

nor from the mouth of your children's children, said the Lord, from now, for all time."

It is not an accident that freedom of religion is one of the central freedoms in our Bill of Rights. It is the first freedom of the human soul, the right to speak the words that God places in our mouths. We must stand for that freedom in our country. We must speak for that freedom in the world. And I thank the American Jewish Committee for your willingness to do both.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:22 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Bruce M. Ramer, president, and David A. Harris, executive director, American Jewish Committee; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany; and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo

May 2, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those gathered to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

May 5th marks the triumph of the spirit of freedom for the people of Mexico. The victory of General Ignacio Zaragoza and his Mexican troops over the superior French forces at the Battle of Puebla served as a stirring reminder of the determination to win the fight for Mexico's freedom from foreign intervention. The Cinco de Mayo display of courage and purpose is a source of pride for all freedom-loving people.

We Americans cherish our deep historical, cultural, economic, and, in many cases, family ties with Mexico and Latin America. Cinco de Mayo celebrations remind us how much Hispanics have influenced and enriched the United States. Hispanic Americans contribute to the shared traditions that are part of our history, including entrepreneurship, a sense of community where neighbor helps neighbor, faith, and love of family. On this special day, I encourage Americans to reaffirm the ties of culture and friendship

we share with the people of Mexico and with Hispanic Americans.

As you enjoy the day with parades, folkloric dancing, and other festive activities, Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 4.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Air Force Academy Falcons

May 4, 2001

Good morning. Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome you all to the White House. I want to thank the generals who are here, and the members of the congressional delegation that have come. Most of all, I want to welcome Coach DeBerry and the Fighting Falcons of the United States Air Force Academy.

It is my honor to present the Commander in Chief's Trophy, which recognizes gridiron supremacy amongst our Nation's service academies. The Falcons' record of success in service academy football is truly stellar. They won this trophy 10 of the last 12 years—14 times overall. The seniors on this team completed their careers with a 37–12 record. It's the next-to-best record of any group of seniors in academy history, and I want to congratulate you all.

I know you all take special pride in your coach. He's got an outstanding record, as well. This is the 12th time in 17 seasons under Coach DeBerry that the Falcons have won the Commander in Chief's Trophy.

I thought it was interesting that the first time he brought his seniors to the White House was in 1986. Ronald Reagan was still the President; the Berlin Wall still stood; windows were something that you washed. *[Laughter]*

As Coach DeBerry reminded everyone at last year's White House ceremony, Presidents come and go, but coaches do not have