

our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

The strength of this country is not our Government. The strength of this country is the heart and souls of the American people. That's the true strength of America.

Today I had the honor of saying hello to Dr. Peggy Curry. She's the executive director of Grand Rapids Reach. The reason I bring her up is one of the most important initiatives over the next 4 years will be to continue to expand the faith-based program, to have Government stand on the side of faith programs, not against faith programs.

Dr. Curry's program distributes food to senior citizens. It mentors. There's after-school programs. There's Christian outreach. See, it's a program that understands that when you help a person change their heart, they can help change their lives. For those of you who are soldiers in the army of compassion here in Grand Rapids and western Michigan, thank you for your service. Thank you for helping change America one heart, one soul at a time.

For all Americans, these years in our history will stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. These aren't one of those times. This is a period where we need resolve, firm resolve and clear vision. None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It's a day that I will never forget. There were workers in hardhats yelling at me, "Whatever it takes." I remember a guy grabbing my arm—a firefighter or policeman, I don't know which one—he had tears in his eyes, and he looked at me and said, "Do not let me down."

As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I wake up every morning thinking about how to better protect our country. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies, whatever it takes.

We have come through much together. We've done a lot of hard work together. We're turning the corner. We're moving America forward by extending freedom and peace around the world, and we're moving

our country forward by expanding opportunity to every corner of this great land.

During the next 4 years, we will spread ownership and opportunity so every single citizen has a shot at realizing the great dream of this fantastic country. We will pass the enduring values of our country to another generation. We will prevail. With your support and your prayers, I will be a leader America can count on in a time of great change.

Four years ago, as I traveled this great country and came to places like Grand Rapids, Michigan, asking for the vote, I made a pledge to my fellow Americans that if you honored me with this great responsibility, I would uphold the dignity and the honor of the office to which I had been elected, so help me, God. And with your help, I will do so for 4 more years.

Thank you all. God bless. God bless you all. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at Grand Rapids Community College. In his remarks, he referred to Juan R. Olivarez, president, Grand Rapids Community College; Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land; Michigan State Attorney General Mike Cox; Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and Speaker Rick Johnson, Michigan State Legislature; Betsy DeVos, chairman, Charles "Chuck" Yob, national committeeman, and Holly Hughes, national committeewoman-elect, Michigan Republican Party; Peter F. Secchia, former U.S. Ambassador to Italy; Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission). This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **Remarks at the International Children's Games and Cultural Festival in Cleveland, Ohio**

*July 30, 2004*

**The President.** Thank you. Thanks for coming. Welcome to the United States. I am honored to have been introduced by a great Iranian-American, silver medalist Matt Ghaffari. Thank you, Matt, for being here, and thank you for your introduction.

Listen, I don't know if you know this—hold on—there are—the Governor of this

great State is with us today. Senators are with us today, very fine people in Senators Voinovich and DeWine. Members of the Congress are here today. The reason why is they want to join me in welcoming you who do not live in the United States to our great country. We're glad you're here, and we hope you have a wonderful experience in America.

You're in a great United States city. Cleveland, Ohio, is a fantastic place to visit. And I want to thank—and I know you join me in thanking the mayor of Cleveland, Mayor Jane Campbell, for her gracious hospitality.

I want to thank the sports authority figures who are here. I appreciate David Gilbert of the Cleveland Sports Commission. I want to thank Alex Machaskee, who is the cochair of the International Children's Games, and Dr. Fred Loop, who is the other chairman, for working so hard to put this event on.

I know you join me in thanking all the volunteers from the city of Cleveland who have worked hard to make sure your stay here is a good stay. I suggest you go to the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. Oh, yes, that's where you need to spend some time.

I want to thank the former Olympians who are here. They wish you all the very best in the games and hope that you become Olympians yourselves. And this is a good place to start, right here in the competition.

A couple things I want to tell you. One, I hope you enjoy yourself, and I hope you spend time not only competing hard but getting to know each other. Like, there's all kinds of cultures here and different languages are spoken, but I think you'll find you share a lot of things in common. Yes, you hope for a better life. You care deeply about people you love. You want the world to be a better place. And so, not only compete hard, but spend time with each other and share cultures. I think you'll find you're all God's children. There's so much in common.

A couple other things I want to tell you is make sure that you continue to make the right choices in life. See, you're at the age where you're going to be challenged with some tough choices: drugs and alcohol, prejudice and hate. Reject that. Reject those kinds of temptations and continue serving your bodies and your soul well by making right choices in life. You made right choices

to get here to compete. Continue doing so. I think it will help you—I know it will help you in your life.

I want to say one other word. I want to welcome the Afghan girls' soccer team who is here. We're glad every country is represented. I think it's especially interesting and an especially poignant and uplifting moment that young girls are here from the country of Afghanistan. Because your country is free, you're here. Because your country is free, you can now go to school for the first time—many of you can now go to school for the first time.

Freedom is such a powerful part of the world in which we live, and we take great pride in welcoming you all into a free society from a free society.

May God bless you, and may God bless all the athletes and their families and coaches who are here. Enjoy yourselves. Good luck. All my best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:35 p.m. at Cleveland Browns Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Matt Ghaffari, 1996 Olympic silver medalist, Greco-Roman wrestling; and Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

## The President's Radio Address

July 31, 2004

Good morning. This week, we received encouraging reports that show our economy is gaining strength. Consumer confidence hit a 2-year high in July. Existing home sales hit an alltime new record in June. The home-ownership rate has hit a new alltime high. And since last summer, our economy has grown at a rate as fast as any in nearly 20 years.

These gains in our economy have come at a time when Americans are benefiting from the full effects of tax relief. I have traveled across America meeting small-business owners who are investing tax savings into new equipment, and I have met families who are using tax savings to pay for their children's needs. All of this added economic activity is creating opportunity. Since last August, Americans have started work at more than