

primary engine of innovation is the private sector. But government can help by encouraging the basic research that gives rise to promising new thought and products. And so that's why I've worked with some in this room and around our country to develop and propose the American Competitiveness Initiative. Over 10 years, this initiative will double the Federal Government's commitment to the most critical, basic research programs in physical sciences. Last year, the Congress provided more than \$10 billion, and that's just a start. And I call on leaders of both political parties to fully fund this initiative for the good of the country.

Maintaining our global leadership also requires a first-class education system. There are many things that American schools are doing right, including insisting on accountability for every single child. There are also some areas where we need to improve. And so as Members work to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act, one of their top priorities has got to be to strengthen math and science education.

One way to do that is to create an adjunct teachers corps of math and science professionals, all aiming to bring their expertise into American classrooms where—it's not really what the aim is. The aim is to make it clear to young Americans that being in science and engineering is okay; it's cool; it's a smart thing to do. And so for those of you who are involved with inspiring youngsters, thank you for what you're doing. I appreciate you encouraging the next generation to follow in your footsteps. And I ask that Congress fully fund the adjunct teacher corps, so you can have some help as you go out to inspire.

One of the many reasons that I am an optimistic fellow, and I am, is because I understand that this country is a nation of discovery and enterprise. And that spirit is really strong in America today. I found it interesting that one of today's laureates, Dr. Leslie Geddes, is 86 years old and continues to teach and conduct research at Purdue University. Even more interesting is what he had to say. He said, "I wouldn't know what else to do. I'm not done yet." [*Laughter*]

He's right. He's not done yet because the promise of science and technology never runs out. With the imagination and deter-

minations of Americans like our awardees today, our Nation will continue to discover new possibilities and to develop new innovations and build a better life for generations to come. And that's what we're here to celebrate.

And so I thank you for the many contributions to our Nation, congratulate you on your fine achievements. And now I ask the military aide to read the citations.

[*At this point, Lt. Col. Samuel Floyd, USA, Army Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:44 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on the Conclusion of Negotiations With India on a Bilateral Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

July 27, 2007

I welcome the conclusion of negotiations on a bilateral agreement between the United States and India for peaceful nuclear cooperation. I commend those from both countries who have worked hard to make this deal happen, and I look forward to working with Congress to realize this important initiative. This marks another step in the continued progress that is deepening our strategic partnership with India, a vital world leader.

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.

July 21

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 22

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced that he has named Cynthia Bergman as Special Assistant to the President for Communications.

The President announced that he has named Ann Thomas G. Johnston as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Jason Recher as Special Assistant to the President and Trip Director.

July 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Charleston Air Force Base in Charleston, SC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria to discuss the return of the Bulgarian nurses who were released from prison in Libya on July 24 and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to congratulate him on his party's July 22 election victory.

Later in the morning, the President viewed the loading of cargo planes for shipment to Iraq. He then had lunch with military personnel.

In the afternoon, the President met with family members of the Charleston firefighters who died on June 18. Later, he presented the Congressional Gold Medal to Tuskegee Airman Earl M. Middleton. He then returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, in the Residence, the President had dinner with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The President announced his intention to nominate James D. McGee to be Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vincent Obsitnik to be Ambassador to Slovenia.

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from May 28–June 2.

July 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the East Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the 2007 Boys and Girls Nation delegates.

July 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Carly and Molly Houlahan.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the East Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with National and State Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization members.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom at Camp David on July 29–30.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark M. Boulware to be Ambassador to Mauritania.

The President announced his intention to nominate Benjamin Eric Sasse to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (Planning and Evaluation).

The President announced his intention to nominate Barry L. Wells to be Ambassador to The Gambia.

July 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

**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 July 25

James D. McGee,
of Florida, 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 Zimbabwe.

Vincent Obsitnik,
of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Harry K. Thomas, Jr.,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, vice George McDade Staples.

Submitted July 26

Mark M. Boulware,
of Texas, 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 Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Benjamin Eric Sasse,
of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Michael O'Grady, resigned.

Barry Leon Wells,
of Ohio, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

**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 July 21

Statement by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel on the President's routine surveillance colonoscopy and temporary transfer of power to the Vice President

Released July 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Released July 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Nebraska

Fact sheet: Al Qaeda in Iraq

Released July 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Released July 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to Camp David

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Signs Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 556