

the remarkable role they have played in our history and culture.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of June, 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., June 25, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 26.

### **Statement on the Death of Bob Stump**

*June 24, 2003*

Congressman Bob Stump lived a distinguished life of service as a World War II veteran, an Arizona State legislator, and a United States Congressman. He was a gifted leader who remained true to his principles and made an indelible mark on those who were fortunate enough to know him. As one of the few Members of Congress who served as chairman of both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee, he was admired for his tireless efforts on behalf of the men and women in uniform. Laura joins me in sending our thoughts and prayers to Nancy and the entire Stump family during this difficult time.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Action on Homeland Security Legislation**

*June 24, 2003*

I commend the House of Representatives for acting quickly to approve funds for our continued effort to strengthen homeland security and protect the American people. I'm particularly pleased that the House bill supports my request to help train, equip, and prepare first-responders across our Nation. The bill also supports important core functions of the newly created Department of Homeland Security, including border secu-

urity, infrastructure protection, and information analysis.

### **Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders**

*June 25, 2003*

#### **Medicare Reform Legislation**

**The President.** Thank you all for coming. I'll take some questions at the end of the EU Summit. I'm so honored that members of both political parties from the House of Representatives have come to discuss our mutual desire to get a Medicare reform package passed. Members of both parties have made up their minds that we can do a good job on behalf of seniors by making sure that Medicare is a modern system.

We are making great progress on this issue. We have an historic opportunity to seize the moment and get a good bill done. There's good momentum on the side of those of us who believe that we have an obligation to serve something greater than ourselves or our political parties. And I want to thank, again, members of both parties who are working hard to reach a consensus on behalf of our country's seniors.

We've got Nancy Johnson and Congressman Israel here, who are very competent spokesmen for what is necessary to achieve a common objective. And I want to thank the Members. I look forward to working with you. Whatever amount of energy and effort is required from the White House, we will provide it, to get a bill done this summer, one that I can sign, and then we can all go back to our districts—in my case, tour the country—and say we have accomplished a major objective. Together—we work together.

Thank you all for coming. Now you're supposed to yell a question so I know what you're going to ask later on. [Laughter]

**Q.** What are you going to tell the undecided Republicans this afternoon?

**The President.** Wrong question. [Laughter]

**Q.** The economy?

**The President.** The economy? Okay, good. We know about that. That's good. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:53 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders**

*June 25, 2003*

**President Bush.** Thank you all for coming. We'll have opening statements; each of us will answer one question apiece.

It's my pleasure to welcome Prime Minister Simitis and President Prodi here to the White House. We've had constructive discussions. We had a nice lunch.

Since the end of World War II, the United States has strongly supported European unity as the best path to European peace and prosperity. We believe as well that strong ties between America and Europe are essential to peace and the prosperity of the world.

Both the United States and the EU are threatened by global terror, and we are determined to defeat it. Today we have signed new agreements to increase our legal cooperation in the war on terror and to speed the extradition of terrorists. Under these agreements, we will form joint investigative teams and share information on suspect bank accounts and expand the range of offenses that qualify for extradition.

Today the United States and the EU have also taken new steps to help stop the gravest threat to our security, the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. We have signed—we have agreed to work together and with others to strengthen export controls on dangerous materials. We also seek new methods, including active interdiction, to stop illicit trade in weapons of mass destruction.

The United States and the EU are working closely to meet the proliferation challenges posed by North Korea and Iran. The recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency clearly describes Iran's failure to meet its obligations to the world and to provide access for agency officials.

America and the EU agree that Iran must cooperate fully with the IAEA. We agree that Iran must sign and comply with an additional protocol giving the IAEA new tools to inves-

tigate clandestine nuclear weapons activities. Iran has pledged not to develop nuclear weapons, and the entire international community must hold that regime to its commitments.

The United States and the EU are determined to make the world not only safer but also better. We will work together to help the people of Iraq build a future of security, prosperity, and freedom. We'll work together to confront global poverty, disease, and oppression. And Europe and America will stand together for a Middle East so—that will have a just and comprehensive peace. We'll work together to achieve the two-state solution endorsed by the parties earlier this month at the Red Sea Summit.

Progress toward this goal will only be possible if all sides do all in their power to defeat the determined enemies of peace, such as Hamas and other terrorist groups. Nearly every hopeful moment in the region, nearly every sign of progress toward peace is followed by more murders in the guise of martyrdom, as those who oppose peace do all they can to destroy the hopes and aspirations of those who desire to live in peace. I urge the leaders in Europe and around the world to take swift, decisive action against terror groups such as Hamas, to cut off their funding and to support—cut funding and support, as the United States has done.

We also had a good discussion today about the vital trade relationship that brings growth and job creation to America and to all the nations of the EU and to the world. Today we are launching negotiations on a comprehensive air services agreement, better known as Open Skies, that will benefit our consumers, our airlines, and our communities. We've also agreed to accelerate the commercial use of clean and abundant hydrogen energy. We're working toward a multilateral agreement to ban market-distorting steel subsidies. And we agree on the importance of making the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting of trade ministers in Cancun a success, so that we can energize the global trade negotiations.

We meet at an important moment, a time when the EU is taking in new members and writing a new constitution and a time when both Europe and America are facing new