

going to permit terrorists and terror states to plot and plan and grow in strength while we do nothing.

The actions we're taking in Operation Liberty Shield are making this Nation more secure. And the actions we're taking abroad against a terror network and against the regime in Iraq are removing a grave danger to all free nations. In every case, by acting today, we are saving countless lives in the future.

America has many advantages in this war on terror. We have resolute citizens. We're vigilant and know that freedom must be defended. We have a just cause to guide us, and we have the strength and character of the men and women who serve our country.

You in the Coast Guard take rightful pride in the uniform you wear and the mission you have accepted. You and all who serve in our military are ready for any challenge. And by your skill and by your courage, we will prevail.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. at the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Thomas H. Collins, commandant, and Vice Adm. James D. Hull, Atlantic Area commander, U.S. Coast Guard; Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll and State Attorney General D. Michael Fisher of Pennsylvania; Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Proclamation 7658—National Donate Life Month, 2003**

*April 1, 2003*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Advances in medical research and technology are helping our citizens to live longer and better lives. An important aspect of these improvements is transplant technology. Today, up to 50 lives can be saved or enhanced by just one organ and tissue donor. During National Donate Life Month, we honor living and deceased donors and their

families across our Nation who have renewed the lives of others, and we call upon more Americans to follow their example.

Through our Nation's organ and tissue donor programs, thousands of Americans have given the gift of life. In 2002, 24,851 organ transplants and 32,744 corneal transplants were performed in the United States. In addition, the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry facilitated an average of 173 transplants each month. These donors' spirit of giving reflects the compassion of our great Nation.

Unfortunately, the current rate of donation is inadequate to meet the growing needs of our fellow Americans. Nearly 81,000 of our citizens are on the national organ transplant waiting list. Each day, an average of 68 of these individuals receive an organ transplant, yet another 17 on the waiting list die. As a Nation, we must strive to meet the needs of all Americans awaiting such donations.

Through the "Gift of Life Donation Initiative," my Administration is working to educate our Nation about the importance of becoming a donor. During National Donate Life Month, more than 6,000 partners, including Federal agencies, State governments, private industries, unions, fraternal organizations, and associations have committed to promoting organ and tissue donation awareness. As a result, millions of Americans will learn about the many ways they can help those in need and save lives.

**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 April 2003 as National Donate Life Month. I call upon our citizens to sign an organ and tissue donor card and to be screened for bone marrow donation. I also urge healthcare professionals, volunteers, educators, government agencies, and private organizations to help raise awareness of the important need for organ and tissue donors in communities throughout our Nation.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this First day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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., April 3, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 4.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on  
Implementation of the Inter-  
American Convention Against  
Corruption**

*April 1, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

Pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption adopted by the Senate on July 27, 2000, I submit the enclosed report, prepared by my Administration, on implementation of the Convention.

This third report to the Congress indicates that 28 of the 34 members of the Organization of American States have formally ratified the Convention (Brazil and Suriname ratified the Convention in 2002) and that 27 have adopted the evaluation mechanism established by the Organization of American States to oversee implementation.

The United States Government continues to reinforce the implementation and enforcement of the Convention in the hemisphere through numerous initiatives and programs that are described in the report. Moreover, since the last report, my Administration has moved forward with our proposed Millennium Challenge Account, which is intended to link U.S. foreign development assistance to, among other factors, the recipient's commitments to good governance and anticorruption efforts. The Convention recognizes that the problem of corruption is a major obstacle to development in the Americas. As such, it has energized the work of the United States and its hemispheric partners to find common solutions to common anticorruption challenges.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to combat corruption in our hemisphere and across the globe.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on Chemical  
Weapons Convention Compliance**

*April 2, 2003*

*Dear \_\_\_\_\_:*

Enclosed is a report prepared by my Administration covering Chemical Weapons Convention compliance. This report is prepared pursuant to Condition 10(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The report is provided in both a classified and unclassified version.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

**Remarks to the Community at Camp  
Lejeune, North Carolina**

*April 3, 2003*

*The President.* Thank you all very much. Thank you all so very much for that warm welcome. It's such an honor to be here—especially pleased to be traveling today with a great First Lady, Laura Bush. We really appreciate your welcome, and we're proud to be with the marines and sailors and families of Camp Lejeune. There's no finer sight—no finer sight—than to see 12,000