

Week Ending Friday, December 9, 2005

### **The President's Radio Address**

*December 3, 2005*

Good morning. Earlier this week, I visited Arizona and Texas to observe firsthand our efforts to protect our Southwest border. And I met with customs and border protection agents who are working tirelessly to enforce our laws and keep our borders secure.

Illegal immigration and border security are issues that concern Americans. We're a nation built on the rule of law, and those who enter the country illegally break the law. In communities near our border, illegal immigration strains the resources of schools, hospitals, and law enforcement. And it involves smugglers and gangs that bring crime to our neighborhoods. Faced with this serious challenge, our Government's responsibility is clear: We're going to protect our borders.

Since I took office, we've increased funding for border security by 60 percent, and our border agents have caught and sent home more than 4.5 million illegal immigrants, including more than 350,000 with criminal records. Yet we must do more to build on this progress.

This week I outlined my comprehensive strategy to reform our immigration system. The strategy begins with a three-part plan to protect our borders. First, we will promptly return every illegal entrant we catch at our border with no exceptions. For illegal immigrants from Mexico, we are working to expand an innovative program called interior repatriation, in which those caught at the border are returned to their hometowns far from the border, making it more difficult for them to attempt another crossing. For non-Mexican illegal immigrants, we're changing the unwise policy of catch-and-release to a policy of catch-and-return, and we're speeding up the removal process.

Second, we must fix weak and unnecessary provisions in our immigration laws, including senseless rules that require us to release ille-

gal immigrants if their home countries do not take them back in a set period of time.

Third, we must stop people from crossing the border illegally in the first place. So we're hiring thousands more Border Patrol agents. We're deploying new technology to expand their reach and effectiveness, and we're constructing physical barriers to entry.

Comprehensive immigration reform also requires us to improve enforcement of our laws in the interior of our country, because border security and interior enforcement go hand in hand. In October, I signed legislation that more than doubled the resources for interior enforcement, so we'll increase the number of immigration enforcement agents and criminal investigators, enhance worksite enforcement, and continue to go after smugglers, gang members, and human traffickers. Our immigration laws apply across all of America, and we will enforce those laws throughout our land.

Finally, comprehensive immigration reform requires us to create a new temporary-worker program that relieves pressure on the border but rejects amnesty. By creating a legal channel for willing employers to hire willing workers, we will reduce the number of workers trying to sneak across the border, and that would free up law enforcement officers to focus on criminals, drug dealers, terrorists, and others who mean us harm.

This program would not create an automatic path to citizenship, and it would not provide amnesty. I oppose amnesty. Rewarding lawbreakers would encourage others to break the law and keep pressure on our border. A temporary-worker program will relieve pressure on the border and help us more effectively enforce our immigration laws.

Our Nation has been strengthened by generations of immigrants who became Americans through patience, hard work, and assimilation. In this new century, we must continue to welcome legal immigrants and help

them learn the customs and values that unite all Americans, including liberty and civic responsibility, equality under God, tolerance for others, and the English language. In the coming months, I look forward to working with Congress on comprehensive immigration reform that will enforce our laws, secure our border, and uphold our deepest values.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:03 a.m. on December 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 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 at the Kennedy Center Honors Reception**

*December 4, 2005*

Please be seated. Thanks for coming, and welcome to the White House. The annual reception for the Kennedy Center Honors is always a memorable event, and Laura and I are happy you all could join us. We extend a special welcome to this year's honorees and to their families and friends.

The Kennedy Center Honors are presented for exceptional accomplishment in the performing arts. Once again, the Center has selected five extraordinary Americans for this high distinction. Each of these honorees, in a lifetime of achievement, has set a standard of excellence that is admired throughout the world. All of them have earned a unique place in the cultural life of the United States and a special respect among their fellow Americans.

The first Kennedy Center Honors were presented in 1978 to a group that included the eminent choreographer, George Balanchine. And on that stage that evening, dancing in tribute was the great Suzanne Farrell. Together, Balanchine and Farrell gave the world of ballet one of the rarest and most successful collaborations in history. He created masterpieces just for her, and no one epitomizes the style and grace of Balanchine choreography as much as Suzanne Farrell.

She first came to New York from Cincinnati. And only after a year at the American School of Ballet, she made her professional debut in 1961. Before long, word began to circulate there was something new—someone new, someone very special at the New York City Ballet. When she took the stage as Dulcinea in *Don Quixote*, she became a sensation. In that performance, a reviewer said, Suzanne Farrell was “absolutely flawless, technically impeccable, light as a bubble, perfect in line and style.”

In hundreds of performances over a 28-year period, Suzanne Farrell was never known to depart from that standard. This was a ballerina who had it all, grace, strength, and the ability to act, turn, and jump with perfection. During classes, Balanchine often coached dancers with three words: “Do like Suzanne.” [*Laughter*]

In performances as diverse as “Agon,” “Theme and Variations,” “Scotch Symphony,” and “Clarinade,” she had a mesmerizing effect on her audiences. Watching her was said to be “one of the sublime theatrical experiences of an era.” One admirer said that Suzanne was a dancer who “made audiences sweat.” This remarkable lady is now guiding a new generation of dancers as the leader of the Suzanne Farrell Ballet.

In the words of one of her dancers, Suzanne “inspires you. You want to give her everything you have because she meets you each step of the way.” She does this every day with the spirit and the patience and the kindness of a truly lovely woman. She is widely appreciated as the greatest ballerina this country has produced, and the United States of America is proud to honor Suzanne Farrell.

Julie Harris discovered very early in life she loved to act, and the world discovered that she was better at the craft than almost anyone else. Fifty years ago, when her beautiful face was on the cover of *Time Magazine*, the story inside offered the confident and accurate prediction that she would be a star “for the rest of her life.”

Julie Harris has excelled in every forum she has attempted, from historical drama to tragedy, to musical comedy, to Shakespeare. She is known for one of the most hauntingly loving—lovely voices in theater, and she