

thank Mary for her willingness to serve yet again. She's going to make an outstanding Secretary of Transportation, and I call upon the United States Senate to confirm her promptly. Congratulations.

[At this point, Secretary-designate Peters made brief remarks.]

The President. Good job, thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Danealia "Deni" Mineta, wife of former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta; and Maria Cino, Acting Secretary of Transportation. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Peters.

Statement on the Resignation of Mark B. McClellan as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

September 5, 2006

Mark McClellan has served my administration in a number of pivotal positions and in doing so has bettered the lives of millions of Americans. He played an instrumental role in transforming the Nation's health care system, and his efforts will continue to make a difference for generations.

Mark first served as a member of my Council of Economic Advisors, focusing on health care and related economic issues. He then became head of the Food and Drug Administration, where he provided steady leadership to empower consumers and to ensure rapid access to products that are safe and effective. For the last 2½ years, Mark has run the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Department of Health and Human Services. As CMS Administrator, Mark was critical in the successful implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit—the most important health care reform in 40 years. He has also worked to ensure that price and quality information are available to consumers and led reforms that brought principles of private sector competition to Government programs, thereby moving the country toward a system in which

Americans will receive better care at lower overall prices.

Mark has been a trusted adviser, and he leaves behind a strong record of accomplishment. I wish all the best to Mark, his wife, Stephanie, and their children.

Proclamation 8046—National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, 2006

September 5, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year, we mark the fifth anniversary of the brutal and ruthless terrorist attacks carried out against our Nation on September 11, 2001. We will always remember the thousands of lives lost, and the innocent men, women, and children forever changed by those acts of evil. During these National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, we honor the heroism of the police officers, firefighters, rescue personnel, members of the military, and private citizens who responded selflessly in the face of terror. We also honor the courage and spirit of the mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and husbands and wives who continue to grieve for their irreplaceable loss.

As we pray for the families of the victims and reflect upon that defining moment in our history, we are inspired by the knowledge that from the pain and sorrow of that September morning rose a Nation united by our love for freedom. We remember that we are a people determined to defend our way of life and to care for our neighbors in need. The scenes of distress and devastation we witnessed in the heart of New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania were overcome by sacrifice, bravery, and compassion. We resolved to answer history's call to bring justice to our enemies and to ensure the survival and success of liberty. Since that day, we have confronted a murderous ideology by taking the fight to our adversaries and by spreading the universal hope of freedom to millions around the world.

We are grateful for the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our Armed