

Week Ending Friday, July 9, 2004

**Statement on the Death of  
Marlon Brando**

*July 2, 2004*

With the passing of Marlon Brando, America has lost a great actor of the stage and screen. His award-winning performances in films such as “On the Waterfront” and “The Godfather” demonstrated his outstanding talent and entertained millions across the country. Marlon Brando was one of the 20th century’s finest actors and will be missed by his many fans and admirers. Laura and I send our prayers and condolences to his family and friends.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7801—Returning the  
Flag of the United States to Full-Staff**

*July 2, 2004*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in honor and tribute to the memory of Ronald Reagan, it is hereby ordered that the flag of the United States shall be displayed at full-staff at the White House and on all buildings, grounds, and Naval vessels of the United States beginning July 3, 2004. I also direct that beginning on that same date, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at full-staff over their Embassies, Legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and stations.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, 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., July 7, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 8. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**The President’s Radio Address**

*July 3, 2004*

Good morning. As Americans gather this weekend to celebrate the Fourth of July, we can take pride in our country’s great history and look to the future with confidence. America remains a shining example to the world of all that free people can achieve. And our goal as a nation is to make sure that all Americans can share in the promise of our country.

Our economy is showing steady progress. We’ve completed our 10th consecutive month of job creation. We added 112,000 jobs in June and have added more than 1.5 million new jobs since last August. The unemployment rate has steadily declined, to 5.6 percent from 6.3 percent a year ago. With more jobs and lower unemployment, we are seeing rising consumer confidence, higher incomes, continued gains in the rate of homeownership, and a restored sense of opportunity.

Our strengthening economy is a tribute to millions of American entrepreneurs and workers. By their hard work and optimism, our Nation has overcome recession, terrorist attack, corporate scandals, and the many economic challenges that come in a time of war.

Our Government is also doing its part. With progrowth policies in Washington, we aim to encourage the hard work and optimism of our people. With tax relief, we are

strengthening the spirit of enterprise. When people are allowed to keep more of what they earn, that is good for families trying to make ends meet, good for businesses looking for new customers, and good for those looking for jobs in our expanding economy.

Now that jobs are coming back, we must build on this progress and help American workers and families continue to meet the challenges of our changing economy. My plan will help America continue to lead the world, help our workers gain the skills they need, and create an environment where small businesses will thrive and create new jobs.

Our first responsibility is not to raise taxes on hard-working Americans. All of the tax relief we have passed should be made permanent, so families can continue to keep more of what they earn, and businesses can plan for the future with confidence. I have a plan to help businesses and families with the rising costs of health care and reduce the burden of frivolous lawsuits that unnecessarily punish the job creators in America. I'm working to open more markets and level the playing field for American entrepreneurs and farmers and ranchers.

Our global economy requires Americans to remain prepared for change and innovation. That is why I have proposed to help our public schools and community colleges teach our future workers the skills they need to succeed. For the sake of economic security and job creation, I proposed a national energy policy that encourages conservation and production at home and makes us less dependent on foreign sources of energy. All of these proposals are aimed at helping Americans prepare to meet new economic challenges, and I will continue to push the Congress to see them enacted into law.

This Fourth of July weekend, as Americans celebrate our freedom, our thoughts are also with the men and women who defend that freedom as members of the United States military. In Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, they are fighting terrorists that threaten America and helping to build hopeful, democratic societies where the ideology of terrorism has no place. Our Nation honors their sacrifice. And one of our greatest sources of pride on this Fourth of July is that men and

women like them wear the uniform of our country.

I thank all of our service men and women for standing post. I wish all Americans a happy Independence Day.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:01 p.m. on July 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Remarks on Independence Day in Charleston, West Virginia**

*July 4, 2004*

Thank you all. They got the best seat in the house. [*Laughter*] Glad you all are here. Thanks for coming. Happy Fourth of July. I am thrilled to be back in your great State to celebrate once again Independence Day, this time in the capital of the Mountain State, the great city of Charleston, West Virginia. I appreciate the good people of this State. You work hard. You look after your neighbors, and you love your country. And you sure know how to make a President feel welcome. Thank you all.

West Virginia is an important State to our Nation in many ways—in many ways. You're one of the most beautiful places to visit in America. People ought to come here and see the beauty of West Virginia, to see the Almighty's work. There are hard-working people here making the factories hum and the farms producing products we need. Listen, this country is better off because of the coal found here in West Virginia.

Presidents have been coming to this State for a long time. I did a little research. It turns out that a lot of the land owned around Charleston was owned by George Washington. I call him George W. [*Laughter*] And today we remember names like Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin. We honor their courage, and we honor their vision on the Fourth of July. We're thankful that this Nation they created 228 years ago remains