

it is my honor to be your President. And it's Connie's honor to be representing Maryland in the United States Congress.

Thanks for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:04 p.m. in Salon 3 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; and Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces. Representative Morella is a candidate for reelection in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2002

June 28, 2002

Each year on Independence Day, Americans honor and celebrate the courageous action that our Nation's Founders took on July 4, 1776—the signing of the Declaration of Independence. With that brave and profound decision, the Founders demonstrated their love for liberty and proved that they were willing to fight and die for freedom. As we honor our Founders' bold vision on this first observance of Independence Day since September 11, Americans possess a greater national unity and a deeper appreciation of the things that matter most in our lives—our faith, our love for family and friends, and our freedom.

In this new era, Americans share a renewed appreciation for the ideals that make our country strong. Our fine service men and women are fighting and winning the war on terror. They deserve the gratitude of all people who cherish freedom.

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have been steadfast in their efforts to build a country of liberty, peace, and opportunity for all. As we act to lift the dark cloud of terror from our Nation and the world, we reaffirm our determination to preserve our Forefathers' legacy of freedom. In doing so, we honor their legacy as we move forward into the 21st century.

On this Independence Day we pay special tribute to all those currently serving in the Armed Forces and to our veterans. Their contributions have been critical to the de-

fense of our country, and our Nation is grateful.

Laura joins me in extending best wishes for a safe and memorable Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

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

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.

June 23

In the afternoon, the President attended a tee-ball game on the South Lawn at the White House.

June 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Port Elizabeth, NJ, where he met with Teen Freedom Corps volunteers Joanna Glick, Kelly Bianco, and Allison Cohen. Later, he toured port facilities and met with first-responders who participated in rescue efforts after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. He then traveled to Newark, NJ, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michelle Guillermin to be Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

June 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Springerville, AZ, where he took an aerial tour of the wildfires in the area. He then met with emergency and rescue personnel fighting the wildfires. Later, he traveled to Eagar, AZ, where he met with families displaced by the fires.