

your parents were great because of what they risked. You can tell them they served a cause greater than themselves.

We're proud of all our Nation's fallen police officers. We're sorry you're here, but now that you are, we care about you a lot, and we love you. We're grateful for what they have given us.

May God bless you all. May God bless those who wear the uniforms of the United States of America. And may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. on the West Grounds at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Aliza Clark, executive board president, Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary; James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, Steve Young Law Enforcement Legislative Advocacy Center; Father Vytas Memenas, State chaplain, Illinois State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police; Officer Patrick Nigh, St. Louis County Police Department; and entertainer Lee Greenwood.

Statement on the Advancement of United States Maritime Interests

May 15, 2007

I am acting to advance U.S. interests in the world's oceans in two important ways.

First, I urge the Senate to act favorably on U.S. accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea during this session of Congress. Joining will serve the national security interests of the United States, including the maritime mobility of our Armed Forces worldwide. It will secure U.S. sovereign rights over extensive marine areas, including the valuable natural resources they contain. Accession will promote U.S. interests in the environmental health of the oceans. And it will give the United States a seat at the table when the rights that are vital to our interests are debated and interpreted.

Second, I have instructed the U.S. delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to submit a proposal for international measures that would enhance protection of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the area including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Last June, I issued a proclamation establishing the monument, a 1,200-mile stretch

of coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals that are home to some 7,000 marine species. The United States will propose that the IMO designate the entire area as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)—similar to areas such as the Florida Keys, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Galapagos Archipelago—which will alert mariners to exercise caution in the ecologically important, sensitive, and hazardous area they are entering. This proposal, like the Convention on the Law of the Sea, will help protect the maritime environment while preserving the navigational freedoms essential to the security and economy of every nation.

Statement on the Appointment of Lieutenant General Douglas Lute as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan

May 15, 2007

I have chosen Lieutenant General Douglas Lute to serve as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan. General Lute is a tremendously accomplished military leader who understands war and government and knows how to get things done. While serving at Central Command, General Lute played an integral role in implementing combat operation plans in Iraq and Afghanistan and gained a critical understanding of the challenges we face in the global war on terror. He has already earned the respect and trust of the officials with whom he will be working in his new role.

In his new position, General Lute will be the full-time manager for the implementation and execution of our strategies for Iraq and Afghanistan and will manage the inter-agency policy development process for these two theaters, working closely with my National Security Adviser, Steve Hadley, members of my Cabinet, and me. Nothing is more important than getting Admiral Fallon, General Petraeus, American commanders in Afghanistan, and Ambassadors Crocker and Wood what they need, and Douglas Lute can make sure that happens quickly and reliably.