

taking hold in an arc from Morocco to Jordan to Bahrain. The government of Saudi Arabia can demonstrate its leadership in the region by expanding the role of its people in determining their future. And the great and proud nation of Egypt, which showed the way toward peace in the Middle East, can now show the way toward democracy in the Middle East.

To promote peace in the broader Middle East, we must confront regimes that continue to harbor terrorists and pursue weapons of mass murder. Syria still allows its territory, and parts of Lebanon, to be used by terrorists who seek to destroy every chance of peace in the region. You have passed, and we are applying, the Syrian Accountability Act—and we expect the Syrian government to end all support for terror and open the door to freedom. Today, Iran remains the world's primary state sponsor of terror—pursuing nuclear weapons while depriving its people of the freedom they seek and deserve. We are working with European allies to make clear to the Iranian regime that it must give up its uranium enrichment program and any plutonium re-processing, and end its support for terror. And to the Iranian people, I say tonight: As you stand for your own liberty, America stands with you.

Our generational commitment to the advance of freedom, especially in the Middle East, is now being tested and honored in Iraq. That country is a vital front in the war on terror, which is why the terrorists have chosen to make a stand there. Our men and women in uniform are fighting terrorists in Iraq, so we do not have to face them here at home. And the victory of freedom in Iraq will strengthen a new ally in the war on terror, inspire democratic reformers from Damascus to Tehran, bring more hope and progress to a troubled region, and thereby lift a terrible threat from the lives of our children and grandchildren.

We will succeed because the Iraqi people value their own liberty—as they showed the world last Sunday. Across Iraq, often at great risk, millions of citizens went to the polls and elected 275 men and women to represent them in a new Transitional National Assembly. A young woman in Baghdad told of waking to the sound of mortar fire on election day, and wondering if it might be too dangerous to vote. She said, “hearing those explosions, it occurred to me—the insurgents are weak, they are afraid of democracy, they are losing. . . . So I got my husband, and I got my parents, and we all came out and voted together.” Americans recognize that spirit of liberty, because we share it. In any nation, casting your vote is an act of civic responsibility; for millions of Iraqis, it was also an act of personal courage, and they have earned the respect of us all.

One of Iraq's leading democracy and human rights advocates is Safia Taleb al-Suhail. She says of her country, “we were occupied for 35 years by Saddam

Hussein. That was the real occupation. . . . Thank you to the American people who paid the cost . . . but most of all to the soldiers.” Eleven years ago, Safia's father was assassinated by Saddam's intelligence service. Three days ago in Baghdad, Safia was finally able to vote for the leaders of her country—and we are honored that she is with us tonight.

The terrorists and insurgents are violently opposed to democracy, and will continue to attack it. Yet the terrorists' most powerful myth is being destroyed. The whole world is seeing that the car bombers and assassins are not only fighting coalition forces, they are trying to destroy the hopes of Iraqis, expressed in free elections. And the whole world now knows that a small group of extremists will not overturn the will of the Iraqi people.

We will succeed in Iraq because Iraqis are determined to fight for their own freedom, and to write their own history. As Prime Minister Allawi said in his speech to Congress last September, “Ordinary Iraqis are anxious . . . to shoulder all the security burdens of our country as quickly as possible.” This is the natural desire of an independent nation, and it also is the stated mission of our coalition in Iraq. The new political situation in Iraq opens a new phase of our work in that country. At the recommendation of our commanders on the ground, and in consultation with the Iraqi government, we will increasingly focus our efforts on helping prepare more capable Iraqi security forces—forces with skilled officers, and an effective command structure. As those forces become more self-reliant and take on greater security responsibilities, America and its coalition partners will increasingly be in a supporting role. In the end, Iraqis must be able to defend their own country—and we will help that proud, new nation secure its liberty.

Recently an Iraqi interpreter said to a reporter, “Tell America not to abandon us.” He and all Iraqis can be certain: While our military strategy is adapting to circumstances, our commitment remains firm and unchanging. We are standing for the freedom of our Iraqi friends, and freedom in Iraq will make America safer for generations to come. We will not set an artificial timetable for leaving Iraq, because that would embolden the terrorists and make them believe they can wait us out. We are in Iraq to achieve a result: A country that is democratic, representative of all its people, at peace with its neighbors, and able to defend itself. And when that result is achieved, our men and women serving in Iraq will return home with the honor they have earned.

Right now, Americans in uniform are serving at posts across the world, often taking great risks on my orders. We have given them training and equipment; and they have given us an example of idealism and character that makes every American proud. The vol-

unteers of our military are unrelenting in battle, unwavering in loyalty, unmatched in honor and decency, and every day they are making our Nation more secure. Some of our servicemen and women have survived terrible injuries, and this grateful country will do everything we can to help them recover. And we have said farewell to some very good men and women, who died for our freedom, and whose memory this Nation will honor forever.

One name we honor is Marine Corps Sergeant Byron Norwood of Pflugerville, Texas, who was killed during the assault on Fallujah. His mom, Janet, sent me a letter and told me how much Byron loved being a Marine, and how proud he was to be on the front line against terror. She wrote, “When Byron was home the last time, I said that I wanted to protect him like I had since he was born. He just hugged me and said: ‘You've done your job, mom. Now it's my turn to protect you.’” Ladies and gentlemen, with grateful hearts, we honor freedom's defenders, and our military families, represented here this evening by Sergeant Norwood's mom and dad, Janet and Bill Norwood.

In these 4 years, Americans have seen the unfolding of large events. We have known times of sorrow, and hours of uncertainty, and days of victory. In all this history, even when we have disagreed, we have seen threads of purpose that unite us. The attack on freedom in our world has reaffirmed our confidence in freedom's power to change the world. We are all part of a great venture: To extend the promise of freedom in our country, to renew the values that sustain our liberty, and to spread the peace that freedom brings.

As Franklin Roosevelt once reminded Americans, “each age is a dream that is dying, or one that is coming to birth.” And we live in the country where the biggest dreams are born. The abolition of slavery was only a dream—until it was fulfilled. The liberation of Europe from fascism was only a dream—until it was achieved. The fall of imperial communism was only a dream—until, one day, it was accomplished. Our generation has dreams of its own, and we also go forward with confidence. The road of Providence is uneven and unpredictable—yet we know where it leads: It leads to freedom.

Thank you, and may God bless America.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 2005.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 120. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the "Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building".

H.R. 289. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8200 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Sergeant First Class John Marshall Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 120. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the "Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 289. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8200 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Staff Sergeant First Class John Marshall Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-385. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the monthly report on the status of licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-386. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on flood control at Antelope Creek at Lincoln, Nebraska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-387. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the incidence and severity of sediment contamination in surface waters of the United States, National sediment quality survey; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-388. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Fiscal Year 2003 implementation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-389. A communication from the Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Year 2004 inventory of commercial activities and inherently government functions; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-390. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the report of a rule entitled "Guidelines on Awarding Section 319 Grants to Indian Tribes Requests for Grants Proposals for Watershed Projects" (FRL 7849-3) received on December

31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-391. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Revision to the 1-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area to Reflect the Use of MOBILE6" (FRL 7845-6) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-392. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Minnesota; Minneapolis-St. Paul Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan Update" (FRL 7846-7) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-393. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York State Implementation Plan Revision; 1-Hour Ozone Control Program" (FRL 7845-8) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-394. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Louisiana" (FRL 7847-8) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-395. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "North Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL 7847-9) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-396. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "10 CFR Parts 25 and 95: Broadening Scope of Access Authorization and Facility Security Clearance Regulations" (RIN3150-AH52) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-397. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan Kentucky: 1-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan Update for Edmonson Area" (FRL 7847-9) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-398. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program: State of Missouri" (FRL 7850-3) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-399. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ocean Disposal; Designation of a Dredged Material Disposal Site in Rhode Island Sound" (FRL 7848-2) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-400. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OMB Approvals Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Technical Amendment" (FRL 7849-9) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-401. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Process for Exempting Critical Uses from the Phaseout of Methyl Bromide" (FRL 7850-8) received on December 17, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-402. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland, Control of VOC Emissions from yeast Manufacturing Correction" (FRL 7815-5) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-403. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans: Michigan: Oxides of Nitrogen" (FRL 7849-1) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-404. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Availability of Federally-Enforceable State Implementation Plans for All States" (FRL 7852-2) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-405. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department; Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District; Disapproval of State Implementation Plan Revisions, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL 7847-6) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-406. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Amendments to the Size Thresholds for Defining Major Sources and to the NSR Offset Ratios for Sources of VOC and NOX" (FRL 7855-3) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-407. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Approval of Minor Clarifications to Municipal Regulations" (FRL 7855-1) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-408. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Excess Volatile Organic Compound and Nitrogen Oxides Emissions Fee Rule" (FRL 7853-9) received on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.