

money to train the Afghan and Iraqi security forces to take on more responsibility for the defense of their countries; they include money for intelligence operations to protect our troops on the battlefield.

Pentagon officials have warned Congress that the continued delay in funding our troops will soon begin to have a damaging impact on the operations of this Department. The warning has been laid out for the United States Congress to hear.

Recently, Secretary Gates sought to clear up any misperception that the Department can fund our troops for an indefinite period simply by shifting money around. In fact, Congress limits how much money can be moved from one account to the other. Secretary Gates has already notified Congress that he will transfer money from accounts used to fund other activities of the military services to pay for current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan—and no more money can be moved. So he has directed the Army and Marine Corps to develop a plan to lay off civilian employees, to terminate contracts, and to prepare our military bases across the country for reduced operations. These are contingency steps that a prudent manager must take.

Secretary Gates and America's senior military officials have made a reasoned case to Congress for the funds they need to keep the military running. They have carefully explained the need to plan prudently should those funds not be forthcoming. Secretary Gates puts it this way: "The Defense Department is like the world's biggest supertanker. It cannot turn on a dime, and I cannot steer it like a skiff."

The American people expect us to work together to support our troops. That's what they want. They do not want the Government to create needless uncertainty for those defending our country and uncertainty for their families. They do not want disputes in Washington to undermine our troops in Iraq just as they're seeing clear signs of success.

Here in Washington, leaders have a responsibility to send the right message to the rest of the world. Let us tell our enemies that America will do what it takes to defeat them. Let us tell Afghans and Iraqis that we will stand with them as they take the fight

to our common enemies. Let us tell our men and women in uniform that we will give them what they need to succeed in their missions, without strings and without delay.

I ask Congress to provide this essential funding to our troops before the Members leave on their Christmas vacation. And I thank the members of this Department for their hard work, their sacrifice, their courage, and their dedication to peace.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:59 p.m. at the Pentagon.

### **Statement on the Death of Former Representative Henry J. Hyde**

*November 29, 2007*

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of former Congressman Henry Hyde. From his service in the Navy during World War II until his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives last year, Henry Hyde led a life devoted to public service. During more than 30 years as a Congressman, he represented the people of Illinois with character and dignity and always stood for a strong and purposeful America. This fine man believed in the power of freedom, and he was a tireless champion of the weak and forgotten. He used his talents to build a more hopeful America and promote a culture of life. Earlier this month, in recognition of his good and purposeful life, I was proud to award Henry Hyde the Medal of Freedom.

Congressman Hyde's passing represents a great loss to the people of Illinois and our Nation, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family in this sad hour.

### **Proclamation 8207—World AIDS Day, 2007**

*November 29, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

On World AIDS Day, we reaffirm our commitment to fighting and preventing HIV/

AIDS in America and around the world. We also remember those who have lost their lives to this terrible disease and those who continue to suffer.

HIV/AIDS is a global challenge. In 2003, my Administration launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a \$15 billion mobilization, to help support prevention, treatment, and care programs in some of the hardest hit countries around the world. PEPFAR's ABC approach—abstinence, being faithful, and using condoms—with abstinence as the only sure way to avoid the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS, is helping stop the spread of this devastating disease.

In the United States as well, HIV/AIDS affects too many of our families, neighbors, and friends. We continue to fund research to develop new methods of treatment and prevention, and to emphasize voluntary HIV screening as a routine part of health care. The Ryan White CARE Act has provided Americans in need with better access to medical care, antiretroviral treatments, and counseling. With medicine, support, and their own daily courage, many citizens are managing a condition that was once often fatal.

The pandemic of HIV/AIDS can be defeated. The United States is taking the lead in this great effort, and we stand united with our international partners in combating this virus. We also recognize the essential role that faith-based and community organizations play in providing support and compassion to those living with the disease. By working together, we can give hope and comfort to millions.

**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 December 1, 2007, as World AIDS Day. On this day and throughout the year, the red ribbon helps raise awareness of the importance of fighting HIV/AIDS. This year, the White House will display this symbol from the North Portico to represent America's commitment to this struggle. I urge the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the

American people to join me in appropriate activities to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and to provide support and comfort to those living with this disease.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

### **Remarks on World AIDS Day in Mount Airy, Maryland November 30, 2007**

Tomorrow is World AIDS Day, and Laura and I are honored to commemorate the occasion here at the Calvary United Methodist Church. And we're honored to commemorate the day with people who have dedicated their lives to save lives.

I want to start by thanking Ambassador Mark Dybul, who is the Global AIDS Coordinator. His job is to make sure that America's great compassion is effective and widespread, that the goals we have set are met. And I—Mr. Ambassador, you're doing a fine job, and I want to thank you very much for serving.

I also want to thank Pastor Dennis Yocum, the pastor of this church. Dennis, I want to thank you for your hospitality—it's not easy to host the President and all those who follow the President. I want to thank the members of your church who have so graciously made our stay here so comfortable.

I really want to thank the people standing behind me for not only joining Laura and me in discussions but for serving as such powerful examples of the human spirit. Behind me are folks who understand that the scourge of HIV/AIDS can be mitigated and that people's lives can be improved, who have seen hopelessness and have seen hope, people who are willing to act on the universal call to love a neighbor. People here come