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continued guidance, comfort, and protection. I invite all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, 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, 9:29 a.m., April 23, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 24.

The President's Radio Address

April 20, 2007

Good morning. This week, the thoughts and prayers of millions of Americans are with the victims of the Virginia Tech attacks. We mourn promising lives cut short. We pray for the wounded. And we send our love to those who are hurting.

The day after the attack, Laura and I attended a memorial service on the campus in Blacksburg. We met with faculty members who lost students and colleagues and shared hugs with grieving moms and dads, including parents who had lost their only child. We offered what words of comfort we could, and we were moved by the solidarity and strength of spirit we found. We wanted everyone at the university to know that this tragedy saddened our entire Nation and that the American people stand with them in an hour of darkness.

We can never fully understand what would cause a student to take the lives of 32 innocent people. What we do know is that this was a deeply troubled young man, and there were many warning signs. Our society continues to wrestle with the question of how to handle individuals whose mental health problems can make them a danger to themselves and to others.

Colleges and State and local officials are now confronting these issues, and the Federal Government will help. I've asked top officials at the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services to provide the Virginia Tech community with whatever assistance we can and to participate in a review of the broader questions raised by this tragedy.

I have directed these officials to travel to communities across our Nation to meet with educators, mental health experts, and State and local officials. I have asked the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, to summarize what they learn and report back to me with recommendations about how we can help to avoid such tragedies.

This week at Virginia Tech, we saw a glimpse of humanity at its worst, and we also saw humanity at its best. We learned of students who risked their own safety to tend to wounded classmates. We heard of a teacher who used his body to barricade a classroom door and gave his life so his students could escape through windows. And we saw the good people of Blacksburg embrace victims of this tragedy and help their neighbors endure and heal and hope.

That hope was expressed in a letter written by a Virginia Tech graduate shortly after the attack. He wrote: "Today there is pain everywhere in our community and our hearts are troubled. Yet I am certain our university will persevere." He continued, "Evil can never succeed, not while there are men and women like the people of Virginia Tech, who reach every day for success and endeavor for the improvement of the human condition across the planet."

This week, we reflect on what has been lost and comfort those enduring a profound grief. And somehow we know that a brighter morning will come. We know this because together Americans have overcome many evils and found strength through many storms. And we know there will be a day, as promised in Scripture, when evil will meet its reckoning and when every tear shall be wiped away.

May God bless those who mourn, and may God bless our wonderful country. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7 a.m. on April 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 20. The Office of the

Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

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.

April 14

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

April 15

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

April 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. He then had a telephone conversation with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales.

In the afternoon, the President had a briefing on the shootings at Virginia Tech.

The President announced his intention to nominate Reuben Jeffery III to be Under Secretary of State (Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs), and to be U.S. Alternate Governor of the following organizations: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Inter-American Development Bank; the African Development Bank; the African Development Fund; the Asian Development Bank; and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

April 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he participated in a meeting with families to discuss taxes.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Blacksburg, VA. He then met with Charles W. Steger, president, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Later, at Cassell Coliseum, the President and Mrs. Bush met with survivors and family members of victims of the Virginia Tech shootings of April 16.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush visited and added their names to a campus memorial for the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. He then participated in separate interviews with Katie Couric of CBS News, Brian Williams of NBC News, and Charles Gibson of ABC News. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

April 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with congressional leaders to discuss emergency supplemental appropriations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick B. Cook to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph A. Ereli to be Ambassador to Bahrain.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard B. Norland to be Ambassador to Uzbekistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alan J. Patricof to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Phillip Jackson Bell, Franklin G. Gale, and Lee J. Lofthus as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

April 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Dayton, OH, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Bob Rehmert.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Tipp City, OH. Later, he returned to Washington, DC. He then had a telephone conversation with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales.