

America. Our strength is not our military, although we'll keep it strong, and our strength is not necessarily the size of our economy, although we'll keep it robust. The true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of citizens who hear the call to love a neighbor and do something about it.

One of the honorees is a Virginia Tech student. I had the privilege of meeting Adeel Khan. See, Adeel is the president of the student government at Virginia Tech. He took office shortly before the terrible violence hit that campus. He's had what we're call a difficult presidency. [*Laughter*] And yet he understood the need for leadership. He's an impressive guy. He worked hard with classmates to organize a campus-wide vigil. He helped bring that important community together. He dealt with the tragedy the way you'd expect a leader to deal with tragedy. This good young man helped lead his fellow students in healing. And we know, as he did so, it helped heal the entire nation.

We see the true spirit of the Asian Pacific American community in the compassion and decency of citizens like Adeel. We're grateful for the many contributions that Asian Pacific Americans have made to our Nation. We're proud to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I congratulate all the honorees. And now I ask Lieutenant Commander Roncska to read their citations.

[*At this point, Lt. Cmdr. Robert A. Roncska, USN, Navy Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the awards.*]

Thank you all for coming today. In our diversity, we find our strength; in our hearts, we find such wonderful compassion. Thank you all for setting a great example. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:26 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

### **Statement on International Trade and Investment Policy**

*May 10, 2007*

The United States has a longstanding commitment to open economies that empower

individuals, generate economic opportunity and prosperity for all, and provide the foundation for a free society. Economic freedom, supported by the rule of law, reinforces political freedom by encouraging and supporting the free flow of ideas. To continue the advance of liberty and prosperity, my administration will work vigorously to promote open investment policies and free trade on a level playing field.

A free and open international investment regime is vital for a stable and growing economy, both here at home and throughout the world. The threat of global terrorism and other national security challenges have caused the United States and other countries to focus more intently on the national security dimensions of foreign investment. While my administration will continue to take every necessary step to protect national security, my administration recognizes that our prosperity and security are founded on our country's openness.

As both the world's largest investor and the world's largest recipient of investment, the United States has a key stake in promoting an open investment regime. The United States unequivocally supports international investment in this country and is equally committed to securing fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory treatment for U.S. investors abroad. Both inbound and outbound investment benefit our country by stimulating growth, creating jobs, enhancing productivity, and fostering competitiveness that allows our companies and their workers to prosper at home and in international markets. My administration is committed to ensuring that the United States continues to be the most attractive place in the world to invest. I urge other nations to join us in supporting an open investment policy and protecting international investments.

My administration is also committed to advancing free and fair trade in multilateral, regional, and bilateral negotiations. We will work aggressively to conclude the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda negotiations and to secure congressional approval of the free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, Peru, and South

Korea. The prospects for the Doha Development Agenda negotiations to produce significant new economic opportunities, particularly in developing countries, demand that we do everything possible to reach an outcome that creates new trade flows and strengthens global development.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

### **Statement on the Free Trade Agreements With Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea**

*May 10, 2007*

I am pleased that my administration and congressional leaders have concluded a bipartisan agreement that provides a clear path for advancing our proposed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Expanding opportunities for the sale of American goods and services is crucial to continued growth and job creation here in America. While these agreements will move forward independently, my administration is committed to working with Members of Congress and with the governments of our free trade agreement partners to secure the approval of each agreement. I also look forward to working with the Congress to extend trade promotion authority to negotiate agreements that open markets and generate new economic opportunities.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

### **Proclamation 8142—National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2007**

*May 10, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Our Nation's transportation infrastructure is vital to our security, competitiveness, and prosperity and is critical to the everyday lives

of our citizens. On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we salute those in the transportation industry who work to help keep our Nation safe and moving.

America is strengthened by transportation that helps to safely and efficiently transport our troops, deliver supplies, and serve in emergency situations. My Administration is committed to maintaining and modernizing our vast transportation infrastructure to serve the country's needs now and in the future. We continue to improve the safety and security of our roads, bridges, seaports, mass transit systems, airports, airplanes, and pipelines. Protecting our transportation systems increases safety for all our citizens and helps sustain our economy.

In addition to keeping Americans safe, our transportation system is critical to our citizens' everyday lives. Americans depend on our safe, reliable, and efficient infrastructure to travel for work or pleasure. Through the Department of Transportation, we are working to reduce congestion and improve the performance of America's transportation system.

There are many transportation professionals and military service members across our Nation who work to help ensure that our transportation systems run smoothly and continue to protect our homeland. We are grateful for their dedication and service, and we recognize their important contributions to making America's transportation system the strongest and most reliable in the world.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well-being and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 18, 2007, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 13 through May 19, 2007, as National