

Nada Lutfiah. Nada wrote to Maggie, and I translate into English. “My good friend: Hello, friend. My name is Nada Lutfiah. I was so happy and my heart was touched to receive the letter you sent us. My family, my dad, mom, older brother, and younger brother have disappeared, and now I live with my cousins. I hope you are healthy and well where you are. I am so glad you are paying attention to us here. I hope to receive your bracelet in the coming days, because I want to wear it on my arm to remind me that I have new friend. Your friend, Nada.”

I have asked my Ambassador Soemadi to personally deliver Nada’s letter and photo to Maggie in Michigan.

These two letters are extraordinary, both in the words they conveyed and in the fact that two youngsters from entirely different background made a connection: An American girl who prays at church, collects loose change, and make bracelet for tsunami kids two oceans away; an Indonesian Muslim girl who lost all her family and wants to kill the pain and is eager just to be a kid again, just like Maggie. I think the world will be a better place if all of us start to have connections and conversation the way Maggie and Nada did.

I thank you very much.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much for such a powerful speech. And it’s in that spirit of compassion that we—it’s my honor to now award the volunteer awards.

Commander, please read the citations.

[*At this point, Lt. Col. Steven T. Fisher, USA, Army Aide to the President, read the citations, and the awards were presented.*]

President Bush. Mr. President, I hope you can tell by the short presentation of—to some of our great citizens that the true strength of America, our true strength lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

I’m proud that you’ve joined us today. Thank you all for coming. May God bless our respective countries, and may God continue to bless the American people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador Sichan Siv, U.S. Representative to the U.N. Economic and Social

Council, and his wife, Martha; and Eni Faleomavaega, American Samoa’s Representative to the U.S. Congress. President Yudhoyono referred to U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia B. Lynn Pascoe; and Indonesia’s Ambassador to the U.S. Soemadi Brotodiningrat.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Priscilla R. Owen as U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit

May 25, 2005

I applaud the Senate for voting to confirm Justice Priscilla Owen. She has served with distinction on the Supreme Court of Texas, has demonstrated that she strictly interprets the law, and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. I urge the Senate to build on this progress and provide my judicial nominees the up-or-down votes they deserve.

Proclamation 7906—National Homeownership Month, 2005

May 25, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For millions of individuals and families, the American Dream starts with owning a home. When families move into a home of their own, they gain independence and confidence, and their faith in the future grows. The spread of ownership and opportunity helps give our citizens a vital stake in the future of America and the chance to realize the great promise of our country.

From the earliest days of our Nation, homeownership has embodied the core American values of individual freedom, personal responsibility, and self-reliance. A home provides children with a safe environment in which to grow and learn. A home is also a tangible asset that provides owners with borrowing power and allows our citizens to build wealth that they can pass on to their children and grandchildren.

The benefits of homeownership extend to our communities. Families who own their