

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

Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn how our modern transportation system contributes to the security of our citizens and the prosperity of our country and to celebrate these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, 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, 9:08 a.m., May 14, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

Proclamation 8143—National Safe Boating Week, 2007

May 10, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Millions of Americans take advantage of and participate in the special beauty of our Nation's waterways. During National Safe Boating Week, we renew our commitment to raising awareness about the importance of making safe and sound boating decisions on the water.

America's rivers, lakes, and oceans are wonderful places for boaters to gather with friends and family while enjoying the outdoors. As they do so, it is important that individuals avoid risky behaviors that can lead to boating accidents. Factors such as careless and reckless operation, inattention, and excessive speed contribute to accidents. To help ensure that individuals stay safe on America's waterways, the United States Coast Guard urges citizens to take basic safety precautions such as wearing a life jacket, participating in a boat safety course, getting a free vessel check, and never boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. By practicing responsible boating habits, citizens can help contribute to a safer, more enjoyable experience on the water.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 19 through May 25, 2007, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this week. I also urge all Americans to learn more about safe boating practices and always engage in proper and responsible conduct while on the water.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, 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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Remarks at a Republican National Committee Gala

May 10, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Please be seated, unless, of course, you don't have a chair. [*Laughter*] I'm glad you're here. And I'm glad I'm here with you, and I thank you. Thanks for coming; thanks for supporting the Republican Party. Here's our mission. Our mission is to keep the White House in 2008 and retake the Senate and the House. And you're helping, and you're helping a lot, and I really appreciate it.

I appreciate my friend Senator Mel Martinez for being the general chairman of the Republican National Committee. You know, I believe—I believe that he is the first RNC chairman to speak English as a second language. [*Laughter*] Some people think I'm the