

Week Ending Friday, May 26, 2006

**Message on the Observance of  
Cuban Independence Day, 2006**

*May 18, 2006*

I send greetings to those celebrating the 104th anniversary of Cuban Independence.

The hope of freedom is found in every heart, and it is the future of every land. The United States is committed to advancing the values that sustain liberty and helping establish a just and peaceful government in Cuba. On this anniversary of Cuba's independence, we look forward to the day when Cuba embraces democracy and human rights for all her people.

This anniversary also is an opportunity to recognize the generations of Cuban Americans who have contributed to the vitality, success, and prosperity of our great Nation. Through their devotion to faith, family, and freedom, they have helped make our country stronger and better.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless the people of Cuba.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 19. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks on American  
Competitiveness in Highland  
Heights, Kentucky**

*May 19, 2006*

**The President.** Thanks. Please be seated. Geoff, thanks for the introduction. He said I was the last sitting President—the last sitting President to be here before me was a Texan. [*Laughter*] I don't know what took the other ones so long to get here—[*laughter*]—but I'm proud to be here; particularly proud to be in NKU, Northern Kentucky

University. Thank you very much for letting me come by.

It's a good place to come to, to make sure that America understands we don't need to fear the future, because we can shape it. That's what I want to talk to you about today, is the need for the United States of America to remain the leader of the world. And one way you remain the leader is, you have places like excellence—centers like Northern Kentucky University, where you've got innovative curriculum, high standards, the willingness to work in your community—all aimed at making sure our kids have got the skills necessary to compete. And that's why I'm here.

So I want to thank the president—Mr. President, thanks for having me. [*Laughter*] He'd probably rather be called "Doctor." But, Jim, thank you for having us. Thank the faculty for letting me come. I appreciate you teaching; teaching is a noble profession. For the students who are here, one career path you ought to think about is being a teacher. And one thing you've always got to remember is, the child's first teacher is a mother and a father.

I bring my RSVP's from Laura. She is giving a graduation speech tomorrow—she just didn't get the invitation to come to NKU to give the graduation speech here. [*Laughter*] If you had been wise, you would have had her and not me. [*Laughter*] She sends her best. She is really, really a good person, and I'm proud to—[*applause*]—I'm proud to call her wife. She's got to be the most patient woman in America. [*Laughter*] She's doing great; she sends her best.

I appreciate very much Congressman Geoff Davis. He's an interesting person. He served his country in the United States military. He didn't have to run for the United States Congress; chose to do so—I think sets a good example for people to understand, public service is a noble calling. And I want to thank you for inviting me here, Geoff.