

House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Remarks Honoring President Abraham Lincoln's 199th Birthday**

*February 10, 2008*

Welcome. Laura and I are glad you're here. Rex, thank you for taking the lead for Ford's Theatre. If any citizen wants to know how to make a solid contribution to Washington, DC, support Ford's Theatre; it's worth it. Members of my Cabinet, thanks for coming. Members of Congress, we're glad you're here. I've got two tasks. One is to present the Lincoln Medal and invite you to a buffet. *[Laughter]*

I really want to thank Richard for coming. I appreciate your words, Allen; thank you very much—and Craig Wallace. Avery, I've been subject to a few Presidential impersonations myself. *[Laughter]* I'm confident Abe would have liked it. *[Laughter]* I really appreciate you all coming. It's made this a very special evening. I do want to welcome all the Lincoln scholars here and all the Lincoln enthusiasts. We're really glad you're here.

I also am amazed that 200 years have gone by. It just doesn't seem all that long ago, does it? But it's fitting that we honor Abe Lincoln. He—of all the successors to George Washington, he—none had greater impact on the Presidency and on the country. And he remains a presence here in the House. I'm often asked, "Do you ever see Lincoln's ghost?" And I tell people, I quit drinking 22 years ago. *[Laughter]*

But his office is directly above us. At the Center Hall, there's a likeness in marble. His portrait hangs in the Oval Office, and there's a fabulous portrait of Abe Lincoln in the State Dining Room. And that's the way it should be. He was a fabulous man and a great President. His life was one of humble beginnings and steadfast convictions. And so we celebrate his deeds; we lift up his ideals; and we honor this good man.

And it's my pleasure tonight to honor two really fine Americans. Each year, Ford's The-

atre presents the Lincoln Medal to recognize high achievement and personal attributes that embody the character of the 16th President.

Dr. Ben Carson is the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is one of the most respected surgeons in the world. Twenty years ago, when a 70-member surgical team made history and separated a pair of Siamese twins, the gifted hands leading the team belonged to this good man. Raised with his brother and a single mother—who's here—Ben Carson didn't get much handed to him as he grew up. But his mother pushed him to learn and taught him to trust in the ways of heaven. From his days at Yale and the University of Michigan Medical School, colleagues have known Dr. Carson as both a skilled professional and a deeply reflective man.

His many current duties include service on the President's Council on Bioethics and a tireless commitment to helping young people find direction and motivation in life. He reminds them that all of us have gifts by the grace of the Almighty God. He tells them to think big, to study hard, and to put character first. He tells them to be nice because in his words, "If you're nice to people, then once they get over the suspicion of why you're being nice,"—*[laughter]*—"they will be nice to you." *[Laughter]* His example gives eloquent testimony to the value of perseverance and to the endless promise of America. So tonight we proudly honor Dr. Ben Carson.

President Ronald Reagan called Sandra Day O'Connor a person for all seasons, and few Americans have shown a broader range of talent. She is, after all, the only Supreme Court Justice ever inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. *[Laughter]* Born in El Paso, Texas, she spent much of her childhood on a ranch in Arizona, where from a young age, she learned to ride horses, mend fences, and shoot a rifle.

She was an academic star, attending Stanford Law School. It was a different era when she got out of law school. After all, not many law firms wanted to hire a woman. But with her intellect, independent spirit, and sense of adventure, Sandra Day O'Connor continued a steady rise in the world. She became

a State senator, a State court judge, and the first woman on the highest court in the land.

For 24 years, Justice O'Connor stood out as a careful, fairminded jurist. Sandra Day O'Connor is a great mom to her three sons, and she has been a blessing to her husband, John. This lovely lady remains one of the most admired women of our time. She's lived a great American life, and our Nation is proud to honor you once again, Justice. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:54 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rex W. Tillerson, vice-chairman, Ford's Theatre Society; historian Richard Norton Smith; Allen C. Guelzo, professor of history, Gettysburg College; and actors Craig Wallace and Avery Brooks. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

### Remarks on the 2008 Economic Report of the President

*February 11, 2008*

**The President.** I want to thank members of my economic team for submitting this Economic Report of the President. I'm about to sign it. And so I want to—Eddie, thank you for your good work, you and your team.

**Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Edward P. Lazear.** My pleasure.

**The President.** This report indicates that our economy is structurally sound for the long term and that we're dealing with uncertainties in the short term. And therefore, what should we do about it? Well, I am so pleased that the Congress and the administration worked closely together to pass a robust progrowth package to deal with the uncertainty. That package is about 160 billion-plus dollars. What that means is, it means that money will be going directly to America, workers and families and individuals. It also means that there is incentives for American businesses.

I'll be signing this bill soon. But if you're a taxpayer or if you're a—got income up to—earned income—I mean, credited income up to \$3,000, you can expect money back. And if you're a businessowner, you're going to get

some incentives to invest. And so you ought to be planning upon it—on investing now.

And so I really want to thank the Congress for getting this bill done, and I'm looking forward to signing it. It's going to help deal with the uncertainties in this economy.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:07 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 5140.

### Remarks at the Heart Truth Reception

*February 11, 2008*

Thank you all. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are glad you're here, and thanks for coming. I welcome members of my Cabinet. I particularly want to thank all the healers and compassionate folks who help with heart disease. The Vice President sends his best. [*Laughter*]

All of us here are committed to America's heart health. I don't know if our fellow citizens know this, but this is American Heart Month. And it's a good time to remember that an estimated 80 million people across the United States suffer from heart disease. The disease is the number-one killer of American men and women. Many women, however, do not even know they're at risk, and so they don't take simple steps that can protect their health.

And that's where the Heart Truth Campaign comes in. Over the last 5 years, I appreciate the fact that you all have spread the word, and you represent thousands across our country who are doing so as well. You've helped women reduce the factors for heart disease, and that's a noble calling, an important contribution to our country. Every February, you encourage women to wear the red dress, which I appreciate. And I do want to thank the fashion industry for stepping up and—[*applause*].

And the results are measurable. Women's awareness has been raised; women's lives have been saved. Earlier this month, I was in Kansas City, and I met a woman named Joyce Cullen. In 2003, Joyce saw coverage of Laura's visit to a Kansas City hospital. She just talked about the symptoms that—of