

they would join us all in giving thanks for all that we have.

A year after independence was declared, the Second Continental Congress set the design of our Nation's flag. The stars on blue were to represent a new constellation, the different world our young Nation had begun to create. Today, as much as ever before, America bears the hope of the world. Yet, from the day of our founding, America's own great hope has never been in ourselves alone. The Founders humbly sought the wisdom and the blessing of Divine Providence.

May we always live by that same trust, and may God continue to watch over the United States of America. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. at Courthouse Square. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Wise, Attorney General Darrel V. McGraw, Jr., and Secretary of State Joe Manchin III of West Virginia; Mayor Roy Guthrie of Ripley, WV; Mayor W.S. Ritchie of Ravenswood, WV; Lisa Vance, widow of Sgt. Gene Vance, Jr., USA; and Clyde Shuttlesworth, father of Staff Sgt. Anissa Ann Shero, USAF.

Videotape Remarks to the Vilnius Ten Group of Nations

July 5, 2002

I'm honored to send greetings to the leaders of the Vilnius Ten group of nations aspiring to join the NATO Alliance. I want to thank Prime Minister Berzins and President Freiberga for hosting this important event in the great city of Riga. I'm also pleased that Senator Trent Lott and some of his colleagues were able to visit with you today. The U.S. Senate has a critical role to play in ratifying any expansion of NATO, and I appreciate my friend Senator Lott's leadership on these vital issues.

Our nations share a common vision of a new Europe, where free European states are united with each other and with the United States through cooperation, partnership, and alliance. We seek a new Europe that has buried its historic tensions and is prepared to meet global challenges beyond Europe's borders. America will continue to work arm in arm with Europe on fulfilling this vision.

At the Prague Summit later this year, we can take a major step by enlarging NATO to include all of Europe's democracies that are ready to share in NATO's responsibilities. Since you first met in Vilnius over 2 years ago, your countries have made real progress on the essential reforms necessary for NATO membership. Work continues, as it must, to prepare your nations to make the greatest possible contributions to the new Europe we are building.

Today, our nations face another historic challenge: to defeat the forces of global terror. The attacks of September the 11th took place in the United States, but their target was freedom, itself. All of Europe and freedom-loving nations everywhere are threatened by these forces of chaos and hatred.

NATO has risen to the challenge, declaring that an attack on one of its members is an attack on all. And NATO nations have made valuable contributions to the war on terror in Afghanistan and elsewhere. NATO must prepare itself to fight and defeat terror and the other threats to freedom that we face together. And new members will help improve NATO's capabilities.

The Prague Summit will mark the beginning of a new era in Europe and in trans-Atlantic relations, defined by greater security and greater prosperity and greater freedom. We will see the great alliance of liberty grow and prepare to fulfill its old mission in a new era. And I am determined to succeed and determined that our children will record this year as a momentous turning point in their history.

I wish you success at your meeting. I have met most of you, and I look forward to seeing my good friend Aleksander in a few weeks here in Washington. We have a great opportunity ahead of us. The hopes and prayers of the American people are with you.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 3 p.m. on June 28 in the Blue Room at the White House, for later transmission to the meeting in Riga, Latvia. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Andris Berzins and President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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 29

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, after temporarily transferring the power of the Presidency to Vice President Dick Cheney, the President underwent a routine medical procedure under anesthesia. When he awoke, he had telephone conversations with the Vice President and the First Lady. Later in the morning, he reassumed the power of the Presidency.

June 30

During the day, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 1

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He then traveled to Cleveland, OH. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 2

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Milwaukee, WI, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his nomination of Peter Eide to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry R. Hoglander to be a member of the National Mediation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel Pearson to be a Commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Neil McPhie to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Quanah Crossland Stamps to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans.

The President announced his intention to appoint Windy Sitton as U.S. Commissioner of the Canadian River Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Federal Salary Council: Thomas Bastas and James Pasco (employee representatives); and Rudy Joseph Maestas, Mary McNally Rose, and Samuel Johnson Wallace (labor relations and pay policy representatives).

July 3

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with National Geographic Society leaders, who presented him with a custom National Geographic map cabinet.

In the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President signed Executive Order 13270, Tribal Colleges and Universities. Later, he traveled to Andrews Air Force Base, MD, where he played a round of golf.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities: Ron S. McNeil, David W. Anderson, Carl J. Artman, Eddie F. Brown, Kathryn L. Domenici, Ann Marie Downes, Mark O. Hatfield, Daniel G. Keating, David J. Matheson, Martha A. McLeod, Karen M. Gayton Swisher, Della C. Warrior, and Richard B. Williams.

The President declared a major disaster in Montana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 8 and continuing.

July 4

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Ripley, WV. In the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush viewed the Independence Day fireworks display on The Mall with their guests,