

raised money to support breast cancer research. The Maryland field hockey players worked as counselors in summer camps for girls. They served as mentors. The Maryland soccer players helped the school canned food drive. The Portland soccer players arranged for the university to donate money for hurricane relief for every goal the team scored. The Wisconsin cross country runners participated in the Frostbite Roadrace to raise money for the local YMCA. The Stanford cross country team visited schools in East Palo Alto to talk about the importance of education and staying off drugs. The Washington volleyball players visited children in hospital. The Auburn swimmers helped raise funds for hurricane relief. The Colorado skiers participated in the Read With the Buff Program in elementary schools. What I'm telling you is, we've not only got fine athletes with us; we've got fine Americans with us. Thank you for serving your communities.

Welcome to the White House. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Billy Donovan, head coach, University of Florida men's basketball team; Brenda Frese, head coach, University of Maryland women's basketball team; Missy Meharg, head coach, University of Maryland women's field hockey team; Sasho Cirovski, head coach, University of Maryland men's soccer team; Garrett Smith, head coach, University of Portland women's soccer team; Jerry Schumacher, head coach, University of Wisconsin men's cross country team; Peter Tegen, head coach, and Lauren Centrowitz, team member, Stanford University women's cross country team; Jim McLaughlin, head coach, University of Washington women's volleyball team; David Marsh, head coach, Auburn University women's and men's swimming and diving teams; and Richard Rokos, head coach, University of Colorado women's and men's ski teams.

Proclamation 7997—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2006

April 6, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

A quality education is the cornerstone of a hopeful tomorrow for all our children. Edu-

cation and Sharing Day highlights our strong support for our young people as they pursue lives of learning, prepare to become responsible leaders, and work to reach their full potential.

On Education and Sharing Day, we remember the efforts of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who promoted the importance of education and ethical teachings to every student's future. He sought to improve lives and communities through a vast network of education and outreach centers and social service programs around the world. We continue to be inspired by the Rebbe's good works and all those who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to helping our next generation grow into caring, responsible adults. Through devotion to faith, family, education, and community, we can continue building a better and more compassionate society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2006, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon government officials, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to reach out to young people and work to create a better, brighter, and more hopeful future for all.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., April 7, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

**Proclamation 7998—National
Former Prisoner of War Recognition
Day, 2006**

April 6, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In every generation, America's Armed Forces have answered the call to duty with dedication and valor. On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we pay tribute to the brave patriots of the United States military who endured captivity because of war. These heroes sacrificed their personal liberty to secure a future of freedom for all Americans.

While held as prisoners of war, American POWs have reflected the best of our country, acting with resourcefulness, bravery, and strength. Former POWs, such as Corporal Tibor "Ted" Rubin, USA, continue to inspire new generations to acts of courage and compassion. Liberated by U.S. forces from a Nazi concentration camp, Rubin enlisted in the Army after immigrating to the United States. He was captured and held as a POW during the Korean War even before he became an American citizen. His incredible bravery and service to his fellow POWs saved many lives and has left a legacy of hope and honor, and for his heroism, I had the great privilege to present him our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

The sacrifices of those taken as prisoners of war have helped bring security to American citizens and freedom to the world. With determination and courage, America's former POWs, their fallen and missing comrades, and their families have demonstrated the true spirit of our Nation, and they will never be forgotten.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2006, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in remembering and honoring the sacrifices of all American prisoners of war. I call upon Federal, State, and

local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., April 7, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

**Memorandum on Assignment of
Reporting Function on Iraq Policy
Under the National Defense
Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
2006**

April 6, 2006

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assignment of Reporting Function on Iraq Policy Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 1227(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

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

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of
Representatives Transmitting
Budget Amendments**

April 6, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2007 Budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, and State and