

had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation, signed over 2 years earlier, had declared all slaves to be free persons. This historic day is celebrated to remember the end of slavery. Emancipation demonstrated our country's belief in liberty and equality for every citizen, and was a profound recognition that each and every American has rights, dignity, and matchless value.

One hundred forty years later, the Juneteenth observance continues to remind us of our country's founding principles of liberty and justice for all. As we mark the anniversary of the end of servitude, we also recognize the many contributions of African Americans to our culture. African Americans have helped shape our country's character, enhanced the diversity that makes America strong, and contributed to the vitality, success, and prosperity of our Nation. Juneteenth is a day that stands for the dignity and equality of all citizens, regardless of race, so that all may share the blessings of freedom that America provides.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 15, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of

the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our Embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Determination To Authorize a Drawdown for Afghanistan

June 15, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Determination to Authorize a Drawdown for Afghanistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 202 and other relevant provisions of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act (Public Law 107-327) and section 506 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318, I hereby direct the drawdown of up to \$161.5 million of defense articles, defense services, and military education and training from the Department of Defense for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the Congressional Picnic

June 15, 2005

Thank you all for coming tonight. I think we're going to have a pretty special picnic here on the South Lawn. Laura and Lynne and Dick and I are really pleased you're here.

It's a chance to say thanks to the Members of Congress and their families.

I appreciate the Marine Band. I hope you've enjoyed them as much as I've enjoyed listening to them upstairs.

So enjoy the food. In about 45 minutes or so, we're going to have a celebration of American musicals, at the tent down there below. We hope you join us. WETA is going to film it, so make sure you look pretty. [Laughter]

But thanks for coming. May God bless you all and your families. Glad you're here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:56 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Following the Entertainment at the Congressional Picnic

June 15, 2005

Laura and I are pleased that you came to our backyard picnic. [Laughter] We really want to thank the Speaker, Speaker Hastert, and Senator Frist, Congresswoman Pelosi, and all the Members of Congress who joined us today. I want to thank you for your hard work, and I want to thank you for your devotion to your constituents and to our country. I look forward to continuing to work with you, as we serve the American people.

Laura and I also want to thank all the families who are with us here for your extraordinary service and sacrifice. Public service puts great demands on our families and our country is grateful to you all.

Laura and I want to thank WETA and all tonight's performers, Tom Wopat and Shirley Jones, Harolyn Blackwell, and Cartier Williams. You put on such a fantastic performance, and we're grateful.

Again, thank you all for coming. We hope you've enjoyed this evening. And may God bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:30 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to actor and singer Tom Wopat; actress Shirley Jones; actress and soprano Harolyn Blackwell; and dancer Cartier Williams.

The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 16.

Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast

June 16, 2005

Gracias, y sientese. [Laughter] Thank you for the warm welcome. It's an honor to be here at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. Thanks for inviting me back. I understand this, like you understand this: America is founded on *los valores de fe y familia*. These are the values at the heart of the Hispanic American community. These are the values that enrich our Nation, and I am grateful.

Your good works and reverence bring compassion to our country and, more importantly, honor to the Almighty. This morning we come together to pray, to pray for God's help as we serve our fellow citizens.

Danny, thank you very much for the invitation and the introduction. I'm proud to be with a lot of the faith leaders from around our country. I saw my friend Luis Cortes. It's good to see you again, Luis. I want to thank John von Seggern, who is the chairman of the Prayer Breakfast.

I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here, Nancy Pelosi, Chris Cannon, Hilda Solis, Rahm Emanuel, Luis Fortuno. I want to thank you all for serving our country, and thank you for setting aside politics to come and honor the Almighty through prayer.

It's good to see my old buddy, former member of the Cabinet, Ridge. Tom Ridge is with us. Good to see Hector Barreto. He runs the SBA. Go ahead and pray, and then get back to work. It's good to see Don Powell, Gaddi—who runs the FDIC, by the way—Gaddi Vasquez is the Director of the Peace Corps.

And finally, I want to pay homage to the First Lady of Panama. I want to welcome you here, Madam First Lady. Thank you for coming. We're really glad you're here. Your husband is kind of like me. We both married well. [Laughter]

We come from many faiths. In America, every religion is welcome. That's the great