

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on April 27, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, April 27, 2007

Statement on Earth Day

April 20, 2007

As we observe the 38th Earth Day this Sunday, we celebrate the rich blessings of our Nation's natural resources, and we renew our commitment to protecting our environment so we leave our children and grandchildren a flourishing land.

By encouraging cooperative conservation, innovation, and new technologies, my administration has compiled a strong environmental record. This Earth Day, harmful air pollutant levels are down more than 10 percent since 2001. Millions more Americans are drinking cleaner, safer water. We have removed hazardous fuels from more than 19 million acres of Federal land. We have created, restored, or protected more than 2.5 million acres of wetlands, and we have conserved almost 200 million of acres of habitat through Farm Bill conservation programs. And we are taking positive steps to confront the important challenge of climate change. Our work is not done. We also have a responsibility to pass on to future generations our commitment to the environment.

To do so, we must ensure that future generations have a strong connection to nature. This will require working together to protect and conserve not only nationally significant natural wonders but also local parks, ponds, and working lands where parents and mentors can teach young people about the outdoors through recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, biking, and nature watching. And we must also encourage Americans of all ages to get involved in conservation-related volunteer activities.

I call on all Americans to commemorate this Earth Day by recommitting to being good stewards of our land and oceans. When we do so, we take an important step forward to a more vibrant future for our country.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8130—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2007

April 20, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportunity to underscore our commitment to protecting the rights of crime victims and to recognize those who bring hope and healing to these individuals and their families. During this week, we especially remember and mourn the victims of the senseless acts of violence at Virginia Tech. A grieving Nation honors the innocent lives lost in this tragedy, and we pray for the families of the victims.

My Administration is committed to helping safeguard our communities and to ensuring that the rights of those who have been victimized by crime are protected. My Family Justice Center Initiative, announced in 2003, is now providing assistance and services for victims of domestic violence at centers nationwide. Additionally, last year I signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which helps protect our youth by increasing the penalties for crimes against children and creating a National Child Abuse Registry. My Administration also supports a Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution to further protect the basic rights of crime victims.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year, we remember and are grateful to our Nation's victim service providers, volunteers, law enforcement, and community organizations that support victims of crime through their commitment and compassion. To find out more information about victims' rights and volunteer opportunities, individuals may visit www.crimevictims.gov. Together, we can

help ensure that crime victims have the rights and protections they deserve.

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 22 through April 28, 2007, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to help raise awareness and promote the cause of victims' rights in their communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:52 a.m., April 24, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8131—National Park Week, 2007

April 20, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans take great pride in our country's natural beauty, and our Nation is blessed to have a park system of more than 80 million acres that belongs to us all. During National Park Week, we underscore our dedication to conserving these national treasures, and we pay tribute to the dedicated employees and volunteers of the National Park Service who care for them.

Established in 1916, the National Park Service now oversees a National Park System that has grown to include almost 400 sites, with parks in nearly every State. These parks protect beautiful landscapes, tell important stories about our country's past, and encourage our citizens to conserve our natural environment and celebrate our national history. They are places to learn, exercise, and spend time with family and friends. Through her

work with the Junior Rangers and the National Park Foundation, First Lady Laura Bush and others are working to expand access to the riches of our parks.

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, my Administration has launched the National Parks Centennial Initiative. The initiative calls upon government, the private sector, and our citizenry to share in an effort to help prepare our parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. We will work to enhance park habitats, expand visitor services, increase educational opportunities, implement new technologies, and hire additional seasonal park rangers. By maintaining and improving our park system, we can ensure that our national parks will thrive for the next 100 years and beyond.

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 22 through April 29, 2007, as National Park Week. This year's theme is "Your National Parks: Explore, Learn, and Protect." I invite all my fellow citizens to join me in celebrating America's national parks by visiting these wonderful spaces, discovering all they have to offer, and becoming active participants in park conservation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

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Statement on the Death of Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald

April 22, 2007

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald of California. She was a dedicated public servant who tirelessly and honorably served her country for many years. We hold Rep. Millender-McDonald's family, friends, staff, and constituents in our thoughts and prayers.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

April 23, 2007

The President. It's my high honor to welcome General David Petraeus back to the Oval Office, and I appreciate Deputy Secretary England and General Pace joining us. General Petraeus has taken on a very important assignment for the security of our country and for the peace of the world, and that is to help this young Iraqi democracy become stable, evolve into a country that can defend itself and govern itself and serve as an ally in this war against extremists and radicals who wish to do us harm.

General Petraeus has been there for a brief period of time, on his second tour. About a little over half of the troops—around half of the troops he's requested have arrived on the scene. These troops are all aimed at helping the Iraqi Government find the breathing space necessary to do what the people want them to do, and that is to reconcile and move forward with a government of and by and for the Iraqi people. So, General Petraeus, we welcome you here.

Gen. David H. Petraeus. Thank you.

The President. It's a tough time there, as the General will tell the Congress. He's here not only to check in with me and other members of my team, but also, he'll be going up to the Hill, going up to the joint session of the Congress to brief the Members, both Republican and Democrat, about what's going right and what's not going right. He's a straightforward man who is implementing

a very good plan to achieve our strategic objectives.

As the General will tell the folks on Capitol Hill, there's been some progress. There's been some horrific bombings, of course. There's also a decline in sectarian violence. And I appreciate you coming, and I really thank you and your family for your service to our country.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press].

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations

Q. Mr. President, Senator Reid says you're in denial about Iraq and that Congress is going to pass a bill that includes a fair and reasonable timetable for withdrawal. Could you compromise? Could you accept anything that looks like that at all?

The President. I believe strongly that politicians in Washington shouldn't be telling generals how to do their job, and I believe artificial timetables of withdrawal would be a mistake. A artificial timetable of withdrawal would say to an enemy, just wait them out. It would say to the Iraqis, don't do hard things necessary to achieve our objectives. And it would be discouraging for our troops. And therefore, I will strongly reject a artificial timetable withdrawal and/or Washington politicians trying to tell those who wear the uniform how to do their job.

I will, of course, be willing to work with the Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, on a way forward. That's what I said during the Cabinet Room. But I also made it clear that no matter how tough it may look, that for the Congress to micromanage this process is a mistake.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales

Q. The Attorney General is still getting a lot of criticism over the U.S. attorneys situation. Was his explanation sufficient, or is there more he needs to do to try to turn things around?

The President. The Attorney General went up and gave a very candid assessment and answered every question he could possibly answer, honestly answer, in a way that increased my confidence in his ability to do the job.

One of the things that's important for the American people to understand is that the Attorney General has a right to recommend to me to replace U.S. attorneys; U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the President. In other words, we have named them, and I have the right to replace them with somebody else. And as the investigation, the hearings went forward, it was clear that the Attorney General broke no law, did no wrongdoing. And some Senators didn't like his explanation, but he answered as honestly as he could. This is an honest, honorable man, in whom I have confidence.

Thank you all for coming. General, it's good to have you here.

Gen. Petraeus. Great to be here, Mr. President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:44 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England; and Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru

April 23, 2007

President Bush. *Que es mi honor para recibir el Presidente de Peru.* It's my honor to receive the President of Peru. I appreciate very much the President's time. I thank you for coming to visit the United States. *Es hombre muy amable.* He talks—he gives good advice.

We talked about the neighborhood. As we discussed, the United States wants the people of South America to fully understand, we care about their future, that we want there to be prosperity in the region, that we respect leaders who provide basic education and health care. So we had a very constructive conversation.

The President is here to urge the Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to pass the free trade agreement with Peru, and I urge them to vote yes. We talked about our mutual desire to succeed in preventing drugs from coming to the United States and

preventing U.S. citizens from using drugs in the first place.

The President's got a very clear vision of South America, and I really appreciated his advice and his counsel. It always helps for a person sitting here in the United States to get clarity of what the environment is like.

And finally, I expressed our country's deepest condolence to the student, the Peruvian student who lost his life on the campus at Virginia Tech. And our prayers go to this person's family, and we ask for God's blessings on the family.

Bienvenidos, hombre.

President Garcia. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. President. First of all, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the United States and to you, Mr. President, for all the victims that died in Virginia Tech. A Peruvian student lost his life there, and our prayers and our thoughts are with their families.

Second of all, I am here in the United States to promote the FTA between the United States and Peru. It is vital for our country. It is fundamental to continue this path of growth and social redistribution that we have started in my country.

We have achieved an 8 percent annual growth in my country. This year, we're expecting a similar growth, 8 percent annually, with a 1 percent inflation, which creates more job opportunities. But this growth, as towards development, needs a greater space and a greater degree of investment, and for that, the FTA is essential. It would help us keep and maintain a strong democracy, a democracy that takes care of the poorest and that provides work to the unemployed. It is important to show the world that a democracy, with investment leads to development. And development is not achieved by becoming static and not opening our doors to the market.

The United States, ever since its Founding Fathers, has had an ideal, a mission to the world. In the forties, it sacrificed the lives of many young people to achieve the freedom of the world. Nowadays, we need to focus on democracy and free trade. And I am sure that both Republicans and Democrats would understand that this is key to the mission the United States has for the world.

President Bush and I talked about our contribution to the hemisphere and to humanity, to mankind, and that is the fight against drugs and the fight against coke. We have started a head-on fight against drug trafficking in my country, against money laundering, and against coca leaf production by offering farmers alternative crops, which is a way for them to earn a living in a just and legal way.

I have also congratulated President Bush on the very intelligent action he took against North Korea. It could have become a very serious problem for the world had it not been for the tactful intervention by the United States and its allied countries.

President Bush. Thank you.

President Garcia. In his last trip to Latin America, in spite of some political reactions, which are typical, it has been essential to see the President work with Brazil on ethanol as the new fuel. This will help us refocus on Latin America, which is very favorable for the region.

If President Bush allows me, I am sure that during the time that we will coexist as Presidents, he will achieve great things in the world. And he will visit Peru next year. But thank you very much, Mr. President, for the relationship we have of friendship. You are a very nice person, and I'm sure that our relationship will continue to grow.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Garcia spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting on Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits *April 23, 2007*

Thank you all for coming. Today I have been discussing the Medicare Part D reforms that Congress passed and I signed and that Mike Leavitt and a lot of other people helped to implement.

This reform of Medicare has been a great success. Most importantly, it's been a great

success for our senior citizens. The cost of the prescription drug plan has been less than anticipated. The individual stories about people saving money and getting better health care has warmed my heart.

It took a monumental effort by a lot of citizens around the country to make the options that our seniors were given easy to understand. In other words, we reformed Medicare and gave seniors a lot of choices, and it took a lot of loving Americans a lot of time to make these choices available for our senior citizens. Now that the plan is in place, 39 million have signed up for it, drug costs are less than anticipated, and the cost to the taxpayer is about \$200 billion less than anticipated.

The lesson is, is that when you trust people to make decisions in their lives, when you have competition, it is likely you'll get lower price and better quality. It is the spirit of this reform that needs to be now extended to Medicare overall.

The trustees report will be coming out today on Social Security and Medicare. It will make clear that senior citizens are in great shape when it comes to the government making their promises. It'll make clear that baby boomers like me are in good shape, that the government will meet its promises. But for a younger generation of Americans, it sends yet another warning signal to the United States Congress that now is the time to work to make sure the Social Security is solvent for the future, as is Medicare.

And as we begin to think through solutions for Medicare, we ought to make sure that we remember the principles inherent in this Medicare reform that has worked so well for our seniors—and that principle is, competition works. Competition can lower price and improve the quality of people who are a beneficiary of such a plan.

Thank you all very much for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the 2007 Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts

April 23, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. How about it? Like, the Indianapolis Colts here on the South Lawn—congratulations. Welcome to the Super Bowl champs.

I want to welcome Jim Irsay and Meg and Carlie, Casey, and Kalen. I had the honor of calling Jim after they won. I understand how hard it is to be an owner of a sports team and win. [Laughter] I never did it—[laughter]—but he has, and I congratulate the organization. I congratulate Bill Polian as well. I want to thank all the front office personnel, the schedulers, the ticket sellers, the travel arrangers, the people who never get any credit. I appreciate you being part of a fine organization. And we're here on the South Lawn to congratulate you.

I congratulate the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Tony Dungy. And I'm glad his wife, Lauren, is here as well. Tony Dungy is the first African American coach to ever win a Super Bowl. That in itself is a great honor. But interestingly enough, he is a man who has used his—a position of notoriety to behave in a quiet and strong way in the face of personal tragedy that has influenced a lot of our fellow citizens. And I want to thank you for your courage.

Alphonso Jackson is here with us, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to today, he told me he was a Cowboy fan. [Laughter] Like, what are you doing here, A.J.? Oh, okay, you wanted to see the coach. All right, good. Yes. I thank Randy Tobias, who was an executive from Indianapolis but ran our HIV/AIDS initiative—by the way, helped people in Africa receive antiretroviral drugs. When we came in, there was 50,000 people receiving antiretroviral drugs; now there's 850,000 people receiving antiretroviral drugs. Tobias, thank you for your compassion. Al Hubbard, Economic Adviser to the President, is here—Indianapolis Colt fan.

I want to thank Members of the Congress who have joined us today, starting with Senator Evan Bayh and Susan. It's good to see the Bayh lads with them. Thank you all for coming. Appreciate you being here. Dan

Burton—appreciate you coming, Dan, and, Samia, I'm glad you're here. Thanks for coming, Samia. Mark Souder, Julia Carson, Mike Pence, Baron Hill, Joe Donnelly, and Brad Ellsworth—glad you all are here. Some of these guys get elected for the first time, and the first thing that happens is, the Indianapolis Colts win the Super Bowl. You're not taking credit, are you? [Laughter]

I want to thank all the coaches who are here. I want to thank the families of the Colt family who have helped this organization flourish. I want to—most of all, I want to thank the players. I am proud of you; the country is proud of you. The people from Indiana have supported you, and you didn't let them down. As a matter of fact, this is—last time you won as Colts, though, was 1971. Interesting, I thought about that. Most of you weren't even born. I was, and that's when they beat our Cowboys, A.J. [Laughter] But you've—as Bill put it, he said, "Finally." And a lot of Indianapolis fans said, "Thank goodness." They love to support this team, and you didn't let them down.

It was a pretty tough season, though, when you think about it. It wasn't one of these run-aways. It looked like it was going to be a runaway—Secretary Rice, if you want to come in, please, yes. So, like, you're a big Dungy fan, aren't you?

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Yes, sir.

The President. That's right; that's what I thought.

So the season started off good, like you won the first nine games, and then it appeared this championship team was going to fizzle; it wasn't going to make it. And so they—you lost four out of seven. And they started to, like, write you off, right? They kind of say—you probably—some of these sports writers started to say, you know, well, they don't have what it takes; they can kind of do okay until it comes to the big one, and then they just don't have the character necessary to make it work. They did okay in the wild card, and you move your way through the playoffs, and then all of a sudden, the guy on Super Bowl 41 runs the kickoff back. [Laughter] I'm sure a lot of those skeptics were saying, "Told you so; the Indianapolis Colts, good players, fine people, just don't

have what it takes to win.” But as the coach said, “Our guys just kept saying, ‘We’re going to fight; we’re not going to be denied.’ That heart will take you a long way.”

And so this is a victory for good hearts—good hearts off the field and good hearts on the field. And we congratulate you. Thank you for winning.

So a lot of people here in the White House compound have been really looking forward to seeing Peyton Manning. They wanted to see a guy who gets more air time than I do. [Laughter] I met Peyton Manning. He said, “I’m going to be here during your Presidency. We will be here having won the Super Bowl.” And sure enough, he delivered. And, Peyton, thank you for being a fine person and a good quarterback.

I’m sure Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne are saying, thanks for being a good quarterback; thanks for getting us the ball. After all, these two players ranked second and third in the NFL in receiving in the—during the regular season. That’s called balanced attack, particularly when you added that LSU guy, Joseph. Where’s Joseph? There he is. Yes, sir. [Laughter] Congratulations to you. Dominic Rhodes led the NFL in rushing yards in the post-season. You had people who can catch the ball, a guy who can throw the ball, and people who can run the ball.

People held your defense as suspect, but not when it counted. I can remember all the analysts saying, “Well, the defense is a little short this year. They may have the offensive firepower, but they can’t play on the other side of the ball.” Until it mattered, and then the defense stood up and helped this team become a Super Bowl champ.

And so to the offense, congratulations on doing what people expected. To the defense, thanks for helping this team be here in the White House as well.

It’s good to be the presence of Adam Vinatieri—again. [Laughter] The man knows how to pick a winner—[laughter]—and help contribute to a winner. You know, in 2005, he didn’t make it to the White House, and I asked why. It was a simple matter of he and his wife were having a child. I hope the kid is doing well.

Adam Vinatieri. Thank you.

The President. We’re glad you’re here, Adam; thank you very much.

I appreciate what guard Ryan Lilja said. He said, “The whole team has fought hard the whole season, through ups and downs.” Isn’t that what life is about; isn’t it, really? Through the ups—it’s easy to fight hard in the ups. It’s when the downs come that you’ve got to be a fighter. He said, “I couldn’t be prouder to be a part of this football team.”

And I couldn’t be prouder to welcome the football team to the South Lawn of the White House. I appreciate what this team does. I appreciate the example you set. I appreciate the fact that you understand that off the field, a lot of people are looking at you to determine whether or not they want to be like you.

I thank you very much for the “Bleed Blood Blue Drive”—that’s hard for a guy from west Texas to say—[laughter]—“Bleed Blood Blue Drive,” in which you’ve encouraged 2,000 people to donate blood. I appreciate the book drives that you’ve held to promote literacy in the State of Indiana. I appreciate the food drives that you’ve held to fight hunger in the State of Indiana. I appreciate the Colts Football Fund.

Most of all, I appreciate you all. Thanks for coming. God bless.

Jim Irsay. Mr. President, we have a special gift to present to you from the Irsay family and the Colts organization. I knew that you’d love these specially made cowboy hats. We have some special dedications inside there for you, sir, and I hope you’ll enjoy it.

The President. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Irsay. You’re welcome.

The President. Pretty snazzy, huh? [Laughter] Yes, thank you.

Tony Dungy. And on behalf of the team, we got you a Bush Colts jersey. We normally go number 1, but in this case, we had to go 43.

The President. Yes, that’s right. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:08 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Irsay, owner, Bill Polian, president, Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne, wide receivers, Joseph Addai, running back, Dominic Rhodes, former running back, Adam Vinatieri,

kicker, and Ryan Lilja, offensive guard, Indianapolis Colts; and Meg Coyle Irsay, wife of Jim Irsay, and their daughters, Carlie, Casey, and Kalen.

Statement on the Death of Boris Yeltsin

April 23, 2007

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin. President Yeltsin was an historic figure who served his country during a time of momentous change. He played a key role as the Soviet Union dissolved, helped lay the foundations of freedom in Russia, and became the first democratically elected leader in that country's history. I appreciate the efforts that President Yeltsin made to build a strong relationship between Russia and the United States. We offer our sincerest condolences to the Yeltsin family and to the Russian people.

Statement on the Identity Theft Task Force Report

April 23, 2007

I commend Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission Deborah Majoras for their work on the Identity Theft Task Force report released today. The report is the culmination of many months of hard work by numerous Federal agencies. Identity theft is a serious problem in America, and my administration is working to combat this crime and to assist its victims. I thank the Attorney General, the Chairman, and their staffs for taking on this difficult and important assignment.

Remarks on Congressional Action on Emergency Supplemental Appropriations

April 24, 2007

Good morning. Seventy-eight days ago, I sent Congress a request for emergency war funding that our troops urgently need. I made it clear to Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill that I'm willing to discuss our differences on the way forward in Iraq. But I

also made it clear, our troops should not be caught in the middle of that discussion.

Yesterday Democratic leaders announced that they plan to send me a bill that will fund our troops only if we agree to handcuff our generals, add billions of dollars in unrelated spending, and begin to pull out of Iraq by an arbitrary date. I'm disappointed that the Democratic leadership has chosen this course.

The bill they announced yesterday includes some of the worst parts of the measures they had earlier passed with narrow majorities in the House and the Senate. They know I'm going to veto a bill containing these provisions, and they know that my veto will be sustained. But instead of fashioning a bill I could sign, the Democratic leaders chose to further delay funding our troops, and they chose to make a political statement. That's their right, but it is wrong for our troops, and it's wrong for our country.

To accept the bill proposed by the Democratic leadership would be to accept a policy that directly contradicts the judgment of our military commanders. I strongly believe that the Democrats' proposal would undermine our troops and threaten the safety of the American people here at home. And here is why.

First, a proposal would mandate the withdrawal of American troops beginning as early as July 1st of this year, and no later than October 1st of this year, despite the fact that General Petraeus has not yet received all the reinforcements he needs. It makes no sense to tell the enemy when you start to plan withdrawing. If we were to do so, the enemy would simply mark their calendars and begin plotting how to take over a country when we leave.

We know what could happen next. Just as Al Qaida used Afghanistan as a base to plan attacks of September the 11th, Al Qaida could make Iraq a base to plan even more deadly attacks. The lesson of 9/11 is that allowing terrorists to find a sanctuary anywhere in the world can have deadly consequences on the streets of our own cities.

Precipitous withdrawal from Iraq is not a plan to bring peace to the region or to make our people safer at home. Instead, it would

embolden our enemies and confirm their belief that America is weak. It could unleash chaos in Iraq that could spread across the entire region. It would be an invitation to the enemy to attack America and our friends around the world. And, ultimately, a precipitous withdrawal would increase the probability that American troops would one day have to return to Iraq and confront an enemy that's even more dangerous.

Second, the Democratic leadership's proposal is aimed at restricting the ability of our generals to direct the fight in Iraq. They've imposed legislative mandates—they passed legislative mandates telling them which enemies they can engage and which they cannot. That means our commanders in the middle of a combat zone would have to take fighting directions from legislators 6,000 miles away on Capitol Hill. The result would be a marked advantage for our enemies and a greater danger for our troops.

Third, the bill proposed by Democratic leaders would spend billions of dollars on projects completely unrelated to the war. Proposed legislation does remove some of the most egregious porkbarrel projects that Democratic leaders had inserted in earlier bills. Yet it still includes huge amounts of domestic spending that has no place in an emergency war funding bill. We should debate those provisions on their own merits, during the normal process, but funding for our troops should not be held hostage while that debate unfolds.

I know that Americans have serious concerns about this war. People want our troops to come home, and so do I. But no matter how frustrating the fight can be and no matter how much we wish the war was over, the security of our country depends directly on the outcome in Iraq. The price of giving up there would be paid in American lives for years to come. It would be an unforgivable mistake for leaders in Washington to allow politics and impatience to stand in the way of protecting the American people.

Last November, the American people said they were frustrated and wanted change in our strategy in Iraq. I listened. Today, General David Petraeus is carrying out a strategy that is dramatically different from our previous course. The American people did not

vote for failure, and that is precisely what the Democratic leadership's bill would guarantee.

It's not too late for Congress to do the right thing and to send me a bill that gives our troops and their commanders the funds and flexibility they need. I'm willing to meet with leaders in Congress as many times as it takes to resolve our differences. Yet if the Democratic leaders insist on using the bill to make a political statement, they will leave me with only one option: I will veto it. And then I'll work with Congress to pass a clean bill that funds our troops without handcuffing our commanders, spending billions of dollars unrelated to the war, and forcing our Nation to withdraw on the enemy's terms.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Remarks at the Harlem Village Academy Charter School in New York City

April 24, 2007

Thank you for the warm welcome. I appreciate you making a Texan feel right at home here in Harlem. [*Laughter*] I have had a remarkable experience here at Harlem Village Academy Charter School.

You know, it's interesting, one of the children said, "Why here? Why did you come here, Mr. President? Of all the schools in the country, why this school?" And my answer is, because the President has an opportunity to herald excellence, and I have seized that opportunity. I have come to a school where some may say, "These children can't possibly exceed high standards"—but, in fact, they are. Secondly, I wanted to be nice to the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

I think any time I can thank a teacher, I need to do so. So for the teachers here, thank you for teaching; for the principals—[*applause*].

Interestingly enough, this week is called National Charter School Week—I mean,

next week is called National Charter School Week, so a good way to herald National Charter School Week is, come to a charter school, particularly one that's working. I'm a big believer in charter schools. I think charter schools make a lot of sense, whether it be here in Harlem or anywhere else in the United States.

And so a way to express support for a charter school is to come to one that's working and say to people, if you find excellence, you might want to take a look at why; what is it about this school that enables a parent to say, I really enjoy sending my child here. Or what is it about this school, where a child looks at the President and says, I don't mind being tested, because I know that they're going to help correct problems early, before it's too late. This school is working, and I appreciate you letting me come to talk about not only this school but also about an important piece of legislation called the No Child Left Behind Act.

Before I do so, I thank Deborah for being what I call an educational entrepreneur. That means that—[*applause*]. So I said to Deborah—you know, I've never met Deborah before, and I said, how did you get involved in this school? She had a personal tragedy, and rather than allowing the personal tragedy to drag her down, she said, "I want to make a contribution. And I can't think of a better contribution than to help start a charter school"—as a matter of fact, not only one but two. I also thought it was interesting, she said, "If you're going to be somebody who helps start charter schools and works to make charter schools excellent, that you better be on the frontlines of education." So she became the principal of this school.

If you're interested in helping your community—whether you be an individual, such as a Deborah, or a corporation, for example—promote school excellence, do something for the community in which you live. A lot of times if you wait for government, things won't happen. She's proven my case. She says, "I want to be involved, and I want to start some schools." Corporate America needs to take the same interest in local schools if they expect there to be a—if we expect our country to realize its promise.

Mateo Myers introduces Dr. Kenny and introduces me—Mateo Myers. So I said to a lot of the kids here at this school, "How many of you want to go to college?" They all rose—raised their hand. That's a good sign. In other words, this school believes in high expectations and putting in a child's mind the possibilities of achieving a dream.

I appreciate very much Joel Klein. You talk about a guy who has taken on a tough job and, in my judgment, my humble judgment, is doing it with excellence, is Joel Klein. As a result of that endorsement, he may never find work again in New York, but nevertheless—[*laughter*].

See, I love it when somebody heralds that which is working and takes on that which is not working. I like a man who says, "The status quo is unacceptable," when it's unacceptable and is willing to do hard work, all aimed at making sure every child gets a good education. And we appreciate the standard you've set and appreciate the example you have shown, Joel.

I want thank Ed Lewis, chairman of Village Academies. Ed Lewis is a successful businessman who, instead of taking his successes and disappearing, has taken his successes and used that which enabled him to be successful to plow back into a community. And that's an example a lot of other people need to see.

People say to me all the time, "What can I do, Mr. President? How can I contribute?" Well, if you want to contribute, work on school excellence. I can't think of a better way to contribute to the future of the United States than to promote alternatives if the school systems in your community aren't— isn't working. In other words, just don't set the status quo if children are not meeting standards; challenge that status quo, and do something about it.

I appreciate very much Nick Timpone, who is the principal here at Harlem Village. [*Applause*] That's a good sign. Like, I'd be worried about the silence, you know. [*Laughter*] It turns out that good schools such as this have good principals, people who work hard, people who, you know, motivate the teaching staff, people who listen to parents. And I appreciate you very much being at the center of this important school.

Traveling with me today is the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings. I appreciate you coming, Madam Secretary. Her job is to work with local school districts so that the Federal, State, and local relationship is a collaborative relationship that actually works and doesn't get in each other's way. And her job is to implement No Child Left Behind. And I couldn't have picked anybody better to do so.

I want to thank, again, Charlie Rangel. He is the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. You can imagine what it's like traveling in the Presidential limousine down Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard hearing Rangel say, "I was raised over here, and here's the hotel I worked in when I was a boy." You know, the people in Harlem have got a fantastic Congressman in Charles Rangel. He cares deeply—[*applause*]. He can agree with me a few more times, but—[*laughter*—I don't expect him to. But I do expect him to do what he does, which is work for the good of the country. And I'm really proud to be with you. Thanks for coming, Charlie.

Peter King, Congressman Peter King and Vito Fossella is with us today. Both of these Congressmen care about education. I appreciate the members of the New York charter school community who have taken time to come. I want to thank the Harlem community leaders who have joined us today. Thanks for letting me be here. I particularly want to thank the students for letting me come by to say hello. I've really enjoyed my trip here, and you've impressed me.

I do want to say something about Virginia Tech, the Virginia Tech community. It's a community that still hurts, and the people in Blacksburg, Virginia, must know that citizens, whether they be in Harlem or anywhere else in the country, still hold those folks in their prayers.

Schools should be places of safety; they should be a sanctuary of learning. And when that sanctuary is violated, the impact is felt all across the country. It's felt in every classroom. And I know you've worried about such violence here, as a result of the Virginia Tech. And I want to thank the principals and teachers for reacting and helping calm nerves and

assure people that this is a place of safety and a sanctuary for learning.

I have asked people in my administration to travel around the country, to listen to folks at the State and local level to determine what lessons can be learned from the Virginia Tech horror. Margaret Spellings is going to be a part of this team, as is the Justice Department, Health and Human Services. We, of course, will provide whatever assistance we can to Virginia Tech, but we also want to be a part of a review of broader questions that have been raised.

And so they're going to travel the country. They're going to talk with mental health experts and educators and State and local officials, and come back and summarize what they have learned. And we'll share the summaries of what they've learned, all in the hopes of learning lessons from a horrible moment. It was—it's a tough time down there.

I want to talk about schools, and I want to talk about educational excellence for every single child. And I want to emphasize that in my remarks—my hopes of the public school systems in every State and every community excel. That's our goal. The public school systems have provided great opportunities for a lot of Americans. One of the great assets of the United States of America is a public school system that works.

I also believe that parental involvement is an important aspect of having a public school system that works, and I like the fact that charter schools encourage parental involvement. I like to be able to sit with parents and say, I have chose school for my child—chosen the school for my child—I could use a little extra help. [*Laughter*]

Isn't that an interesting concept? "I made the choice to send my child here." That has got a nice ring to it as far as I'm concerned. I appreciate the fact that the teachers involve the parents in the child's education. There's a lot of information flows that take place between the parent and the child, and the child and the teacher. I appreciate the fact that teachers give parents their cell phone numbers. I think that's an important way to make sure parents are involved in the education of their children.

I appreciate the fact that folks here set high standards. I know this isn't all that profound, but when you set low standards, you get bad results. I used to call it the soft bigotry of low expectations. You kind of say, well, certain people can't learn; therefore, let's make sure the standards are low. This school challenges that soft bigotry and insists upon high standards. And guess what? That's what parents want. Parents want their children challenged. Parents believe that high standards are good for their children.

I appreciate the fact that people go to school here from 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. That's innovation. That means somebody here is saying, "I'm going to adjust the time the children go to school so that we can achieve high standards." I like the idea of schools having flexibility to meet the needs of their parents and their children. Maybe some schools around the country couldn't have that kind of innovation because the rules and the process say, well, you can't adjust that way. What I like are schools that focus on results, and then adjust the process to meet the results.

I appreciate the fact that parents choose this school because it's safe. That's what parents want—they want safety for their children. I met with Vanessa Freeman. Her daughter, Krystal, goes to this school. She was struggling at her old school. The teacher said she was acting up in class in the old school. In other words, the parent, Vanessa, recognized there was a problem and—my mother probably got a few of those calls too—[laughter]—but, anyway, Vanessa transferred Krystal here to the Harlem Village Academy. She's learning algebra. She said her math teacher—her math teacher says her progress has given her goose bumps.

In other words, something has changed here at this school. In other words, there is progress being made because the parent had an option to choose something different when the other school wasn't working. It's a powerful catalyst for reform, by the way, to give people those options. That's why I'm a strong supporter of the charter school movement—I appreciate providing different options.

I want you to know that it is a national objective, an important national goal to make

sure every child realizes his or her full potential. And that is the whole philosophy behind the No Child Left Behind Act. You know, when we put our mind to it, actually, Republicans and Democrats can work together; we did so to get this important piece of legislation passed.

The philosophy behind the bill is this: When the Federal Government spends money, we should expect results. And by the way, when the State spends money, it ought to expect results too. Instead of just spending money and hoping for the best, the core philosophy of the No Child Left Behind says, we'll spend money, and we expect you to measure, and we expect you to post your scores, and we expect you to meet standards, because if you don't, you're failing in your obligation to educate every child.

Now, if you believe certain children can't learn, then you shouldn't measure. In other words, if you think that, well, it's just a hopeless exercise, let's just move kids through the school system, then that makes sense not to measure—why would you—why waste the time? I believe every child can learn, and therefore, I believe every school should measure in return for Federal money, and then put the scores up early.

I'll tell you why. I want the parents to be involved with education. And one way you're involved with education is, you're able to compare the test scores of your school to your neighborhood school. It's an interesting way to determine whether or not high standards are being met. In some cases, a parent will say, "This is the greatest school possible," and yet when the test scores get posted, the reality comes home.

Secondly, I don't see how you can solve problems unless you measure problems. How do you know whether a child needs extra help in reading unless you measure? In other words, the accountability system is step one of a diagnostic process that ends up making sure that each child gets the help that's needed to meet standards, high standards. And so the No Child Left Behind Act—a simple way of describing it says, if you set high standards, we'll give you money, but we expect you to meet those standards, and if not, there ought to be different options for the parents.

I appreciate the results of this school. In other words, it's interesting, isn't it, that the President can come and say, you've got good results here—because you measure. Teachers use the assessment to see what concepts students are mastering and which concepts ought to be continued and which concepts ought to be dropped. The data from this school that you—as a result of measurement, helps teachers tailor their lesson plans to the specific needs of the child. Isn't that interesting—the education system tailoring the needs to fit the—tailor the curriculum to fit the needs of the child. That may sound simple, but it's an unusual concept for a lot of schools.

The school has a rapid response accountability system. In other words, you don't measure once and just kind of hope for the best for the remainder of the year; you track student progress closely from week to week. When student struggle, they receive one-on-one tutoring during the school day; if a child struggles, there is extra help on a Saturday, hence, No Child Left Behind. As opposed to the old system, where you just shuffled children through and hope for the best at the end, this school measures on a regular basis to make sure that we're dealing not with guesswork, but with results.

I appreciate the fact that this school opened in the fall of 2003. I want you to hear this statistic: During the first year, less than 20 percent of the fifth graders could meet State standards in math, only 20 percent—[*applause*—wait a minute; that's nothing to applaud for. [*Laughter*] That's, like, pitiful. Last year, 96 percent of the students from the same class were meeting State standards.

One of the students was Kevin Smith. His mother says that when Kevin came to the Harlem Village Academy in 2003, he struggled. And now she says, "He can do it with his eyes closed." That's a math student right there. [*Laughter*] Deborah Kenny says, "Our school proves that children can achieve grade level, even when they start behind." And that's the spirit.

We can see that No Child Left Behind is working nationwide. There's an achievement gap in America that better be closed if we want America to remain the leader of the

world. It is unacceptable to me and it should be unacceptable to people across the country, we have an achievement gap in America.

It's amazing what happens, though, when you measure. The percentage of New York City fourth graders meeting State standards in reading has increased by more than 12 percent over 5 years. The percentage of fourth graders doing math at grade level has increased by 19 points. Congratulations, Joel, for holding people to account. I know, people say, "I don't like to test; you're testing too much." I don't see how you can solve problems unless you diagnose the problems. I don't see how you can meet—high standards unless you test.

I appreciate the fact that nationwide, 9-year-olds have made more progress in 5 years than in the previous 28 years combined on these tests in reading. How about that? In other words, we're beginning to make progress early. The pipeline is beginning to be full of little readers that are competent readers. And the fundamental question is, what do we do in junior high and high school? Do we keep the progress going, or do we fall off when it comes to holding people to account?

I believe strongly that we ought to bring the same standards to high school that we've had in elementary—one through eight, or three through eight. That's what I believe. I believe if you want to make sure a high school diploma means something, you better have high accountability in high schools. We want the high school diploma to say, this person is ready to compete in a world in which the graduates are going to be competing with Chinese or Indian workers. In other words, it matters what happens now in our schools more so than ever before.

And so part of the initiative to make sure that we continue to set high standards is to bring these standards to high school. I believe strongly that we ought to—the Federal Government has a role in expanding Advanced Placement courses all across the United States of America. I'm a big believer in AP. I think AP holds people to account and challenges people to realize their full potential.

We've got an effort right now to encourage 30,000 math and science professionals to become part-time teachers. Why would you encourage math and science professionals? Because if you've got the capability of competing globally in math and science, you're going to be getting a good job, is why. It's a practical application of U.S. resources to encourage 30,000 math and science professionals to enter classrooms to encourage people to be interested in math and science.

You know, I met a math teacher here. The man went to Harvard—now, we're not going to hold that against him, but nevertheless—[laughter]—he's out there somewhere. [Laughter] He's teaching math. He'd been doing a lot of things, and he's teaching math right here at this important charter school, because he understands the importance of teaching a child math, in terms of that child being able to find good work and be a productive citizen in this challenging 21st century.

Here are some ways we can improve the No Child Left Behind Act. My funding request has money for underperforming schools, when you recognize there's failure and these schools need help. I'm a strong believer in making sure that money follows children. And so when we find a child failing in meeting high standards, there ought to be extra tutorial money for that child. In other words, the measurement system not only helps determine who's falling behind, but it helps determine whether or not that child ought to get extra money now, early, before it's too late. That's been an integral part of No Child Left Behind. It's going to be a significant part of No Child Left Behind as we go forward.

I believe strongly that we've got to make sure that we—if a school just won't change and continues to fail, that principals ought to be given additional staffing freedom. In other words, there ought to be flexibility—more flexibility as opposed to less flexibility when a school fails.

I think we ought to empower mayors and other elected officials to take a more active hand in improving their schools. If you find failure, it's important to do something differently. And one way to do so is to encourage more power in the hands of our mayors

to break through bureaucratic logjams that are preventing people from achieving educational excellence.

And we ought to make it easier for officials to reorganize failing schools into charter schools. We just cannot allow the status quo to exist when we find failure.

Another way we can help is to encourage our Nation's best teachers to take jobs in some of the toughest neighborhoods. And so we proposed increasing the investment in the Teacher Incentive Fund to nearly \$200 million next year. In other words, there's a way for the Federal Government to encourage teachers to take on jobs that are important jobs and making sure that every child gets a good education with a good teacher. The fund rewards teachers who defy low expectations. It provides incentives for people to come into districts all around the United States to challenge the softy bigotry that I was talking about.

Third, parents of students in underperforming schools must have better choices. You find your child stuck in a school that won't teach and won't change, you ought to have a different option. I can't think of a better way to get somebody's attention that we're tired of mediocrity than to give a parent an option. I think there's a better—no better way to send a signal that folks are tired of mediocrity when it comes to our classrooms than say to a parent, you should have a different opportunity for your child, whether it be a charter school or a better performing public school.

In Washington, DC, we did an interesting—made an interesting initiative, and that is, is that we provided scholarship money for poor students to go to any school they wanted. I like that idea. I think it makes a lot of sense. You know, we have Pell grants for poor students to go to college. I think we ought to have Federal taxpayers' money to go to poor parents so they can choose a different type of school if they're dissatisfied with the school their child is going to. And so I would strongly urge Congress to reauthorize and refund the D.C. School Choice Program and take a good look at our program that intends to expand that program.

I do want to congratulate Governor Spitzer and Mayor Bloomberg for working with the

Chancellor here to increase the number of charter schools here in New York. I appreciate the fact that they're taking a bold initiative. As I understand, they want to double the number of charter schools available for the students here in New York, and that's a good thing. You know, Margaret is going to help you, to the extent that she can.

So now we're in the process of rewriting this bill—reauthorizing it. Here's my attitude about this: One, Congress shouldn't weaken the bill. It's working. The No Child Left Behind Act is working. These test scores are on the rise. Accountability makes a significant difference in educational excellence.

And so therefore, when Republicans and Democrats take a look at this bill, I strongly urge them to not weaken the bill, not to backslide, not to say, accountability isn't that important. It is important. We'll work with the school districts on flexibility when it comes to the accountability system. And I mean that there are certain ways that we can make this—the accountability system actually work better than it's worked in the past.

But we will not allow this good piece of legislation to be weakened. And if you're a parent, you should insist that the No Child Left Behind Act remain a strong accountability tool so that every child in this country gets a good education. I'll reach out to both Republicans and Democrats again. Last time I signed the bill, I was on the stage with one of Charlie's good friends and colleagues, Congressman George Miller from California, Ted Kennedy, and two Republican colleagues of theirs. And it was—we worked well together.

And so my pledge is that I will continue to reach out and work with the new leadership of the Congress, all aimed at making sure this piece of legislation goes forward and making sure it's funded, so that we can say, once again, we've got law in place that will enable us to give every child as good an education as possible so that not one child, not one, is left behind in our country.

It's such an honor to be here. I love coming to a place where people defy expectations. I love coming to a place where you said, we're going to try to do something in a different way, that the status quo is not acceptable, so here we go. I love being with

educational entrepreneurs, good principals, strong teachers, caring parents, and students who are going to be leading this Nation in the 21st century.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Deborah Kenny, founder and chief executive officer, Village Academies; Mateo Myers, student, and Justin Fong, math teacher and department chair, Harlem Village Academy Charter School; Joel I. Klein, chancellor, New York City Department of Education; Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City; and Gov. Eliot Spitzer of New York. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Interagency Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes

April 24, 2007

The brave men and women who have volunteered to protect and defend our country deserve to receive the highest level of support from our grateful Nation. Today Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson and members of the Interagency Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes released a government-wide action plan that sets out steps to improve our care for America's troops and veterans.

The task force has proposed specific recommendations to immediately begin addressing the problems and gaps in services that were identified across the veterans and military healthcare systems. These recommendations include directing the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a joint process for disability determination. Additionally, I have asked Secretary Nicholson to communicate directly with the members of the Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors to ensure that both groups exchange ideas and information that will efficiently advance reform efforts.

I commend the work of the task force, welcome its recommendations, and have directed Secretary Nicholson to work with all agencies involved on the recommendations

and to report back to me within 45 days on how these measures are being implemented.

Message on Armenian Remembrance Day

April 24, 2007

Each year on this day, we pause to remember the victims of one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century, when as many as 1.5 million Armenians lost their lives in the final years of the Ottoman Empire, many of them victims of mass killings and forced exile. I join my fellow Americans and Armenian people around the world in commemorating this tragedy and honoring the memory of the innocent lives that were taken. The world must never forget this painful chapter of its history.

All who cherish freedom and value the sanctity of human life look back on these horrific events in sorrow and disbelief. Many of those who survived were forced from their ancestral home and spread across the globe. Yet, in the midst of this terrible struggle, the world witnessed the indomitable spirit and character of the Armenian people. Many of the brave survivors came to America, where they have preserved a deep connection with their history and culture. Generations of Armenians in the United States have enriched our country and inspired us with their courage and conviction.

Today, we remember the past and also look forward to a brighter future. We commend the individuals in Armenia and Turkey who are working to normalize the relationship between their two countries [countries].* A sincere and open examination of the historic events of the late-Ottoman period is an essential part of this process. The United States supports and encourages those in both countries who are working to build a shared understanding of history as a basis for a more hopeful future.

We value the strong and vibrant ties between the United States and Armenia. Our Nation is grateful for Armenia's contributions to the war on terror, particularly for its efforts to help build a peaceful and democratic Iraq. The United States remains committed to

working with Armenia and Azerbaijan to promote a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We are also working to promote democratic and economic reform in Armenia that will advance the cause of freedom and justice.

Laura and I express our deepest condolences to Armenian people around the world on this solemn day of remembrance. We stand together in our determination to build a more peaceful, more prosperous, and more just world.

George W. Bush

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

Proclamation 8132—Malaria Awareness Day, 2007

April 24, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans are fortunate to live in a land that eliminated malaria decades ago. Today, our country helps fight this disease in Africa, because we believe in the timeless truth: To whom much is given, much is required. On Malaria Awareness Day, we renew our commitment to helping combat malaria in Africa and around the world.

Tragically, one child in Africa dies every 30 seconds from malaria, a disease that is highly treatable and preventable. To reduce malaria's mortality rate in the hardest-hit African countries, I announced the President's Malaria Initiative in 2005, a five-year, \$1.2 billion program. At last year's White House Summit on Malaria, Laura and I were pleased to announce the expansion of this initiative to several additional countries. These efforts are making a difference, and millions of people have already benefited from insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor spraying, and anti-malaria medicine.

Across our Nation, Americans are answering the call to act. By simply donating an insecticide-treated bed net, one individual can help save a life. For more information about how to help and for a list of humanitarian organizations, visit fightingmalaria.gov.

* White House correction.

Americans are a compassionate people who care deeply about the plight of others and the future of our world, and we can all be proud of the work our Nation is doing to fight disease and despair. By standing with the people of Africa in the fight against malaria, we can help lift a burden of unnecessary suffering, provide hope and health, and forge lasting friendships.

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 25, 2007, as Malaria Awareness Day. I encourage Americans to answer the universal call to love a neighbor and join in our goal of eradicating malaria on the African continent.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 27, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 30.

Remarks on the Observance of Malaria Awareness Day

April 25, 2007

Thank you for coming. Welcome to the White House. The Rose Garden has witnessed many historic events. This afternoon we gather to mark something completely new, the first ever Malaria Awareness Day in the United States, and I'm glad you're here to join us.

On Malaria Awareness Day, we focus our attention on all who suffer from this terrible disease, especially the millions on the continent of Africa. We remember the millions more who've died from this entirely preventable and treatable disease. As a compassionate nation, we are called to spread awareness about malaria, and we're called to act. That's what compassionate people do—when they see a problem, they act. And that's what

we're here to talk about. On this special day, we renew our commitment to lead the world toward an urgent goal, and that is to turn the tide against malaria in Africa and around the globe.

I want to thank Laura for being my wife—*[laughter]*—and taking the lead on this. Mr. Secretary, thank you for joining us—Mike Leavitt, the Department of Health and Human Services. Ambassador Randy Tobias—he now runs USAID. Prior to this job, he led America's monumental effort to confront and deal with the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the continent of Africa. Thank you for your leadership. Karen P., it's good to see you; Ambassador Hughes is with us.

Admiral Ziemer—so if you want to solve a problem, you put a problem-solver in charge. And that's what Admiral Ziemer does; he's a problem-solver. It makes it easier for me, when I say to other nations—like with President Lula. He came to visit at Camp David. We were trying to figure out ways we can work together to show our hemisphere and the world that Brazil and the United States shares a compassion about people. And so I said, why don't we work together to eradicate malaria in parts of Africa? Call Ziemer—*[laughter]*—he'll see to it that the strategy gets implemented. To show that we're a serious nation, we have named a coordinator, somebody in charge. It's important for me and Laura to know that a good man is handling this responsibility to implementing a strategy. So, appreciate what you're doing. I know you know that we take this initiative seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Donald Payne, thank you for coming. We're proud you're here. We—I respect you, and I respect your concern for the people of Africa, and to make sure that the United States of America stays engaged in that continent in a constructive way. It's good to see Chris Smith. Thank you for coming, Chris. We're proud you're here.

I appreciate very much the fact that the World Bank is taking the lead in eradicating poverty in places like Africa, and Paul Wolfowitz, thank you for your leadership of the World Bank. And I appreciate the fact that Ann Veneman is joining us, the Executive Director of UNICEF, which is the largest purchaser of bed nets in the world. These

people are here because they're committed to joining us to solve a problem that can be solved.

I also thank other members of my administration here. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your interest. I want to thank the members of the diplomatic corps for joining us. I appreciate you coming. I see ambassadors from countries that will be helped by this initiative, and I see ambassadors from countries that we expect to join us in this initiative.

I'm looking forward to—Mr. Ambassador, to talking to Prime Minister Abe about what Japan can do with the United States to solve this problem. I'm honored you're here. I'm looking forward to seeing the Prime Minister tomorrow evening for dinner. I thank our dance company that will be joining us in a minute. I know you're going to look forward to seeing them; so am I. So I'm warming up out here. [*Laughter*] I thank our domestic and international partners. I see so many people who are—who care about the lives of others and are willing to do something about it. And I really appreciate you all coming.

As we mark the first Malaria Awareness Day, it makes sense to begin with some facts. Every year, more than a million people die of malaria, and the vast majority of them are children under 5 years old. It's a sad statistic. In some countries, malaria takes even more lives than HIV/AIDS. Malaria imposes a crippling economic burden in sub-Saharan Africa, where so many are struggling to lift their families out of poverty.

All of that may seem like a cause for despair, but it's not. The world knows exactly what it takes to treat and prevent malaria. We've seen this disease defeated before, right here in Washington.

I'm sure a lot of our citizens don't remember this fact, but about a century ago, malaria was a serious problem. The hot and humid summers created a dangerous breeding ground for mosquitoes, and Congress would often flee the capital for months at a time. Other than that, the consequences were all negative. [*Laughter*] Some foreign ambassadors to the United States are even reported to have received hardship pay for duties here in Washington. Yet, through the years, be-

cause of patient and persistent action, malaria was almost entirely eradicated in Washington and throughout the United States.

In other words, we've solved this problem before. And the fundamental question is, do we have the will to do the same thing on another continent? That's really what—the question that faces this country and other nations around the world. My commitment is, you bet we have the will. And we've got a strategy to do so.

Defeating malaria is going to be a challenge, but it's not going to require a miracle. That's what I'm here to tell you. It's going to require a smart and sustained campaign.

And so what does that mean? Well, first, it means distributing insecticide-treated bed nets; secondly, expanding indoor insecticide spraying; thirdly, providing antimalaria medicine to pregnant women; and delivering cutting-edge drugs to people living with the disease. Those are the four steps necessary to achieve our objective.

Thanks to our leadership in science and technology, we have a unique ability to help in all these areas. We have a responsibility to turn that ability into action. When America sees suffering and know that our Nation—when Americans see suffering and know that our Nation can help stop it, they expect our Government to respond. Most Americans believe in this timeless truth: To whom much is given, much is required. And I believe in that as well.

We have a strategic interest in reducing death and disease in emerging nations of Africa. Societies with healthy and prosperous people are more likely to be sources of stability and peace, not breeding grounds for extremists and terror. It's in our strategic interests that we follow through on our pledges.

I launched the President's Malaria Initiative in 2005. Through this initiative, as Laura mentioned, we're spending \$1.2 billion over 5 years to provide bed nets and indoor spraying and antimalaria medicine in 15 heavily affected African countries. We're working toward an historic goal to cut the number of malaria-related deaths in country by half. The Admiral has got a goal. It's a measurable goal.

The key element to this initiative is accountability. I mean, it's a realistic agenda with a measurable goal. And today is a good day to report to the American people on the impact their dollars are having. During the first year of our initiative, we expanded malaria protection to more than 6 million Africans. We're still early in the second year, but so far, we've reached another 5 million people, and by the end of 2007, we expect to reach a total of 30 million. Admiral, you're doing good work, and the American people deserve a lot of credit for supporting you.

A good effort of our—of this strategy comes from the Zanzibar islands off the east coast of Tanzania. This area was once a hotbed for malaria infection. Then, with the support of our malaria initiative, local residents launched a campaign called "Kataa Malaria," which is Swahili for "Reject Malaria." Workers went door to door to teach people how to use beds, they—how to use bed nets. They launched TV and radio ads. They spoke in mosques about malaria prevention and treatment. And the efforts worked. One Zanzibar island reported that malaria cases during the first 9 months of last year dropped by a stunning 87 percent.

Another example comes from Senegal on the west coast of Africa. In one village, malaria kills half of all the children before their age of 5. Imagine growing up in a village like that; imagine being a mom in a village like that.

Not long ago, it looked like a 2-year-old fellow named Demba Balde was going to be one of the unlucky children. His mother took him to the village health hut, which receives funding from our malaria initiative. And thanks to enhanced awareness, correct diagnosis, and prompt treatment, young Demba won his battle with malaria.

Every life matters to the American people. Every life is precious. Stories like these are cause for hope, and they would not be possible without the courage and commitment of our partners in Africa. This week, nations across Africa are marking their own Malaria Awareness Days.

In Angola, the Ministry of Health is helping to lead a "Caravan for Life," in which health workers travel the countryside in

trucks loaded with bed nets and medicines and educational materials.

In Benin, almost a million dollars worth of bed nets and medicines is being distributed at an event in the capital city.

In Mozambique, local residents attended a soccer tournament that featured songs and skits on how to prevent malaria.

We're committed to helping our African partners build on these efforts, and so I want to share with you two new endeavors. First, America will expand our cooperation with the Government of Uganda and the non-profit group Malaria No More to distribute more than a half a million bed nets in Uganda. We're going to focus this distribution on children and pregnant mothers in areas of the country with the greatest vulnerability. And when we're finished with this effort, half of all the households in Uganda will own a bed net to protect against malaria.

The second new commitment is Madagascar. There, we will team up with Malaria No More and the American Red Cross to distribute bed nets to nearly 1.4 million children under the age of 5. This delivery campaign will include polio vaccines to promote good overall health for children across the island. We're attacking this problem one spot at a time with a comprehensive strategy.

These efforts are a good start, but on this Malaria Awareness Day, we've got to understand, it's just a start, and there's a lot of work to be done. Nations around this world have a role to play. At the G-8, I'm going to raise this issue with our partners around the table. I'm going to remind them, to whom much is given, much is required, and that the United States will lead, but we expect others to follow, side by side.

Private citizens and organizations have an important role to play. Last December, as Laura mentioned, we held the White House Summit on Malaria to urge more nonprofit groups and corporations and individuals to join the effort to wipe out this disease. The response has been encouraging. We're seeing inspiring acts of selflessness from what I've called America's armies of compassion.

There's an interesting development taking place tonight. If you happen to tune into "American Idol," you will see the first ever "Idol Gives Back" campaign. This campaign

will urge viewers to donate to a variety of charities, including groups devoted to fighting malaria. For all you “Idol” viewers, join this battle, join the cause to help save lives. I’m not so sure I’m going to watch it tonight, but this show does have a large group of viewers, and I really appreciate the producers for joining us.

Major League Soccer is running a promotional campaign that encourages fans to make a donation to cover the cost of bed nets for a family in Africa. College students on more than 50 campuses are holding “Music to End Malaria” events to generate awareness and raise funds. The Magnum Photos agency has launched a photo narrative that depicts the devastating toll of malaria. Awareness is a part of solving the problem.

You don’t have to be a part of an organization to make a difference. In an elementary school in Parkersburg, West Virginia, 63 children raised enough money to buy 15 bed nets. This past Christmas, our family—some of our family gathered in Camp David, and my brother gave us bed nets as a Christmas gift. You can do the same thing here in America. You can make an individual contribution to save somebody’s life.

I want to tell you what this third grader explained, why he contributed to the program. He said, “I want to fight malaria because it’s helpful, and I want to help kids in Africa because it’s the right thing to do.” And it is the right thing to do. And that’s why we’re gathered here in the Rose Garden, to commit this Nation to doing the right thing and to call upon citizens in this country to do the right thing.

America is a country that gives medicine to the sick and food to the hungry and protection to the threatened because it’s the right thing to do. The Malaria Awareness Day is a chance for me to thank all Americans who have donated to this cause and urge others to do the same. It’s a day to call on nations around the world to join us in a great humanitarian effort. And it’s a day to remind our fellow citizens that when you help somebody live a life, it strengthens our soul and enhances our spirit.

Thanks for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to R. Timothy Ziemer, Coordinator, President’s Malaria Initiative; President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil; Representatives Donald M. Payne and Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey; Japan’s Ambassador to the U.S. Ryozo Kato; and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Remarks Following a Meeting on Financial Literacy

April 25, 2007

April is Financial Literacy Month, and so I’ve asked some of our Nation’s most caring citizens to come and to talk to us about how to develop and hone a strategy that will help more of our American citizens become financially literate. If you’re not sure how interest works, it’s hard to be a good homeowner. If you don’t understand rates of return, it’s hard to be a good investor. If you’re not sure how money works, it will be missed opportunity for people from all walks of life.

It is in this country’s interest that people in every neighborhood, from every background, understand the financial literacy world, understand what it means when people talks terms related to their money. The more financially literate our society is, the more hopeful our society becomes.

And ours is a great system. It is a system that means somebody can come to America or live in America with nothing and end up with a lot; a system where people can realize dreams and work hard and realize those dreams. But unless we have a financially literate society, not enough people are going to be able realize the great promise of America.

And so I want to thank the Secretary of Treasury and the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for agreeing to be a part of the committee to make sure the Federal effort toward financial literacy is well coordinated with the private sector. And I thank those from the private sector for joining us. We’ve got people from corporate America; we’ve got people from faith-based America; we’ve

got people from community-based-program America. We've got people from all walks of life, all around the country, who are deeply concerned about making sure this country is as financially literate as possible, and I thank you for coming. I appreciate you joining us.

Mr. Secretary, thanks for chairing the project.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the 2007 National and State Teachers of the Year

April 26, 2007

She forgot to add "and loves a teacher." [Laughter] I made a good move when I married a teacher, and Laura and I are honored to welcome you here to the Rose Garden. Thanks for coming, and thanks for teaching.

This is a special day for all who care deeply about education, because we fully understand that without a good teacher it's hard to achieve national goals and objectives. And so the Teacher of the Year ceremony is a chance to pay homage to some really fine public servants and great Americans, so we welcome you.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education joining us. I want to thank Congressman John Boozman and his wife, Cathy, from Arkansas. We thank Jay Inslee, from Washington, for joining us; thank you, Congressman. Dennis Moore and Stephanie, from Kansas, have joined us, as has Rick Larsen from Washington. I wonder why all these Washington Congressmen have joined us. [Laughter]

Laura and I just had a chance to thank every State Teacher of the Year. It's an honor to welcome you to the Oval Office. It is a shrine to democracy and a wonderful place to give our personal thanks to a job well done.

I do want to recognize the finalists this year: Justin Minkel from Arkansas; Josh Anderson from Kansas; Tamara Tiong from New Mexico; Andrea Peterson, the Teacher of the Year. And we've got to recognize Joel, the husband of the Teacher of the Year. Thank you, Joel. [Laughter] And mom and

dad—I'm going to say something about mom and dad in a minute.

I want to thank Gene Wilhoit, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, for sponsoring this event. Rhonda Mims, the president of ING Foundation, Tom Waldron, the executive vice president of ING, and all the chief state school officers here today, thanks for coming. Thanks for honoring the teachers.

When you really think about it, few professionals have as direct an impact on our future as our teachers. Teachers are among our children's first role models, counselors, and friends. Teachers awaken young minds, and teachers encourage ingenuity and unleash fertile imaginations.

It's demanding work to be a teacher, even during its best moments. Sometimes, teachers come across students who require them to summon every last ounce of patience and understanding. When those times come, I just ask you remember, one day that student may become the President. [Laughter]

We ask a lot of our teachers, and we owe them a lot in return. One of the first priorities as President was to work with members of both parties to pass what's called the No Child Left Behind Act. I am—I can't tell you how important this Act is to make sure every child learns to read, write, and add and subtract. The Act insists upon high standards, standards that you all set in your classrooms. Otherwise, you wouldn't be a Teacher of the Year. It says that it's important to measure to determine whether or not our children are learning and meeting standards. Measurement is not a tool to punish; measurement is a tool to correct and reward.

The No Child Left Behind Act is working. In reading, 9-year-olds have made more progress in 5 years than the previous 28 years combined. A President couldn't report that to the Nation unless we actually measured to determine whether that was true. In math, 9-year-olds and 13-year-olds have earned their highest test scores ever. In both reading and math, African American and Hispanic students are scoring higher and beginning to close the achievement gap with their peers.

The structure of the No Child Left Behind Act, the strategy of the Act makes a lot of sense. And that's why the Congress needs to

reauthorize this good law. But the Act wouldn't be working without really dedicated teachers making sure our children learn.

Teaching is more than a profession; it's a calling. And that calling came early to our Teacher of the Year. Andrea Patterson—Peterson knows the importance of education in her life. After all, as she explained to me in the Oval Office, her first role model was her dad, who has taught for more than 30 years. And we welcome you. And we congratulate you on being such a fine dad that your daughter stands here in the Rose Garden as the National Teacher of the Year.

Andrea has got two sisters-in-law who are teachers and a mother-in-law who is a teacher. This is a family that really cares about good grammar. [Laughter] I probably wouldn't do all that well at the dinner table. [Laughter] When you come from a family of teachers, you tend to develop a life-long appreciation of learning, and more importantly, it enables you to find creative ways to instill that appreciation in others.

Andrea has done some—a lot of amazing work as a music teacher at Monte Cristo Elementary School in Granite Falls, Washington. In her 10 years at Monte Cristo, she has built an impressive music program, almost from scratch. She helped the school purchase instruments, organized an after-school choir, and helped obtain computer programs that allow students to compose their own music. She has integrated music education into other subjects. She's taken novels that children were reading in other classes and turned them into musical productions. She's used musical notes to explain fractions. She's helped students reach out to the community by developing a music program that honored local veterans. She's used music to reach students who are not doing well in the traditional classroom setting.

She's more than a music teacher. One parent said of Andrea this: "Mrs. Peterson is passionate about her job, and it shows." In fact, like any good teacher, Andrea juggles responsibilities that would exhaust all of us. For example, in the past few months, she's taught classes full time, she carried out her obligations as Washington State Teacher of the Year, and took part in the National Teacher of the Year activities. And to top it all off,

4 weeks ago she gave birth to a daughter named Faith. That's what we call multi-tasking. [Laughter] Faith probably doesn't know it yet, but she's lucky to have a mom and a dad like the Petersons.

There are a few other teachers who I think deserve mention today, and those are the teachers at Virginia Tech. They did all they could to protect their students from a day of horror, and they're doing all they can to help them heal in the aftermath. One teacher gave his life by using his body to barricade a classroom door while his students jumped to safety from windows. Americans everywhere hold the teachers and students and parents of the Virginia Tech community in our thoughts and in our prayers.

This tragedy has affected at least one of the teachers here in a very personal way, and that would be Susan Evans, who earned her master's degree at Virginia Tech, and we thank you for wearing the Virginia Tech scarf today.

Our Nation is still seeking to make sense of this tragedy, and so are America's children. In fact, one of your hardest jobs is to explain horrific acts to the students. It's a hard job, but I want to thank America's teachers for comforting and encouraging our Nation's youth during difficult moments such as the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

We're fortunate to have teachers like we do in America, men and women who are drawn to the classroom with a desire to serve something larger than themselves. So on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your hard work and your dedication. I thank you for preparing our young children for the challenges of the 21st century. And I thank you for all you do every day to help build a better America.

Congratulations, and welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas P. Waldron, executive vice president, human resources and brand, ING North America Insurance Corp.; and Susan Evans, 2007 Virginia State Teacher of the Year. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on the Death of
Jack J. Valenti**
April 26, 2007

Laura and I are saddened by Jack Valenti's death. Jack Valenti was a great American and a great Texan. He bravely flew combat missions during World War II and ably served in the White House. From protecting families by creating the movie rating system to advocating for intellectual property rights, Jack Valenti helped transform the motion picture industry. He leaves a powerful legacy in Washington, in Hollywood, and across our Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jack's wife, Mary Margaret, his children, and his friends and colleagues.

**Proclamation 8133—Asian/Pacific
American Heritage Month, 2007**
April 26, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we honor the many contributions citizens of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry have made to our great land.

The millions of Americans who trace their origins to nations in the Asian/Pacific region have enriched America. The entrepreneurship and innovation of Asian/Pacific Americans have strengthened our economy. Asian/Pacific Americans enrich our Nation with their strong values of love of family and community. Many Asian/Pacific Americans are serving the cause of freedom and peace around the world, and our Nation is grateful for their service. These good men and women defend our safety and contribute to the character and greatness of America.

To honor the achievements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2007 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and their many contributions to our Nation and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:00 a.m., April 30, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 1.

**The President's News Conference
With Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of
Japan at Camp David, Maryland**
April 27, 2007

President Bush. Thank you. Welcome. Mr. Prime Minister, Shinzo, welcome to Camp David. I thank you very much for making the long journey. I also thank you for bringing your gracious wife to dinner last night.

The Abes and Laura and I had a really good dinner. It was very relaxed. The Prime Minister married very well. I was so impressed by Akie's compassion, her intelligence. And I will tell you, Shinzo, that Laura feels like she has a new friend now, and so do I. So we're really glad you're here.

We had the kind of discussion you'd expect allies to have. I would describe the talks as—first of all, Shinzo and I met alone for a good period of time. Our talks were very relaxed, but they were strategic. We think about the interest of our country, and we think about the interest of maintaining peace in the world. The alliance between Japan and the United States has never been stronger, and the Prime Minister and I will work hard to keep it that way. It's in the interest of our peoples that we work closely.

I told Shinzo one way to do so, of course, is to visit. I hope he comes to my ranch soon. I looked forward to welcoming here to Camp David, but I also look forward to taking him down there, where one might call it a little slice of heaven.

We talked about the fact that our alliance—and it is a global alliance—is rooted in common values, especially our commitment to freedom and democracy. We discussed ways we can continue to partner together. There's no more important partnership than that through the six-party talks. We spent a lot of time talking about North Korea and our mutual desire for North Korea to meet its obligations. Our partners in the six-party talks are patient, but our patience is not unlimited. We expect North Korea to meet all its commitments under the February 13th agreement, and we will continue working closely with our partners.

In Iran, we speak with one voice to the regime in Iran. Our nations have fully implemented the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council in response to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. Further defiance by Iran will only lead to additional sanctions and to further isolation from the international community.

Japan is the second largest donor to the people of Iraq and the third largest donor nation to the people of Afghanistan. And I thank you, Shinzo, and I thank the people of Japan for helping these young democracies survive in a troubled world. I firmly believe that we're helping lay a foundation for peace for generations to come.

Over lunch, the Prime Minister and I will discuss his upcoming trip to the Middle East. I will remind him, he'll be traveling into an important region, where extremists and radicals are trying to prevent the hopes of moderate people, trying to stop the peaceful societies from emerging. I'm looking forward to hearing about your trip before you leave, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you after you've been there.

Shinzo and I talked about trade and the Doha round. We have a lot of bilateral trade between our two nations. Last year, it totaled more than \$270 billion, and that's positive for the American people and the people of Japan.

Any time you have a lot of trade, there's always complicated trade issues. One such issue, of course, I brought up to the Prime Minister is, I'm absolutely convinced the Japanese people will be better off when they eat American beef. It's good beef; it's healthy beef. As a matter of fact, I'm going to feed the Prime Minister and his delegation a good hamburger today for lunch.

But we also talked about the World Trade Organization and the Doha round and how Japan wants to be constructive in getting this round completed, not only to enhance the prosperity in our own countries but to help the developing world, help lift millions of people out of poverty.

We talked about the environment and energy. I appreciated very much Shinzo's vision of using technologies to help our energy security, our economic security, and at the same time, be responsible stewards of the environment. There's a lot of work that Japan and the United States can do together, particularly in fields like emission-free nuclear energy, nuclear power. I mean, the truth of the matter is, if people really want to solve the issue of greenhouse gases, civilian nuclear power, powering our energy grids by nuclear power is the best alternative available. We can work on new technologies through our joint nuclear energy action plan and through the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership to bring technologies on the market as quickly as possible to assure people that we can deal with the waste, for example, in a responsible way.

Over lunch I'm going to also remind Shinzo about my deep desire to have our folks driving automobiles powered by ethanol and biodiesels. And I'm going to share with him our strategy about reducing gasoline consumption in the United States by 20 percent over the next 10 years as a result of ethanol, as well as our cellulosic ethanol technologies that are hopefully coming to market quickly.

All in all, we've had a very constructive, strong dialog, and I am really pleased you came, Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Abe. Last night we were invited by George and Laura, and myself and my wife were able to enjoy a very wonderful time together. And today we had one-on-one

meeting and also had a larger meeting. And we had very substantive discussions. The greatest—the biggest objective of this visit this time was to reaffirm the irreplaceable Japan-U.S. alliance and to make—grow this stronger as an unshakable alliance.

President and the—I would like to thank the President and the American people for their very warm welcome yesterday. I visited Bethesda Navy Hospital and the Arlington Cemetery and prayed for the repose of the souls of those who died for the cause of stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan and prayed for early recovery of those injured. And I would like to pay respect and express gratitude for the noble sacrifice the United States is making.

And in our meeting, the President expressed his strong determination to carry through the task of Iraq's reconstruction. And I told the President that Japan understands and supports U.S. efforts of further stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq, and Japan will carry on its own efforts to the same end. I also told him that Japan will be with the United States at all times and that we feel proud as an ally of the United States.

Through this meeting, I've renewed my determination to work with the United States on various challenges facing the international community on the basis of our common values. We were able to speak our minds with regard to our respective political convictions in the midst of this very open and free atmosphere at Camp David and I—and deepen our mutual trust.

I explained to the President that as the mission that my administration, I will strive to move Japan beyond the post-war regime. As part of this endeavor, I explained to the President that I launched on the eve of this trip a blue-ribbon panel for the purpose of reshaping the legal foundation for national security in a way that will benefit—that will benefit the times, now that the security environment surrounding Japan is undergoing major change.

With regard to the economy, I told the President that I'm determined to carry it through, structural reforms in Japan, because Japan's growth is important for the growth of the United States as well as the entire world. And I received strong words of sup-

port from the President for this direction that Japan is seeking.

Now, we agree that we need to build on response to—we agreed that we need to build our response to the North Korean nuclear issue and the numerous challenges in East Asia on the Japan-U.S. alliance. And we agreed to step up cooperation in security, economic and cultural exchanges, and many other areas to further strengthen this irreplaceable alliance between Japan and the United States. And I welcomed the conclusion of documents that provide for the strengthening of concrete cooperation in such areas as the economy, cultural exchange, and nuclear energy.

We did take a lot of time to discuss North Korean nuclear issues. We agreed to work together to realize a more peaceful and stable Korean Peninsula by making North Korea completely give up its nuclear weapons and programs through the six-party talks.

With regard to the abduction issue, President Bush once again expresses unvarying commitment to support the Government of Japan, saying that to this day, the strong impressions he got when he met Mrs. Yokata around this time last year still remains. And I told President that before my departure this time, Mrs. Yokata had told me, ever since she last heard from her daughter, Megumi, that the most moving moment was her meeting with the President. So the President expressed his, as I said, unvarying commitment to support of the Government of Japan on this abduction issue.

We agree that the current state of the six-party talks as well as North Korea's attitude towards the abduction issue are regrettable. And we'll work for closer coordination between our two countries to achieve progress.

Let me also point out, as the President mentioned earlier, that an important progress has been made on the climate change issue. And I finalized with the President a joint statement on the subject matter. It is gratifying that we agreed—Japan and the United States agreed at the leaders' level to study jointly an intensified dialog on ways and means to make progress towards the ultimate objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, to resolve the environmental issues, and to resolve the

greenhouse gas issue. I believe this represents an important progress.

It is essential that the world community act on the climate change issue in concert, and Japan and the United States agreed to work together on this front. Thank you.

President Bush. Two questions a side. Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press], would you start off, please?

Six-Party Talks

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Some people are concerned that you're going soft on North Korea. You said you had—

President Bush. Said—what did you just say? There's an echo in here.

Q. Some people say you're going soft on North Korea.

President Bush. Oh, okay. Yes.

Q. You said you had unlimited patience with the regime. They've missed their deadline on shutting down their nuclear reactor—

President Bush. No, I said our patience is not unlimited.

Q. Not unlimited. My question, sir, is how long are you willing to wait to have them shut this down? Are we talking days, weeks, months? And—

President Bush. No, I appreciate that very much. Do you want to ask the Prime Minister something too? It's an old U.S. trick here.

Q. Prime Minister Abe—

President Bush. Keep plowing through it. [Laughter]

Q. —are you worried that America is softening its stance on Kim Jong Il?

President Bush. I have always believed that the best way to solve these difficult problems is through diplomacy. That's the first choice of the United States, to solve difficult problems diplomatically. I also believe that the best way for—and the difficult problem, of course, was to convincing the leader of North Korea to give up his nuclear weapons program.

I also felt the best way forward was not for the United States to carry this diplomatic mission alone, and therefore, worked very hard and closely with our Japanese allies to convince others to come to the table beside the United States. And now we have what

we call the six-party talks, which is the United States, Japan, and China and South Korea and Russia, all saying the same message to North Korea, that we expect you to honor agreements you made, which include not only stopping their—locking down their plant but also dismantling their programs—and all programs—giving up weapons programs and weapons. That's what they've said they would do.

We recently had a bump in the road to getting them to honor their agreement, and that is, there is a financial arrangement that we're now trying to clarify for the North Koreans, so that that will enable them to have no excuse for moving forward. And that's where we are right now.

The interesting thing about our position is that if it looks like the North Korean leader is not going to honor his agreement, if it looks like that there are reasons other than the financial arrangements that will cause him to say, "Well, I really don't mean what I said," we now have a structure in place to continue to provide a strong message to the North Korean. We have the capability of more sanctions. We have the capability of convincing other nations to send a clear message.

So I like our position in terms of achieving this mission in a diplomatic way. And I want to thank the Prime Minister for being a strong advocate of sending a clear message to the North Korean leader that there's a better way forward than to defy the world.

On all issues, there is a—whether it's this issue or any other issue—is that we will work with our partners to determine how long. But as I said, our patience is not unlimited. And that's the operative word for the leader in North Korea to understand. We hope he moves forward soon, obviously. Just like in—somebody asked me the other day, how long in Darfur? Well, the leaders will find out the definition of how long when we make it clear we're moving in a different direction. There's still time for the North Korean leader to make the right choice.

Prime Minister Abe. Well, today this issue had very candid exchange of views. And our understanding of the issue and the direction we are pursuing, we completely see eye

to eye on this matter, and we've had completely the same attitude. We'll continue to deal with the North Korean issue.

Well, we have to make the North Koreans understand that unless they keep up their promise, the difficult conditions they find themselves under—the food situation and economic situation—they'll not be able to resolve those difficulties. And in fact, the situation would only worsen. So they need to respond appropriately on these issues, otherwise we will have to take a tougher response on our side.

In agreement with the procedures set down by the six-party talks, we'll have to continue to watch whether the North Koreans will actually act. In our negotiations with North Koreans, we now have learned full well their negotiating ploys. And between Japan and the United States, we'll maintain close coordination for the resolution of this issue.

North Korea/Abduction of Japanese Citizens

Q. Once again, allow me to ask questions related to North Korea. In Japan, the interpretation is that the United States have become softer on the BDA, Banco Delta Asia issue, and some people are concerned. Now Mr. Abe, in your meeting today, did you ask President Bush to step up the American pressures on North Korea?

And a question for Mr. President—I understand the United States has agreed with North Korea to start negotiations on lifting the terrorist state designation. And is it right to consider that a precondition for lifting would be the abduction issue resolution?

Prime Minister Abe. Well, to resolve the North Korean issues, of course, dialog is needed. But in resolving those issues and in negotiating with North Koreans, there is a need for pressure. And on that score, we—George and I fully agree. And we reaffirmed that point today. Should the North Koreans fail to keep their promise, we will step up our pressures on North Korea. And on that point, again, I believe we see eye to eye.

As for the importance of the abduction issue, George and our American friends, I'm sure, are fully aware, and they understand our thinking, and they support our position.

In resolving that abduction issue, as well, Japan and the United States will cooperate with each other when we need to cooperate with each other. And the President thinks the same way.

President Bush. We have shown the North Korean leader that obstinance on this issue, that there's a price to pay. In other words, we have come together as a group of nations, all aiming to achieve the same objective, and that is for the leader to—of North Korea to verifiably give up the weapons programs that he has, just like he said he would do. And we have proven that we can work in a collaboration to deny certain benefits to the North Korean Government and people. That's what we've shown so far.

I think it's wise to show the North Korean leader, as well, that there is a better way forward. I wouldn't call that soft; I'd call that wise diplomacy. It's his choice to make, ultimately, not our choice, as to whether he honors the agreement he agreed to. Our objective is to hold him to account. But he's got different ways forward, and we have made that avenue available for his choice. And so the meeting today, of course, is to hope for the best and plan for the worst. We're hoping that the North Korea leader continues to make the right choice for his country. But if he should choose not to, we've got a strategy to make sure that the pressure we've initially applied is even greater. That's our plan.

And so it is—he ought to know that if he makes right choices, there is a way for him to be able to deal with a listing that our Government has placed on him; in other words, there's a way forward. And this is—what you're referring to is the beginning of a process; it's the beginning of an opportunity for him to be in a different position, vis-a-vis the United States Government, on a variety of fronts.

Any discussion about ways forward, however, shouldn't—should not obscure my strong sentiment about the abductee issue. The Prime Minister mentioned how Mrs. Yokata was affected by her visit to the Oval Office. Well, I was affected by her visit to the Oval Office. It broke my heart to be in the presence of a Japanese mother whose love for her daughter has not diminished over

time, and her grief is sincere and real. I remember her bringing the picture of the child as she remembers her, right there where I go to work every day, and sitting it on the couch next to her.

So I'm deeply affected by her. She needs to understand that her visit added a human dimension to an issue which is obviously very important to the Japanese people. And I will never forget her visit, and I will work with my friend and the Japanese Government to get this issue resolved in a way that touches the human heart, in a way that—it's got more than just a kind of a diplomatic ring to it, as far as I'm concerned. It's a human issue now to me; it's a tangible, emotional issue. And thank you for bringing the question up.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations

Q. Mr. President, the Democrats have voted for a withdrawal timetable from Iraq, which you have said that you will veto. What ideas do you have for breaking this logjam going forward? And would you be willing to veto a second bill?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I haven't vetoed the first bill yet. But I'm going to. And the reason why I'm going to is because the Members of Congress have made military decisions on behalf of the military. They're telling our generals what to do. They're withdrawing before we've even finished reinforcing our troops in Baghdad. They're sending, in my judgment, a bad message to the Iraqis and to an enemy and, most importantly, to our military folks. And so I made it clear I'd veto.

And, by the way, they're adding spending that shouldn't belong in the bill in the first place. Maybe they're important issues, but they ought to be—these spending bills ought to be—or spending issues ought to be debated in the normal course of business. And so I've said this all along; my position has been consistent.

I'm sorry it's come to this. In other words, I'm sorry that we've had this, you know, the issue evolve the way it has. But nevertheless, it is what it is, and it will be vetoed, and my veto will be sustained. And then the question is the way forward. And my suggestion is that—and I invite the leaders of the House

and the Senate, both parties, to come down soon after my veto so we can discuss a way forward. And if the Congress wants to test my will as to whether or not I'll accept a timetable for withdrawal, I won't accept one. I just don't think it's in the interest of our troops.

I think it—I'm just envisioning what it would be like to be a young soldier in the middle of Iraq and realizing that politicians have all of the sudden made military determinations. And in my judgment, that would put a kid in harm's way, more so than he or she already is. I really think it's a mistake for Congress to try to tell generals, our military experts, how to conduct a war.

And furthermore, the idea of putting all kinds of extraneous spending on a bill, the bill—purpose of which is to fund our troops, is—I just don't accept that. So if they want to try again, that which I have said was unacceptable, then of course I'll veto it, but I hope it doesn't come to that. I believe we can work a way forward. And I think we can come to our senses and make sure that we get the money to the troops in a timely fashion. It's important to have a political debate, but as I've consistently said, we don't want our troops in between the debate. And Congress needs to get this money to the Pentagon so the Pentagon can get the money to the troops and so our readiness will be up to par and people—training missions will go forward.

I know Congress, no matter what their position is on the war, doesn't want to affect readiness, and they don't want to affect the military families—I understand that—but they're going to if they keep trying to pass legislation that is—that just doesn't—that withdraws troops or micromanages the war.

And so I'm optimistic we can get a bill, a good bill, and a bill that satisfies all our objectives, and that's to get the money to the troops as quickly as possible.

Japan's Comfort Women

Q. Well, a question on the wartime comfort women issue. Mr. Prime Minister, on this issue, did you explain your thoughts to President Bush? And on this matter, did you talk about further factual investigations on

the matter and any intent to apologize on the issue?

Also, a question for Mr. President on the comfort women issue. From the view—perspective of human rights and Asian history perceptions, I wonder if you could express your thoughts or views.

Prime Minister Abe. Well, in my meeting with the congressional representatives yesterday, I explained my thoughts, and that is, I do have deep-hearted sympathies that my people had to serve as comfort women, were placed in extreme hardships, and had to suffer that sacrifice; and that I, as Prime Minister of Japan, expressed my apologies, and also expressed my apologies for the fact that they were placed in that sort of circumstance.

Now, the 20th century was a century that human rights were violated in many parts of the world. So we have to make the 21st century a century—a wonderful century in which no human rights are violated. And I myself and Japan wish to make significant contributions to that end. And so I explained these thoughts to President.

President Bush. The comfort women issue is a regrettable chapter in the history of the world, and I accept the Prime Minister's apology. I thought it was a very—I thought his statements, Kono's statement, as well as statements here in the United States were very straightforward and from his heart. And I'm looking forward to working with this man to lead our nations forward. And that's what we spent time discussing today.

We had a personal visit on the issue. And he gave his—he told me what was on his heart about the issue, and I appreciated his candor. And our jobs are to, obviously, learn lessons from the past. All of us need to learn lessons from the past and lead our nations forward. And that's what the Prime Minister is doing in a very capable way.

Listen, we thank you all for coming. Appreciate your time. Have a nice weekend. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:09 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Akie Abe, wife of Prime Minister Abe; Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea; and Yohei Kono, Speaker of Japan's House of Representatives. Prime Minister Abe and some reporters spoke in Japanese,

and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by the United States of America and Japan on Energy Security, Clean Development, and Climate Change

April 27, 2007

President Bush and Prime Minister Abe agreed today that confronting the interlinked challenges of energy security, clean development, and climate change requires sustained and effective global action. The United States and Japan are working to ensure that the energy on which our economies depend remains reliable, affordable, and secure by encouraging efficiency, diversity of supply, and advances in technology. At the same time our nations are making meaningful progress in addressing air pollution and greenhouse gases from our power and transportation systems. We remain committed to the ultimate objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and will further explore the steps forward to this objective.

The United States and Japan are also advancing the clean energy technology needed to change for the better the way we power our homes, businesses, and automobiles. We are accelerating the development and deployment of these technologies by providing policy incentives to reduce the cost barriers to their full commercialization. We especially note the importance of advancing: energy efficiency and renewable energy, alternative and renewable fuels, hydrogen, near-zero emissions coal, nuclear energy, and fusion energy. We will work together to advance our nationally-defined objectives in these areas, taking advantage of a wide range of policy tools and measures including mandatory programs, incentives, and public-private technology partnerships. We will conduct a joint quantitative study on the economic, technological, and climate benefits of energy efficiency, in recognition of the trend toward national energy efficiency goals and programs throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The United States and Japan will work constructively with our international partners, in particular the major energy consuming nations, to promote the commercialization of advanced clean energy technologies. In this regard, we will also use the G8, the UNFCCC, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the International Energy Agency, APEC, the Commission of Sustainable Development, and other multilateral partnerships. We reaffirm the goals of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3R) Initiative set at the G8 Summit at Sea Island in 2004. This includes the reduction of barriers to the international flow of goods and materials for recycling and remanufacturing, recycled and remanufactured products, and cleaner, more efficient technologies, consistent with existing environmental and trade obligations and frameworks. We also note that a report on the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development will be received at the G8 summit meeting to be hosted by Japan in 2008.

We will also endeavor under the Montreal Protocol to ensure the recovery of the ozone layer to pre-1980 levels by accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs in a way that supports energy efficiency and climate change objectives. We will continue to exercise leadership in the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The United States and Japan recognize the value of our bilateral High-Level Consultations on Climate Change and will enhance, strengthen, and streamline that dialogue. The United States will send a delegation of senior-level officials to Japan before the G8 Summit in June to discuss further implementation of this statement.

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

Statement on North Korea Freedom Week

April 27, 2007

I send greetings to all those observing North Korea Freedom Week. Those living in North Korea regrettably know firsthand the meaning of deprivation of freedom. I

have met in the Oval Office with some of the courageous few who have managed to escape from the country. I have heard firsthand accounts of their suffering in North Korea and of their dangerous journeys to freedom. And I have seen how they now live in freedom's light. We will continue to strengthen our commitment to bring freedom to all repressed peoples. I believe the 21st century will be freedom's century for all Koreans. One day every citizen of that peninsula will live in dignity, freedom, and prosperity at home and in peace with their neighbors abroad. Until that day comes, we will not rest in our efforts to support the North Korean people as they strive to achieve the rights and freedoms to which they are entitled as human beings.

Proclamation 8134—National Charter Schools Week, 2007

April 27, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Across our country, charter schools are providing quality education for America's students. During National Charter Schools Week, we recognize the important contributions of charter schools and underscore our commitment to ensuring that all children receive the education they need to lead lives of purpose and success.

Charter schools are public schools that provide families with a valuable educational alternative. Because they are not bound by many regulatory requirements, charter schools have the flexibility to innovate in ways that will best meet students' academic needs. Today, there are about 4,000 charter schools in 40 States and the District of Columbia helping more than one million students realize their full potential.

My Administration is dedicated to providing parents with more choices so that their children will have the best opportunity to gain the skills necessary to compete and succeed in the global economy. Through the No Child Left Behind Act, we are setting high standards, expanding parents' options, and

closing the achievement gap. Charter schools are getting results and helping guide children across the country on the path to a better life.

This week we thank educational entrepreneurs for supporting charter schools, and we honor all those involved in charter schools for helping their students reach high expectations.

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 29 through May 5, 2007, as National Charter Schools Week. I applaud our Nation's charter schools and all those who make them a success, and I call on parents of charter school students to share their success stories and help Americans understand more about the important work of charter schools.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:00 a.m., April 30, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 1.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

April 23

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Situation Room, he participated in a briefing by Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson to discuss the findings of the Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes.

April 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to New York City, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Charles "Chick" Lemonick.

Later in the afternoon, the President toured Harlem Village Academy Charter School and met with students, parents, and teachers to discuss charter schools. Later, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, he participated in an interview with Charlie Rose of PBS's "Charlie Rose." He then met with Gov. Eliot Spitzer of New York.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee dinner. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt of Sweden to the White House on May 15.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Heiligendamm, Germany, to attend the G-8 Summit on June 6-8. Prior to the Summit, the President will visit Prague, Czech Republic, on June 5 for meetings with President Vaclav Klaus and Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek of the Czech Republic. Following the G-8, the President will travel to Jurata, Poland, on June 8 for a meeting with President Lech Kaczyński of Poland. On June 9, he will visit the Vatican for his first meeting with Pope Benedict XVI, and Rome, Italy, for meetings with President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy. The President will then proceed to Tirana, Albania, on June 10 to meet

with President Alfred Moisiu and Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania, before concluding his trip in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he will meet on June 11 with President Georgi Parvanov and Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev of Bulgaria.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the funeral service of former President Boris Yeltsin of Russia on April 25: George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton (heads of delegation); and William Joseph Burns.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and inland and coastal flooding on April 14–18.

April 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President met with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Conference.

The White House announced that the President will host President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia at the White House on May 2.

The President announced his intention to nominate James R. Keith to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy J. Powell to be Ambassador to Nepal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen A. Seche to be Ambassador to Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate James K. Glassman to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors and, upon appointment, to nominate him to be Chairman.

The President announced his intention to appoint William Hogarth as a U.S. Commissioner to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Government Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Todd T. Semonite as the Federal member of the Delaware River Basin Com-

mission (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania), and as the Federal member of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Jennifer Dunn; Terry D. Growcock; Herbert Fisk Johnson; James W. Owens; Sidney Taurel; and William Gerald Walter.

The President declared a major disaster in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and inland and coastal flooding beginning on April 15 and continuing.

April 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity with the 2007 National and State Teachers of the Year.

In the evening, at Blair House, the President and Mrs. Bush visited Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and his wife, Akie Abe. Later, in the Yellow Oval Room, they hosted a dinner for Prime Minister Abe and Mrs. Abe.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen to the White House on May 2.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore to the White House on May 4.

The President declared a major disaster in New Jersey and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and inland and coastal flooding on April 14–20.

April 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD, where he welcomed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. He then met with Prime Minister Abe.

Later in the morning, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Abe.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the 65th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea from May 3–5: Dirk Kempthorne (head of delegation); Robert D. McCallum, Jr.; and Rear Adm. James D. Kelly.

The President declared a major disaster in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on April 15 and continuing,

potentiary of the United States of America to Nepal.

Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 26

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2010 (reappointment).

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2007, vice Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, term expired.

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, vice Kenneth Y. Tomlinson.

James R. Keith, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia.

Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1002

Released April 24

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: President Bush To Attend Group of Eight (G–8) Summit in Germany and Travel to the Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Albania, and Bulgaria

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Results of Syrian Elections

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt of Sweden

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Fact sheet: No Child Left Behind: Keeping America Competitive in the 21st Century

Released April 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino, National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Affairs

Dennis Wilder, and National Security Council Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs David H. McCormick

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on congressional action on emergency supplemental appropriations

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit of President Uribe of Colombia

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

Released April 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino, National Security Council Director for European Affairs Judy Ansley, and National Security Council Senior Director for International Trade, Energy, and the Environment Rod Hunter

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit of Yemeni President Salih

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Jersey

Released April 27

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Hampshire

Fact sheet: U.S.-Japan Cooperation To Tackle Global Trade, Energy, and Environmental Challenges

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved April 23

S. 1002 / Public Law 110-19
Older Americans Reauthorization Technical Corrections Act