

come to the floor for a vote, is not what the people expect.

And so my call on the leadership in the House is to let this trade agreement get to the floor; let the representatives of the people decide; let there be an open and honest debate about the merits of this piece of legislation—the merits from an economic perspective and the merits from a national security perspective. And then when you pass a Colombia free trade bill, we go to South Korea and Panama and get those bills passed. And then we can go to the people who are making these products here and say, we did the job you expected us to do.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Martin Torrijos Espino of Panama; and President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 8261—National Hurricane Preparedness Week, 2008 *May 23, 2008*

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Hurricane Preparedness Week highlights the vital importance of being prepared when natural disasters strike.

Tropical storms can cause destruction over entire regions and claim the lives of many of our citizens. We can help reduce vulnerability in our communities by encouraging all citizens to be prepared and to work together. Maintaining emergency supply kits and family communication plans, and knowing what to do in an emergency can help save lives. For more information on hurricane preparedness, Americans can visit ready.gov and fema.gov to find checklists and other valuable resources to help them get prepared.

My Administration continues to support efforts to strengthen how Americans prepare for and respond to disasters. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration works to predict and track storms so that citi-

zens are more aware of potential storms. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has improved communication between Federal, State, local government, and the private sector in order to help citizens stay informed and receive the help they need. By working together, we can better prepare for, respond to, and recover from hurricanes and reduce the harm to our citizens and our communities.

As hurricane season approaches, we also express our gratitude to the volunteers and first responders who help their fellow citizens in their time of need.

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 the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 25 through May 31, 2008, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, and the media to share information about hurricane preparedness. I also urge all Americans living in vulnerable coastal areas to take appropriate measures and precautions to protect themselves, their homes, and their communities against the effects of hurricanes.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, 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, 8:50 a.m., May 28, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 29. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

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.

May 17

In the morning, at Al Janadriyah Farm in Al Janadriyah, Saudi Arabia, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had breakfast with King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where, upon arrival at Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport, they participated in a greeting with President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and his wife, Suzanne Thabet.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Four Seasons Resort, where he met with President Mubarak. They then had a working lunch. Later, he traveled to the Hyatt Regency Sharm El Sheikh.

In the evening, the President had a working dinner with President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority.

May 18

In the morning, the President met with King Abdullah II of Jordan. He then met with Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Maritim Sharm El Sheikh International Congress Center. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

May 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Situation Room, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, flooding, mudslides, and landslides on April 3 and 4.

May 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he and Mrs. Bush met with Japan's outgoing Ambassador to the U.S. Ryozo Kato and his wife, Hanayo.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Slovenia, Germany, Italy, the Holy See, France, and the United Kingdom from June 9–16.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes beginning on May 2 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Asif J. Chaudhry to be Ambassador to Moldova.

The President announced his intention to nominate Husein A. Cumber to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tina S. Kaidanow to be Ambassador to Kosovo.

The President announced his intention to appoint Grant S. Green and Dov S. Zakheim as members of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

May 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander-in-Chief George J. Lisicki.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East.

May 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Pope Air Force Base, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Amy Petrenko. He then traveled to Fort Bragg, NC, where he presented medals to soldiers and family members of soldiers killed in the war on terror.

In the afternoon, the President toured Barracks C-4122 and C-5624. Later, at the 82d Airborne Division War Memorial Museum, he attended the All American Memorial Ceremony and the unveiling of the Global War on Terror Memorial. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and record and near record snow on May 1 and 2.

The President announced his intention to nominate David F. Girard-diCarlo to be Ambassador to Austria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick J. Durkin to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael B. Bemis to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Faso, Joe Manchin III, and Harvey M. Tettlebaum to be members of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Matthew S. Petersen to be a member of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joseph Cascio as Federal Environmental Executive of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gary S. Becker, Lucille Shapiro, and Robert J. Zimmer as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science.

The President announced his intention to designate Matthew W. Friedrich as Acting Assistant Attorney General (Criminal Division).

The President announced his intention to designate Jason J. Fichtner as Acting Deputy Commissioner of Social Security.

The President announced his intention to designate Linda P.B. Katehi as Chairman of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science.

May 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Situation Room, he participated in a Homeland Security Council meeting, where he was briefed on the upcoming hurricane season. Then, on the South Lawn, he participated in an interview with Neil Cavuto of FOX News.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President declared a major disaster in Georgia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the

area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on May 11 and 12.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on May 10 and 11.

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 May 20

Asif J. Chaudhry, of Washington, 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 Moldova.

Husein A. Cumber, of Florida, to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2013, vice W. Douglas Buttrey, term expiring.

Tina S. Kaidanow, of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kosovo.

Withdrawn May 20

A. Paul Anderson, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2012 (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on August 2, 2007.

Arlene Holen, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2010, vice Robert H. Beatty,