

held accountable. But what we need is a system that doesn't drive people out of medicine and doesn't hurt patients. And the Federal Government needs to act, and the Congress needs to get a bill to me before they go home next—this late fall, a bill that will protect the American patients from medical malpractice.

I believe that when we pass this law, the system will be much better, and people will feel more secure. And that's what I'm interested in. I want the homeland to be secure. I want our fellow citizens to feel economically secure. I want the health care systems to continue to be the best in the world.

You know, I like to remind my fellow citizens of this: When the enemy hit us, they thought they were—they must have thought they were hitting a weak nation. Speaking about lawsuits, they probably thought all we would do was file a lawsuit. [Laughter] They didn't understand America, did they? They didn't understand, when it comes to defending freedom, we're plenty tough. But what they didn't also understand is that out of this evil done to our country we believe can come some good.

See, one of the interesting things that's happening in this country is that people understand that to be a patriotic citizen no longer means putting your hand over your heart—and by the way, saying, "one Nation, under God." [Applause] Thank you. But being a patriot means you're willing to help a neighbor in need, to serve something greater than yourself in life. That's what a patriot is.

You know, I was out at the airplane today, and I met the dad of a young boy and girl whose wife, Sandy, was on Flight 93. And Phil was there, and I appreciate him being there. And it just reminded me, seeing Phil Bradshaw, that the country understands that when you serve something greater than yourself in life, it's a part of being a great citizen. Obviously, these citizens made the ultimate sacrifice of personal responsibility, taking an airplane into the ground to save somebody's life. But I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, as people realize that serving something greater than yourself in life is a noble calling, an important part of being an American.

So today, as I want to thank you again for coming, I hope that if you see somebody in need, you'll help them. If you find a child that can't read, help them read. If you know a shut-in who needs somebody to love them, tell him you love him. If you're a mom or a dad, love your children with all your heart and all your soul. It's a—this country has got problems, but we're going to solve them, because we're the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the James H. and Jesse E. Millis Athletic/Convocation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Budd, board of trustees chairman, High Point University; Jeff Miller, president, High Point Regional Health Systems; Mayor Arnold J. Koonce, Jr., of High Point; Mayor Keith A. Holliday of Greensboro, NC; Mayor Hubert M. Leonard of Thomasville, NC; senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole; John W. Schmitt, M.D., faculty member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Virginia; and Phil Bradshaw, whose wife, Sandy, was a flight attendant on United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, PA, on September 11, 2001.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Proposed "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002"

July 25, 2002

I commend the House of Representatives for its overwhelming bipartisan passage of reforms to hold corporate America accountable. This legislation will protect investors, crack down on fraud and wrongdoing, and provide tough oversight of the accounting industry. Leaders in Congress heeded the call to put the interests of investors and employees first. I look forward to prompt action by the Senate so that I can sign this important legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3763, the proposed "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002."

Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002”

July 25, 2002

Today’s passage by Congress of corporate accounting reforms is a victory for America’s shareholders and employees. House and Senate passage of this legislation demonstrates what can happen when leaders work together to solve problems. I look forward to signing these important reforms into law. In February I also proposed tough changes to reform employee pension programs, and the House quickly responded. I urge the Senate to act before they recess to protect the savings of America’s workers.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3763, the proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.”

Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial Candidate Elizabeth Dole in Greensboro, North Carolina

July 25, 2002

Well, thank you very much, Senator. [Laughter] I want to thank you all for coming. I’m here for this reason: It is important for North Carolina, it is important for our country that Elizabeth Dole become the next United States Senator from North Carolina. And I want to thank you all for helping. And there’s no doubt in my mind, with your help and her hard work, she’s going to win.

She married well. [Laughter] But Bob got the better end of the deal—[laughter]—just like I did when I married. [Laughter] I’m sorry that Laura isn’t here tonight. She is—but she sends her love to Elizabeth and her thanks to you all. I’m really proud of Laura. She is, in my unobjective judgment, a great First Lady, no question a great wife. She’s a great wife. She’s come a long way from being a public school librarian in Texas—[laughter]—one who, frankly, didn’t like politics too much and didn’t really care for politicians either. [Laughter] But here she is, the First Lady of the greatest country on the face of the Earth, and she’s doing a great job, and she sends her best.

I know you all will join me in wishing Jesse Helms all the best, and he needs to get back to Washington. We need his vote—[laughter]—and he will be. And I appreciate so very much Lauch Faircloth for being here and former Senator Jim Broyhill as well. Thank you both for coming, and thank you for your service.

I want to thank all the folks who are involved with the Republican Party of the great State of North Carolina. I want to thank Bill Cobey and Linda Shaw, and I want to thank all the grassroots workers who are here. You know, you win a campaign if you can get people to show up to lick the envelopes and to make the phone calls and to hold the signs and to turn out the vote. The grassroots are excited here in North Carolina because they’ve got a candidate who is an exciting candidate and somebody who is going to make a big difference. So I want to thank you all for what you’ve done and what you got to do between now and November. I want to thank Fred Blackman for being the master of ceremonies of this event. I want to thank all the sponsors and the cohosts and the people that have done an extraordinary job of supporting Elizabeth Dole. Thank you for having me.

She is a—she’s got a lot of great experience, and that matters in my judgment. You know, the thing I love about Elizabeth is she’s constantly breaking what they call the glass ceiling. She shows what is possible. And that’s important, particularly for a lot of young women looking for a role model, somebody who has done a—[applause]—a person of accomplishment. In Washington, we’ve got a lot of good talkers, but we need doers, people who can get the job done. And Elizabeth Dole is that kind of person.

She is not only a trailblazer; she is a—she’s got a deep, abiding passion for people from all walks of life. Her compassion is real, and it’s heartfelt. When Elizabeth goes walking down the streets of smalltown North Carolina, for example—and I understand she’s doing a lot of that—she doesn’t ask somebody when they shake their hand, “Are you a Republican? Are you a Democrat?” She looks them in the eye as a fellow American, wanting to represent all the people of this