commitment to make a strong contribution to ensure a successful and ambitious outcome for the WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations by the end of 2006 that opens markets and achieves a balanced outcome across the board. They expressed their determination to work together to strengthen the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, recognizing its crucial role in promoting stability, security, and prosperity in the region.

The two leaders shared the view that the U.S.-Japan global alliance remains a constant

and positive force. They shared the expectation that the U.S.-Japan friendship and global cooperation shall continue to grow stronger.

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

**Statement on House of
Representatives Action on Scientific
Research Legislation**

June 29, 2006

I commend the House for approving full funding of the basic research component of the American Competitiveness Initiative through the Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill. With this funding, the House has shown that it is committed to supporting the work of our Nation's most brilliant scientists as they study promising areas such as new energy technologies, supercomputing, and nanotechnology.

I appreciate the support of Chairman Lewis and the tireless and effective efforts of Chairman Wolf, and I commend the House leadership's work to move quickly on the centerpiece of our innovation agenda. I urge the Senate to join the House in passing this important legislation.

**Executive Order 13408—Amending
Executive Order 13381, as Amended,
To Extend its Duration by One Year**

June 29, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend by 1 year the duration of Executive Order 13381 of June 27, 2005, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Section 6(a) of Executive Order 13381 is amended by striking "April 1, 2006" and inserting in lieu thereof "April 1, 2007".

Sec. 2. Section 6(b) of Executive Order 13381 is amended by striking "July 1, 2006" and inserting in lieu thereof "July 1, 2007".

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 29, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 30, 2006]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.

**Remarks at a Dinner Honoring
Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of
Japan**

June 29, 2006

Mr. Prime Minister and distinguished guests, Laura and I thank you for joining us tonight, and we welcome you to the White House. This room has hosted many honored guests, and tonight it also hosts a treasured friend.

Mr. Prime Minister, our strong friendship has grown out of the strong alliance between our two nations. Japan and America share a common belief in the power of freedom to bring hope to millions who have not known it. And we share a common commitment to meet the challenges of our time and lay the foundations of peace for generations to come.

In our meetings today, you have once again demonstrated the qualities of character that both the Japanese people and the American people admire. You have an optimistic view of the world; you welcome hard work and big challenges; and you are determined that your great nation will continue to make a positive contribution to our world.

Mr. Prime Minister, more than 25 years ago, the White House welcomed another distinguished visitor who shared much in common with you. Like you, he had great hair. [Laughter] Like you, he was known to sing in public. [Laughter] And like you, he won admirers in countries far from home. That man was Elvis. [Laughter] And Laura and I are looking forward to joining you tomorrow in our visit to his home in Memphis.

But tonight, Mr. Prime Minister, it's my honor to offer a toast to you and to our friends and allies, the people of Japan.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Koizumi.

Remarks at Graceland With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Memphis, Tennessee

June 30, 2006

President Bush. It is such a joy to be here to Graceland. It's my first visit.

Prime Minister Koizumi. My first visit too.

President Bush. The Prime Minister's first visit.

Prime Minister Koizumi. It's like a dream, with President Bush and Presley's daughter.

President Bush. Thank you all for greeting us. You're awfully kind to be here.

Prime Minister Koizumi. You look like Elvis.

[At this point, the late entertainer Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie, spoke in Japanese, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. The visit here is an indication of how well-known Elvis was around the world. A lot of people are still singing Elvis Presley songs here in the States, and there's a lot of people who love Elvis Presley in Japan, including the Prime Minister. This visit is also a way of reminding us about the close friendship between our peoples.

And, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for agreeing to come here. A lot of Americans are thrilled you're here, particularly at Graceland. It means a lot to our country that you would be that interested in one of America's icons, Elvis Presley.

Prime Minister Koizumi. My birthday is the same as Elvis's.

President Bush. You and Elvis were born on the same day?

Prime Minister Koizumi. January 8th. Even now, I often listen to Elvis CDs.

President Bush. Still listen to Elvis CDs?

Prime Minister Koizumi. Sure.

President Bush. You're a pretty good Elvis singer.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I'm not impersonator.

[Prime Minister Koizumi sang an Elvis song.]

President Bush. I thought you were going to do "Blue Suede Shoes." Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. at Graceland. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Tour of Graceland With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Memphis

June 30, 2006

President Bush. First of all, the Prime Minister and I would like to thank Priscilla and Lisa for their gracious hospitality. And we thank the Graceland staff as well, for arranging this unusual experience. First of all, my presence here shows it's never too late to come to Graceland. Laura and I are—we've known Elvis Presley since we were growing up. He's obviously a major part of our music history. He had an international reputation. His reputation was so strong that he attracted the attention of the now Prime Minister of Japan.

I was hoping the Prime Minister would want to come to Graceland. I knew he loved Elvis; I didn't realize how much he loved Elvis. He not only knows Elvis's history, he can sing a pretty good Elvis song. This visit here shows that not only am I personally fond of the Prime Minister but the ties between our peoples are very strong as well.

And so, again, to the Presleys, thank you all. And Mr. Prime Minister, glad you joined us. Want to say a few comments?

Prime Minister Koizumi. It's like a dream. I never expected Mr. President come with me to visit Graceland. There's Elvis song: "To Dream Impossible." [Laughter]

[At this point, Prime Minister Koizumi sang an Elvis song.]

Prime Minister Koizumi. My dream came true. So thank you very much for—[inaudible]—thank you. Thank you very much for treating me nice. That's an Elvis song.

[Prime Minister Koizumi sang another Elvis song.]

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you.

President Bush. We're going to go have some barbeque. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. on the front lawn at Graceland. In his remarks, he referred to the late entertainer Elvis Presley's wife, Priscilla, and daughter, Lisa Marie.

**Proclamation 8033—To Modify
Duty-Free Treatment Under the
Generalized System of Preferences**
June 30, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), beneficiary developing countries, except those designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries as provided in section 503(c)(2)(D) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(D)), are subject to competitive need limitations on the preferential treatment afforded under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to eligible articles.

2. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)) provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act during the preceding calendar year.

3. Section 503(c)(2)(F)(i) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(i)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

4. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain beneficiary developing countries have exported certain eligible articles in quantities

exceeding the applicable competitive need limitation in 2005, and I therefore terminate the duty-free treatment for such articles from such beneficiary developing countries.

5. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, and subject to the considerations set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the 1974 Act, I have determined to redesignate certain countries as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act.

6. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act should be disregarded with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries, as set forth in Annex II to this proclamation.

7. In Proclamation 7758 of March 1, 2004, I determined that Barbados had become a “high income” country, and terminated the designation of Barbados as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective January 1, 2006. I have determined that an additional change should be made to general note 4(d) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) to reflect that determination.

8. Section 604 of the 1974 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other Acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do hereby proclaim:

(1) In order to provide that one or more countries that have not been treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles should be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to such article or articles for purposes of the GSP, and, in order to provide that one or more countries should no longer

be treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A of Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to designate certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP when imported from any beneficiary developing country, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided in section B(1) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(3) In order to provide that one or more countries should not be treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided in section B(2) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(4) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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, 8:48 a.m., July 3, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 5.

Proclamation 8034—To Implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement With Respect to Guatemala, and for Other Purposes
June 30, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On August 5, 2004, the United States entered into the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (Agreement) with Costa Rica, the

Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (Agreement countries). The Agreement was approved by the Congress in section 101(a) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the “Act”) (Public Law 109–53, 119 Stat. 462) (19 U.S.C. 4001 note).

2. Section 201 of the Act authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications or continuation of any duty, such continuation of duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties, as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out or apply Article 3.3 and Annex 3.3 (including the schedule of United States duty reductions with respect to originating goods) of the Agreement.

3. Consistent with section 201(a)(2) of the Act, each Agreement country is to be removed from the enumeration of designated beneficiary developing countries eligible for the benefits of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) on the date the Agreement enters into force with respect to that country.

4. Consistent with section 201(a)(3) of the Act, each Agreement country is to be removed from the enumeration of designated beneficiary countries under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) (19 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) on the date the Agreement enters into force with respect to that country, subject to the exceptions set out in section 201(a)(3)(B) of the Act.

5. Consistent with section 213(b)(5)(D) of the CBERA, as amended by the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) (Public Law 106–200), each Agreement country is to be removed from the enumeration of designated CBTPA beneficiary countries on the date the Agreement enters into force with respect to that country.

6. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2483), as amended, authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America,

acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 201 of the Act and section 604 of the 1974 Act, and the Act having taken effect pursuant to section 107(a), do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide generally for the preferential tariff treatment being accorded under the Agreement to Guatemala, to provide certain other treatment to originating goods for the purposes of the Agreement, to provide tariff-rate quotas with respect to certain goods, to reflect the removal of Guatemala from the enumeration of designated beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP, to reflect the removal of Guatemala from the enumeration of designated beneficiary countries for purposes of the CBERA and the CBTPA, to implement statistical monitoring relating to tariff provisions that the President previously proclaimed to implement the Agreement, and to make technical and conforming changes in the general notes to the HTS, the HTS is modified as set forth in the Annex of Publication 3861 of the United States International Trade Commission, entitled “*Modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to Implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement With Respect to Guatemala*” (Publication 3861), which is incorporated by reference into this proclamation.

(2)(a) The amendments to the HTS made by paragraph (1) of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the relevant dates indicated in the Annex to Publication 3861.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (2)(a) of this proclamation, this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after July 1, 2006.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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., July 5, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 6.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 25

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Ford’s Theatre Gala, where the President made remarks for television broadcast on July 4.

June 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the East Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with the 2006 Presidential Scholars.

In the afternoon, at the historic Evermay house, the President made remarks at a Republican National Committee finance luncheon.

June 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Senators to discuss proposed line-item veto legislation.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with S. Sgt. Christian Bagge, USA, who was wounded in Iraq in June 2005.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jay M. Cohen to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sean T. Connaughton to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board: Carmel Borders; Donald D. Deshler; Blanca E. Enriquez; Patricia Mathes; Eliza McFadden; and Timothy Shanahan.

June 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to St. Louis, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with 2006 Presidential Scholar Andrew Benecke and USA Freedom Corps volunteer Susan Reese.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Stralsund and Trinwillershagen, Germany, on July 13 to meet with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany.

June 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, in the Grand Foyer, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. Later, in the State Dining Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted an official dinner for Prime Minister Koizumi, followed by entertainment in the East Room.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to areas of Louisiana impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to areas of Mississippi impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

June 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush

traveled with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to Memphis, TN, where they participated in a tour of Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion.

In the afternoon, at the Rendezvous restaurant, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Prime Minister Koizumi.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Sandi Langley before traveling to Columbus, OH, where, at a private residence, he attended a Mike DeWine for U.S. Senate reception.

In the evening, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to appoint Lynette Boggs McDonald as a member of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jason Edward Allen and William S. Gates as members of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced the nomination of Frank R. Jimenez to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

The President announced the nomination of Donald C. Johnson to be Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea.

The President announced the nomination of Bruce I. Knight to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The President announced the nomination of Charles E. McQueary to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation at the Department of Defense.

The President announced the nomination of Frederic S. Mishkin to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (1st District).

The President announced the nomination of Edmund C. Moy to be Director of the Mint.

The President announced the nomination of Nathaniel F. Wienecke to be Assistant

Secretary of Commerce for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced the designation of Paul J. Hutter as Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning.

The President declared a major disaster in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and mudslides beginning on June 23 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 26

Warren Bell,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2012, vice Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, resigned.

Chris Boskin,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2012, vice Katherine Milner Anderson, resigned.

Linda Mysliwy Conlin,
of New Jersey, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2009, vice April H. Foley, term expired.

J. Joseph Grandmaison,
of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2009 (reappointment).

Thomas E. Harvey,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs), vice Pamela M. Iovino, resigned.

Roger L. Hunt,
of Nevada, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2009, vice Scott O. Wright, term expired.

John E. Kidde,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2011, vice Frederick G. Slabach, term expired.

John Peyton,
of Florida, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2011, vice Patrick Lloyd McCrory, term expired.

David H. Pryor,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2008, vice Christy Carpenter, term expired.

William B. Wark,
of Maine, to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years, vice Rixio Enrique Medina, resigned.

Robert L. Wilkie,
of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Daniel R. Stanley.

William E. Wright,
of Florida, to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years, vice Gerald V. Poje, term expired.

Submitted June 28

John Preston Bailey,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, vice Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., retiring.

Mary O. Donohue,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, vice Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., retired.

John Alfred Jarvey,
of Iowa, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, vice Ronald E. Longstaff, retiring.

Robert James Jonker,
of Michigan, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Michigan, vice Gor-
don J. Quist, retired.

Kent A. Jordan,
of Delaware, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for
the Third Circuit, vice Jane R. Roth, retired.

Raymond M. Kethledge,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
Sixth Circuit, vice James L. Ryan, retired.

Debra Ann Livingston,
of New York, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for
the Second Circuit, vice John M. Walker, Jr.,
retiring.

Paul Lewis Maloney,
of Michigan, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Michigan, vice Rich-
ard Alan Enslen, retired.

Stephen Joseph Murphy III,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
Sixth Circuit, vice Susan Bieke Neilson, de-
ceased.

Janet T. Neff,
of Michigan, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Michigan, vice David
W. McKeague, elevated.

Carmel Borders,
of Kentucky, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring November 25, 2008 (re-
appointment).

Jay M. Cohen,
of New York, to be Under Secretary for
Science and Technology, Department of
Homeland Security, vice Charles E.
McQueary, resigned.

Sean T. Connaughton,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Mari-
time Administration, vice William Schubert,
resigned.

Donald D. Deshler,
of Kansas, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring January 30, 2008, vice Phyllis
C. Hunter, term expired.

Blanca E. Enriquez,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring January 30, 2009 (reappoint-
ment).

Patricia Mathes,
of Texas, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring November 25, 2007, vice Mark
G. Yudof, resigned.

Eliza McFadden,
of Florida, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring January 30, 2009, vice Douglas
Carnine, term expired.

Timothy Shanahan,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National
Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a
term expiring November 25, 2007, vice Jean
Osborn, term expired.

Submitted June 29

Frank R. Jimenez,
of Florida, to be General Counsel of the De-
partment of the Navy, vice Alberto Jose
Mora, resigned.

Donald C. Johnson,
of Texas, a career member of the Senior For-
eign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to
be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-
potentiary of the United States of America
to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Bruce I. Knight,
of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of
Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory
Programs, vice William T. Hawks, resigned.

Bruce I. Knight,
of South Dakota, to be a member of the
Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit
Corporation, vice William T. Hawks, re-
signed.

Charles E. McQueary,
of North Carolina, to be Director of Oper-
ational Test and Evaluation, Department of
Defense, vice Thomas P. Christie, resigned.

Frederic S. Mishkin,
of New York, to be a member of the Board
of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
for the unexpired term of 14 years from Feb-
ruary 1, 2000, vice Roger Walton Ferguson,
Jr., resigned.

Edmund C. Moy,
of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Mint for
a term of 5 years, vice Henrietta Holsman
Fore, resigned.

Nathaniel F. Wienecke,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary
of Commerce, vice Brett T. Palmer, re-
signed.

Peter D. Keisler,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
District of Columbia Circuit, vice John G.
Roberts, Jr., elevated.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released June 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on Murder
of Four Russian Diplomats in Iraq

Released June 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: The Legislative Line-Item Veto:
Constitutional, Effective, and Bipartisan

Released June 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: 50th Anni-
versary of the Poznan Uprising

Statement by the Press Secretary: President
To Visit Germany

Released June 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Louisiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Mississippi

Released June 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 5603

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Pennsylvania

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 30

H.R. 5603 / Public Law 109-238
Second Higher Education Extension Act of
2006