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I'm proud of your character. I want to thank the Celtic organization for what you do off the court as well. I believe there is a huge responsibility not only to try to win on the court but to be responsible citizens in the community in which you live. The Shamrock Foundation, for example, helps disadvantaged children during the season and after the season. I appreciate the fact that during the second quarter of every home game, the Celtics honor some caring citizen; someone who I said is a soldier in the army of compassion. With the "Hero Among Us" program, that's a really good idea, and I thank you for doing that. I want to congratulate you for worrying about children and literacy and using your special status in society to set a good example.

Most of all I congratulate you for being champs. I wish you all the very best for the next season. Should you win it, you can find me in Texas. [*Laughter*]

Congratulations. Congratulations, and now it is my honor to bring to the podium "The Truth," team captain Paul Pierce.

Paul Pierce. Little nervous. [*Laughter*] Well, Mr. President——

The President. Yes, sir.

Mr. Pierce. We just want to say it's truly an honor to be here in your house today. And on behalf of the Celtics organization, we'd like to thank you. And from what I hear, you played a little high school basketball yourself. So we're going to honor you with a basketball signed from our team.

The President. I'm honored.

Mr. Pierce. And a jersey, Celtic jersey with a 43 on it—even those that's Kendrick Perkins's number. [*Laughter*]

The President. He's from Beaumont.

Mr. Pierce. And he's from Texas. So that's why we gave you 43. [*Laughter*]

No, but for real, in honor for you being the 43rd President, we'd like to present this to you. And also, on behalf of the families and the victims in Hurricane Ike, the organization would like to also present a check for $100,000 to the Red Cross relief.

The President. Well, thank you. That's awesome. Thank you for doing that. That's a big deal—really big.

Mr. Pierce. So once again, we'd just like to say thank you, and it's truly an honor.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:04 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kevin Garnett, forward, Ray Allen, guard, and Kendrick Perkins, center, Boston Celtics.

Proclamation 8292—Family Day, 2008

September 19, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Strong families are essential to the well-being of our Nation. On Family Day, we celebrate the relationship between parents and their children, and we recognize the importance of families spending time together.

As a source of hope, guidance, stability, and love for every generation, families both teach and exemplify the values and virtues needed in today's changing world. As parents and as role models to America's children, we can help prepare our children for a bright future by offering steadfast support and unconditional love.

The character of a child is formed in his or her earliest years by the love and guidance of family members and other caring individuals. Since 2001, my Administration has worked to strengthen the American family, and we have worked with faith-based and community organizations to promote healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. By striving to ensure that children remain connected to their families, communities, places of worship, and schools, we are helping them make good choices and build lives of purpose.

Parents are the primary teachers of our Nation's youth, and they are the first ones to educate them about the differences between right and wrong. By being proactive and involved in a child's life, families pass along the traditions and principles that help make America a compassionate, decent, and hopeful society.

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 September 22, 2008, as Family Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day by engaging in activities that strengthen the bonds between children and parents.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., September 22, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 23.

Memorandum on Use of the Department of the Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund To Support a Guaranty Facility for Certain Money Market Mutual Funds

September 19, 2008

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Use of the Department of the Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund To Support a Guaranty Facility for Certain Money Market Mutual Funds

Pursuant to section 10(b) of the Gold Reserve Act of 1934, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 5302(b), I approve the use of funds from the Exchange Stabilization Fund to provide up to $50 billion as a guaranty facility for certain money market mutual funds, consistent with your recommendation to me and the terms and conditions set out in your memorandum to me dated September 18, 2008.

George W. Bush

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

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.

September 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Situation Room, he participated in a video teleconference briefing on Hurricane Ike with officials from the National Hurricane Center, Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Ike beginning on September 7 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Ike beginning on September 11 and continuing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Texas by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for debris removal undertaken as a result of Hurricane Ike that struck the State beginning on September 7 and continuing.

September 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff to discuss Hurricane Ike.

September 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the financial markets situation. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America regional finalists for Youth of the Year.

In the evening, on the North Portico, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana and his wife,