

so many organizations like Give2theTroops, a group started in a basement by a mother and son that has sent thousands of care packages to troops in the field.

Thanksgiving reminds us that America's true strength is the compassion and decency of our people. I thank all those who volunteer this season, and Laura and I wish every American a happy and safe Thanksgiving weekend.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:30 a.m. on November 26 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26 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 the Nomination of Carlos M. Gutierrez To Be Secretary of Commerce

November 29, 2004

The President. Thank you all. I am proud to announce my nomination of Carlos Gutierrez to be America's next Secretary of Commerce. Carlos Gutierrez is one of America's most respected business leaders. He is a great American success story.

As CEO of the Kellogg Company, he has been an effective, visionary executive. He understands the world of business from the first rung on the ladder to the very top. He knows exactly what it takes to help American businesses grow and create jobs. I look forward to having his creativity and expertise in my Cabinet.

Carlos' family came to America from Cuba when he was a boy. He learned English from a bellhop in a Miami hotel and later became an American citizen. When his family eventually settled in Mexico City, Carlos took his first job for Kellogg as a truck driver, delivering Frosted Flakes to local stores. Ten years after he started, he was running the Mexican business, and 15 years after that, he was running the entire company. At every stage of this remarkable story, Carlos motivated others with his energy and optimism and impressed others with his decency.

In his career, Carlos has been sustained by the values taught by his parents, Pedro and Olga, and by the love of his wife, Edi, and his children, Carlos, Erika, and Karina. I know Olga Gutierrez, who lives in Florida, is proud to see the boy she took from Cuba chosen to help strengthen the world's greatest and finest economy.

Carlos will carry on the work of a distinguished leader, Secretary Don Evans. During the past 4 years, our economy has overcome a recession, terrorist attack, corporate scandals, and the uncertainty that comes with war. In all these challenges, Don has been a strong and steady advocate for America's businesses and workers and entrepreneurs. Don has also been my friend for over three decades. I've counted on his wisdom and optimism and character at every step on my journey to the White House. Now Don's own journey leads him back to Texas, where we were young men together. Don is one of the finest people I have ever known. I will miss having him in Washington, and Laura and I wish him and Susie well.

When he's confirmed by the Senate, Carlos Gutierrez will take office at a time of historic opportunity for our changing economy. With Carlos' leadership, we'll help more Americans, especially minorities and women, to start and grow their own small business. We'll reduce the burden of junk lawsuits and regulations on our entrepreneurs. We'll reform our outdated Tax Code to eliminate needless paperwork and encourage savings, investment, and growth. We'll continue our commitment to free and fair trade. Carlos and I know that America's workers can compete with anybody in the world. And in all these policies, we will ensure that the American economy keeps creating jobs and remains dynamic and flexible far into the future.

In Carlos Gutierrez, the Department of Commerce will have an experienced manager and an innovative leader. He will be a strong, principled voice for American business and an inspiration to millions of men and women who dream of a better life in our country. I ask the Senate to confirm this fine nominee as quickly as possible. I look forward to welcoming him into my Cabinet.

Congratulations.

[At this point, Secretary-Designate Gutierrez made brief remarks.]

The President. Great job. Thank you. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Susan Evans, wife of Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-Designate Gutierrez. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Resignation of Stephen Friedman as Director of the National Economic Council

November 29, 2004

Steve Friedman has been a trusted adviser and vital member of my economic team, working tirelessly to help make sure that America continues to be the best place in the world to do business.

Steve played a valuable role in enacting the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003 that helped move our economy from recession to the robust growth we are experiencing today. As a key member of my White House senior staff, Steve has led efforts to develop the policies that are strengthening our economy and helping to create jobs. Steve has done an excellent job of coordinating the work of my economic team and has played a key role in developing the economic policies for my second-term agenda.

Steve is a good-hearted man who possesses great wisdom and a can-do attitude. I am grateful for his superb work and wish him and Barbara all the best as they fulfill their plan to return home to New York.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Director Friedman's letter of resignation.

Executive Order 13362— Designation of Additional Officers for the Department of Homeland Security Order of Succession

November 29, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. During any period when the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and the officers designated to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary by section 88 of Executive Order 13286 of February 28, 2003 ("Amendment of Executive Orders, and Other Actions, in Connection With the Transfer of Certain Functions to the Secretary of Homeland Security"), have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Homeland Security, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, Region V, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Director, Region VI, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Director, Region VII, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Director, Region VIII, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
and
Director, Region X, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this order.