

meant for them. So long as one of us suffers, all of us suffer. But I know that America can change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. I like to put it this way: One of us can't do everything, but each of us can do something to help make America a more compassionate place.

I was joined at Air Force One by Erika McCroskey today. She's from right here in the Des Moines area. Erika, stand up for a minute, will you? Erika is an AmeriCorps volunteer. She decided she is going to do something with her life by helping others. I was reading that—and Erika, she's going to Bolivia to help somebody in need there. I said, "Erika, why are you going?" She said, "My mother raised me in the spirit of service." You see, the great strength of America are the Erikas. I call them soldiers in the armies of compassion, people that don't need a Government law to tell them to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, people who have heard a call that's much bigger than Government.

You know, our fellow citizens say to me, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" I tell them to love somebody in need. If you want to fight evil, do some good. What's happening in America as a result of the attack is that people are now understanding that patriotism is more than just putting your hand over your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the words "under God" in it. A patriot—a patriot—a patriot is somebody who assumes the personal responsibility to help somebody in need. And that's happening in this country. Our culture is changing from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understand we're responsible for the decisions we make in life; if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul; that you're responsible for helping people in need, that you're responsible for a society that hurts sometimes, and that you're responsible for helping somebody who's just calling out for a little love and some attention.

No, if you want to help in the war against terror, do some good. It's what I call the

gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness, which are defining the true character and the true nature of our country. No, the enemy hit us. The enemy had probably thought we'd file a few lawsuits or two. But they realized we're a little different than that. This is a strong nation, a nation of deep character, a nation that can overcome problems, and a nation that will see to it that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good.

Thank you all for coming today. And may God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. at the machinery grounds at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Thomas Vilsack of Iowa; Dave Huinker, president, 2002 Iowa State Fair Board; and Robert W. Lane, chairman and chief executive officer, John Deere. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7582—National Airborne Day, 2002

August 14, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The history of Airborne forces began after World War I, when Brigadier General William Mitchell first conceived the idea of parachuting troops into combat. Eventually, under the leadership of Major William Lee at Fort Benning, Georgia, members of the Parachute Test Platoon pioneered methods of combat jumping in 1940. In November 1942, members of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, conducted America's first combat jump, leaping from a C-47 aircraft behind enemy lines in North Africa. This strategy revolutionized combat and established Airborne forces as a key component of our military.

During World War II, Airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, Airborne soldiers played

a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, Airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite Airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, “America’s Guard of Honor,” and the “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Airborne forces have also been represented in the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions and numerous other Airborne, glider and air assault units and regiments. Paratroopers in the Army’s XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. As we face the challenges of a new era, I encourage all people to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2002, as National Airborne Day. As we commemorate the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the thousands of soldiers, past and present, who have served in an Airborne capacity. I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 19.

Memorandum on Military Drawdown for Tunisia

August 14, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Presidential Determination on Military Drawdown for Tunisia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles and services from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and military education and training of the aggregate value of \$5 million for Tunisia, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Doug Gross and the Republican Party of Iowa in Des Moines

August 14, 2002

Thanks for such a warm welcome. It seems like only yesterday I was at the Ames Straw Poll. [*Laughter*] I guess you could say I cut my Presidential teeth right here in the State of Iowa.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I’m honored to be here to proudly support the next Governor of the State of Iowa, Doug Gross. They tell me he grew up on a farm with nine brothers and sisters, so many kids they didn’t need any machinery. [*Laughter*]