

chaplain with the New York City Fire Department. Father Mychal helped Shannon and her family through Shannon's struggle with liver disease. On September the 11th, 2001, Father Mychal lost his life in the World Trade Center. In memory of her friend, Shannon founded Mychal's Message, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing Father Mychal's loving spirit. Over the last 5 years, Mychal's Message has collected and distributed more than 100,000 needed items to the poor and the homeless. With each gift to the needy, Shannon encloses a card with Father Mychal's personal prayer. It reads: "Lord, take me where you want me to go, let me meet who you want me to meet, tell me what you want me to say, and keep me out of your way." [Laughter]

Father Mychal's humble prayer reminds us of an eternal truth: In the quiet of prayer, we leave behind our own cares and we take up the cares of the Almighty. And in answering His call to service, we find that, in the words of Isaiah, "We will gain new strength. We will run and not get tired. We will walk and not become weary."

And so I thank you for joining us on this day of prayer. I thank you for the tradition you continue here today. And I ask for God's blessings on the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 a.m. at the Hilton Washington Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Emanuel Cleaver II of Missouri; Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize; Francis S. Collins, director, National Human Genome Research Institute; Rev. Dan Mucci, Jr., senior pastor, Abundant Life Church, Glen Burnie, MD, and his wife, Kathy; and entertainer Nicole C. Mullen.

### Remarks Prior to a Meeting on Childhood Obesity

February 1, 2007

**The President.** Laura and I are so pleased to welcome the Ad Council, as well as leaders from our business community, to talk about a serious American problem, and that is childhood obesity.

Childhood obesity is a costly problem for the country. It puts stress on American families. And we believe it is necessary to come

up with a coherent strategy to help folks all throughout our society cope with the issue. And I appreciate the Secretary being here. Thanks for coming, Mr. Secretary.

We'll discuss—one of the strategies is to have the Ad Council put on an interesting series of ads encouraging children to exercise. One way for this Nation to cope with the issue of obesity is to get people outside—whether it be through sports or hiking or conservation. So we'll encourage them to do that, encourage parents to encourage their children to participate in the great outdoors. We'll also talk about healthy diet choices here.

And so I want to thank you all for coming. It's a serious issue that we take seriously here at the Government.

Laura is off to New York to kick off the program to help deal with heart disease here. And you might want to say a few words.

[At this point, the First Lady made brief remarks.]

**The President.** Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### Statement on Senate Passage of Minimum Wage and Tax Relief Legislation

February 1, 2007

Today the Senate has passed significant legislation that will benefit America's workers and small businesses. By working in a bipartisan way to match a minimum wage increase with tax relief for small businesses, the Senate has taken a step toward helping maintain a strong and dynamic labor market and promoting continued economic growth. I strongly encourage the House to support this combined minimum wage increase and small-business tax relief.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 2.

## Proclamation 8104—American Heart Month, 2007

February 1, 2007

By the President of the United States  
of America

### A Proclamation

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, claiming hundreds of thousands of lives each year. During American Heart Month, we renew our commitment to fighting cardiovascular disease by increasing public awareness of this deadly disease and understanding of how it can be prevented.

Today, millions of Americans live with some form of cardiovascular disease, including congenital heart disease, coronary heart disease, and high blood pressure. Individuals can reduce their chance of developing these and other types of heart disease by exercising regularly, maintaining healthy eating habits and weight, avoiding tobacco use, and monitoring cholesterol and blood pressure levels. All Americans should speak with their doctors about the dangers of this disease and get regular preventive screenings.

My Administration continues to help raise awareness of heart disease through initiatives such as “The Heart Truth” campaign, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. First Lady Laura Bush serves as the National Ambassador of “The Heart Truth” campaign and works with partner organizations as part of her Women’s Health and Wellness Initiative. The campaign informs women about the dangers of this deadly illness and encourages them to make cardiovascular health a priority. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the campaign, which uses the red dress as a symbol to remind women to protect their heart health and inspire them to take action. New data shows that fewer women are dying from heart disease, and more women are aware heart disease is the number one killer.

During American Heart Month, we honor the medical professionals, researchers, and all those whose tireless efforts are making a positive difference in the lives of those battling heart disease. By working together, we

can continue to help the American people live longer and healthier lives.

In acknowledgement of the importance of the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 101), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as “American Heart Month.”

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 2007 as American Heart Month, and I invite all Americans to participate in National Wear Red Day on February 2, 2007. I also invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in recognizing and reaffirming our commitment to fighting cardiovascular disease.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., February 2, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 5.

## Remarks Honoring the 2006 Stanley Cup Champion Carolina Hurricanes

February 2, 2007

**The President.** Thank you all for coming. Have a seat. It’s a pretty big deal for a guy that doesn’t know how to ice-skate—[laughter]—to welcome the Carolina Hurricanes to the White House. We appreciate you coming. You know, I’m not sure what is prettier, the Stanley Cup or Mike Commodore’s hair. [Laughter] A little disappointed you got a haircut—[laughter]—but, welcome.

**Mike Commodore.** Thank you.

**The President.** The other thing—I was a little surprised to see that he’s not wearing his robe. [Laughter]