

Ninth Ward. But Principal Hicks had a different point of view; she had a different attitude. As a matter of fact, she had a uniquely American attitude. She had a vision for a resurgent community with a vibrant school at its heart. This summer, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology became the first public school to reopen in the Lower Ninth Ward.

These stories remind us that our Nation's greatest strength is the decency and compassion of our people. As we count our many blessings, I encourage all Americans to show their thanks by giving back. You know, I just visited the Central Virginia Foodbank. If you're living in Richmond and you want to give back, help the Central Virginia Foodbank. The volunteers there help prepare thousands of meals for the poor each day. And in so doing, they make the Richmond community and our Nation a more hopeful place. And there are many ways to spread hope this holiday: Volunteer in a shelter; mentor a child; help an elderly neighbor; say thanks to one who wears our Nation's uniform.

In the four centuries since the founders of Berkeley first knelt on these grounds, our Nation has changed in many ways. Our people have prospered; our Nation has grown; our Thanksgiving traditions have evolved—after all, they didn't have football back then. [Laughter] Yet the source of all our blessings remains the same. We give thanks to the Author of Life who granted our forefathers safe passage to this land, who gives every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth the gift of freedom, and who watches over our Nation every day.

I wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving. I offer Thanksgiving greetings to every American citizen. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:24 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to John H. Hager, chairman, Republican Party of Virginia.

Statement on the Resignation of Frances Fragos Townsend as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism

November 19, 2007

Over the past 4½ years, Fran Townsend has served my administration with distinction as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. Fran has always provided wise counsel on how to best protect the American people from the threat of terrorism. She has been a steady leader in the effort to prevent and disrupt attacks and to better respond to natural disasters.

Fran's remarkable career as a public servant has spanned more than two decades. She has prosecuted violent crimes, narcotics offenses, mafia cases, and white collar fraud as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Manhattan. During her career, Fran worked to protect the American people as the Counsel to the Attorney General for Intelligence Policy, the Assistant Commandant for Intelligence at the U.S. Coast Guard, and as the Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism at the National Security Council.

With her extensive experience, intellect, and candor, Fran has ably guided the Homeland Security Council. She has played an integral role in the formation of the key strategies and policies my administration has used to combat terror and protect Americans. She has traveled the world to meet with allies in the global war on terror and has partnered extensively with first-responders at the State and local level to enhance our preparedness. We are safer today because of her leadership.

Laura and I wish Fran, her husband, John, and their two sons, James and Patrick, all the best.

**Executive Order 13451—
Designating the ITER International
Fusion Energy Organization as a
Public International Organization
Entitled To Enjoy Certain Privileges,
Exemptions, and Immunities**

November 19, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288), and finding that the United States participates in the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization under the authority of acts of Congress authorizing such participation and making an appropriation for such participation, including sections 971 and 972 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16311 and 16312) and laws making appropriations for the Department of Energy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Designation. I hereby designate the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization as a public international organization entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions, and immunities provided by the International Organizations Immunities Act.

Sec. 2. Non-Abridgement. This designation is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges, exemptions, or immunities that the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization otherwise may have acquired or may acquire by law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:06 a.m., November 20, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

**Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey
Presentation Ceremony**

November 20, 2007

The President. Good morning. Welcome to the Rose Garden. Thanks for coming. We're glad you're here at the White House. Each of you is taking part in a tradition that

goes back to the days of Harry Truman. And to paraphrase Harry today, we have a message for our two feathered friends: You cannot take the heat, and you're definitely going to stay out of the kitchen. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the representatives of the National Turkey Federation who have joined us—the chairman, Ted Seger. Appreciate you coming, Ted, thanks. Ted brought his mom—glad you're here—7 brothers, and over 30 family members, I think it is. No wonder there are so many people in the Rose Garden. [*Laughter*] But we're glad you're here. Welcome.

I also want to welcome President Joel Brandenberger. The turkeys in today's ceremony come from the Seger family farm in Dubois, Indiana. So I guess you can say they come with the chairman's seal of approval.

I also thank everybody who voted online to choose the names for our guests of honor. And I'm pleased to announce the winning names. They are "May" and "Flower." They're certainly better than the names the Vice President suggested, which was "Lunch" and "Dinner." [*Laughter*]

The national observation of Thanksgiving goes back to the days of our Founders. They asked Americans to give thanks for a nation that Benjamin Franklin famously compared to a rising sun. Over the years, Americans have found much to be thankful for. We still see our country the way Franklin did, or, as the poet Carl Sandburg put it, "In the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the hand of God."

This Thanksgiving, we are grateful for a harvest big enough to feed us all and millions more. We're grateful for citizens who reach out to those who struggle and for neighbors in need—from neighbors in need to the strangers they've never met. We're grateful for working Americans who've given us the longest period of uninterrupted job creation on record and a prosperity that lifts our citizens. And we are grateful for one blessing in particular, the men and women of the United States military. They've worn proudly the uniform of our country. They have offered their lives in our defense. And each year, thousands more volunteer to join their noble ranks and to keep us safe. And so on this Thanksgiving, we keep our—we keep