

We've got policemen and firefighters and people who wear our Nation's uniform reminding us on a daily basis what it means to sacrifice for something greater than yourself in life. Once again, the children of America believe in heroes, because they see them every day.

In these challenging times, the world has seen the resolve and the courage of America. And I've been privileged to see the compassion and the character of the American people. All the tests of the last 2½ years have come to the right nation. We're a strong country, and we use that strength to defend the peace. We're an optimistic country, confident in ourselves and in ideals bigger than ourselves.

Abroad, we seek to lift whole nations by spreading freedom. At home, we seek to lift up lives by spreading opportunity to every corner of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it, and we know that for our country and for our cause, the best days lie ahead.

May God bless you. And may God continue to bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Hilton Miami Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Zach Zachariah and Tom Petway III, Florida State finance cochairmen, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Al Hoffman, finance chairman, Republican National Committee; Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush Cheney '04, Inc.; and Al Cardenas, former chair, Republican Party of Florida.

Proclamation 7688—Death of James Strom Thurmond

June 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of James Strom Thurmond, the longest serving member and former President pro tempore of the United States Senate, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at

the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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, 11:39 a.m., July 1, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 2.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Reception in Tampa, Florida

June 30, 2003

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming out. I appreciate the warm welcome on a warm day. [Laughter] I'm so honored to be here with my brother. You know, he and I share the same political consultant—[laughter]—our mother. [Laughter] She doesn't charge very much for her advice, but she gives plenty of it, I can assure you. [Laughter] But I appreciate Jeb—talk about swamping somebody—he knows the definition of “swamp” when it comes to political campaigns.

I want to thank you all so very much for your help today. We're laying the groundwork for a national campaign—a national campaign that I believe will result in a great victory in November 2004.

I'm going to count on you not only for help such as the help you've given tonight, but I'm going to count on you to energize the grassroots, to talk to your neighbors, talk to people who are making up their minds, to put the signs in the yard, and to help spread