

the service of the brave men and women of the National Guard and Reserve.

By supporting our Guardsmen and Reservists, employers across our Nation also are helping to advance freedom and democracy around the world. At the same time, these employers benefit from the experience and leadership skills these citizen-soldiers bring home. Employer support of our Guard and Reserve in the United States and abroad helps ensure our troops are mission-ready and is a source of pride and assurance for all Americans. This country is grateful to employers and workers for their support of Guard and Reserve members and their families. Because military deployment often disrupts families and businesses, my Administration is working to make deployments more predictable. Together, our National Guard and Reserve forces and their employers are united in purpose and reflect the highest standards of professionalism and honor.

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 November 16 through November 22, 2003, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the members of our National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call on State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 18, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Statement on Senate Action To Block Up-or-Down Votes on Judicial Nominations

November 14, 2003

Today's partisan action to block up-or-down votes on Justice Priscilla Owen, Judge Carolyn Kuhl, and Justice Janice Rogers Brown is inconsistent with the Senate's constitutional responsibility and is just plain wrong. Once again, a partisan minority of Senators has thwarted the will of the majority and stood in the way of voting on superb judicial nominees.

These obstructionist tactics are shameful, unfair, and have become all too common. At a time when the American people have important issues backlogged in the courts, partisan Senators are playing politics with the judicial process at the expense of timely justice for the American people.

I commend Senate Republicans, especially Leader Frist, Chairman Hatch, and Senator Santorum, for their leadership and commitment to the Constitution and basic fairness. During their 40-hour debate, these Senators have focused on the damaging vacancies that exist on the Federal courts of appeals, the highly qualified individuals I have nominated to serve, and the Senate's obligation to vote on every judicial nominee.

No matter who is President or which party controls the Senate, the American people deserve a well-functioning, independent judiciary and a commitment by all Senators to live up to their constitutional obligation.

Proclamation 7734—America Recycles Day, 2003

November 14, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

To preserve America's majestic beauty, we must conserve our natural resources and practice responsible stewardship. On America Recycles Day, we reaffirm our commitment to conservation and recognize the increase in recycling in the last two decades.

Twenty-five years ago, only one community in the United States had a curbside recycling program. Today, more than 9,000 communities have curbside collection, and many others provide drop-off centers or cooperative collection facilities. Businesses and communities are boosting recycling collection efforts, and companies are using new technologies and methods to manufacture products more efficiently. Manufacturers, retailers, and governmental and non-governmental organizations are engaging in voluntary product stewardship partnerships to reduce waste. Industries are also discovering ways to reduce waste and cost, cut pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and conserve energy and water.

Many of the products used every day, including aluminum cans, appliances, office paper, cardboard boxes, furniture, and clothing contain recycled materials. We also recycle motor oil, tires, plastic, glass, batteries, and building materials, and we are developing new ways to recycle electronic products—the fastest growing portion of America's municipal waste.

On America Recycles Day, I encourage individuals, businesses, communities, tribes, and government to continue to work together as good stewards of America's resources. By using our resources wisely, we help build a stronger economy and a healthier future.

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 November 15, 2003, as America Recycles Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 17, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 18.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 8

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

November 9

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

November 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Little Rock, AR, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Dr. Michael Quick.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Greer, SC, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Robin Longino and high school athlete Ben Comen. Later, he traveled to Greenville, SC.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will award the Medal of Freedom to NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson in a ceremony at the White House on November 12.

The President announced his intention to appoint Patrick Marshall Hughes to be Assistant Secretary for Information Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security.

November 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. In the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.