

feeding the homeless. You can serve something greater than yourself by just walking across the street to a shut-in and saying, “I love you. Is there anything I can do to make your day better?” If you want to fight evil, do some good.

And there’s all kinds of opportunities. We’ve got the USA Freedom Corps for old and young alike who want to volunteer. We’ve got a Peace Corps that we’re going to expand and send around—double the size of the Peace Corps. There’s all kinds of opportunities. In my State—in my State—my speech in front of the Congress, I said, “Why don’t—if you want to help, dedicate 4,000 hours of your life from this point forward to help a neighbor in need.” And it’s happening.

I truly believe out of the evil will come a new culture of personal responsibility, one that says—that stands in contrast, by the way, to a period of time that said, “If it feels good, do it,” and “If you’ve got a problem, blame somebody else.” There’s a new culture that’s coming around that says, “I’m responsible for the decisions I make in life. I’m responsible for loving my family. I’m responsible for loving my neighbor.” And to make that responsibility era full, if you’re running a company in America, you have responsibility to be honest and open with your shareholders and your employees as well. It’s happening, and it’s happening in this country because the strength of America is not in the halls of our governments; the strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of incredibly decent and kind and compassionate Americans.

No, out of evil will come incredible good. The world will not only be more peaceful, but this world will show the true face—this country will show the world the true face of America, a welcoming society, a society that says that the American Dream belongs to all, a society that’s willing to tackle the pockets of despair and hopelessness with love and compassion and decency. Out of the evil done on September the 11th, we will show the world the true nature of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank you all for coming to support this good man, and thank you for giving me the honor of being the President of the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B at the Santa Clara Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of gubernatorial candidate William “Bill” Simon; Gov. Gray Davis of California; and former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas.

Proclamation 7548—Law Day, U.S.A., 2002

April 30, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

One of our Nation’s greatest strengths is its commitment to a just, fair legal system and the protection it affords to the rights and freedoms we cherish. On May 1, we observe Law Day to draw attention to the principles of justice and the practice of law. The theme of this year’s Law Day, “Celebrate Your Freedom: Assuring Equal Justice for All,” acknowledges the essential task of protecting the rights of every American.

When disputes or conflicts arise, or when persons are charged with violating the law, resolution often occurs within the legal system. Consultation with an attorney is a common first step in this process. Attorneys advise clients of their rights and obligations, suggest possible courses of action, and help their clients to understand legal procedures. Attorneys are zealous advocates on behalf of their clients, helping to ensure that each one receives full and fair representation before the courts. Bar associations and other attorney groups play an important role in maintaining the integrity of our legal system by overseeing admission to the bar and setting standards of discipline for those who practice law.

Our Founding Fathers believed that a strong and independent judiciary was a cornerstone of democracy. Judges must be men and women of skill, discernment, experience, and character who meet the highest standards of training, temperament, and impartiality. They must understand and honor the powers granted to them under the Constitution, as well as the limits on those powers. In criminal matters, judges help to ensure that the innocent remain free and the guilty

are appropriately punished. In civil disputes, judges' decisions help to safeguard the stability of the commercial marketplace and address the grievances of wronged parties. Judges are called upon daily to render decisions that are based upon the law and facts of each case, without regard for popular opinion or political or other extraneous pressures.

Our forefathers imagined a well-qualified judiciary put in place through a dynamic and constructive interaction between the executive and legislative branches of Government. Under our Constitution, the President selects individuals for nomination to the Federal judiciary and the Senate provides its advice and consent. In all cases, both branches of Government strive to make certain that only men and women of the highest intellect, character, integrity, judgment, and experience are appointed to serve our Nation and its citizens in these critical positions.

This Law Day, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the vital work performed by our Federal judiciary in upholding the rule of law and on the importance of a robust and independent judiciary in our system of Government.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87–20, as amended, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2002, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:31 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

**Remarks on Presenting the
Congressional Medal of Honor
Posthumously to Captain Ben L.
Salomon and Captain Jon E. Swanson
May 1, 2002**

Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House, and welcome to our beautiful Rose Garden. We gather in tribute to two young men who died long ago in the service to America. In awarding the Medal of Honor to Captain Ben Salomon and Captain Jon Swanson, the United States acknowledges a debt that time has not diminished.

It's my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tony Principi; Secretary Tom White of the Army; General Eric Shinseki; General John Jumper; Brigadier General David Hicks, the chaplain—thank you, General Hicks for your prayer; Congressman Brad Sherman; Congressman Charlie Norwood; Congressman Mark Udall; World War II veterans; Vietnam veterans; fellow Americans.

Joining us in this ceremony are four men who themselves earned the Medal of Honor: Barney Barnum, Al Rascon, Ryan Thacker, and Nicky Bacon. Thank you all for coming. President Harry S. Truman said he would rather have earned the Medal of Honor than be the Commander in Chief. When you meet a veteran who wears that medal, remember the moment, because you are looking at one of the bravest ever to wear our country's uniform. We're honored to welcome these gentlemen.

I'm also pleased to welcome the family of Captain Swanson: Sandee Swanson and their daughters, Holly and Brigid. We're so glad you all are here. I know how proud you must be of the man you have loved and missed for so many years. And seeing you here today, I know that Jon would be extremely proud.

For Captain Ben Salomon, no living relatives remain to witness this moment. And even though they never met, Captain Salomon is represented today by a true friend, Dr. Robert West. Welcome, sir.

Five years ago, Dr. West was reading about his fellow alumni of the University of Southern California's dental school. He came upon the story of Ben Salomon of the class of 1937, who was a surgeon in World War