

We remember Tony's resilient spirit. When he received a second diagnosis of cancer, he did not turn to despair. He saw it as another challenge to tackle. He found comfort in the prayers he received from millions of Americans. As he told the graduates here at Catholic University last year: "Never underestimate the power of other people's love and prayer. They have incredible power. It's as if I've been carried on the shoulders of an entire army, and they made me weightless."

Most of all, we remember Tony's love of his family. There was no doubt for Tony Snow that his family was first. When Jill reached a milestone birthday, Tony had a huge celebration. He later said that he and Jill danced that night as if they were teenagers. He said he was the most fortunate man in the world to have shared love like that. So today, Jill, our hearts are with you. And we thank you for giving Tony such a special life.

For Robbie, Kendall, and Kristi, you are in our thoughts and prayers as well. We thank you for sharing your dad with us. He talked about you all the time. He wanted nothing more than your happiness and success. You know, I used to call Tony on the weekends to get his advice. And invariably, I found him with you on the soccer field or at a swim meet or helping with your homework. He loved you a lot. Today I hope you know that we loved him a lot too.

I know it's hard to make sense of today. It is impossible to fully comprehend why such a good and vital man was taken from us so soon. But these are the great mysteries of life, and Tony knew as well as anyone that they're not ours to unveil.

The day Tony was born was also the day that many of his fellow Catholics pay tribute to Saint Justin. Justin was also a gifted thinker and writer and a powerful witness for the Christian faith. Because of his beliefs, he suffered many times of trial, and in the year 165 A.D., he was arrested. Before he received a sentence of death, he was asked: "If you are killed, do you suppose you will go to heaven?" Justin replied: "I do not suppose it, but I know and am fully persuaded of it."

Tony Snow knew that as well. That brought him great peace. When talking about the struggle he waged so admirably, he said that no matter how bad times may sometimes seem, "God doesn't promise tomorrow; he does promise eternity."

And so today we send this man of faith and character and joy on his final journey. Tony Snow has left the city of Washington for the city of God. May he find eternal rest in the arms of his Savior. And may the Author of all creation watch over his family and all those who loved him, admired him, and will always cherish his memory.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In his remarks, he referred to Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington; Father David M. O'Connell, president, Catholic University of America; and Jim Snow, father of Tony Snow. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks Following an Aerial Tour of Areas Damaged by Wildfires in Redding, California**

*July 17, 2008*

**The President.** It's been my honor to travel with the Governor and the Senator and Forest Service folks and the fire folks here in California to see the fires. Couple of things I'd like to reflect on, and I asked the Governor to say a couple of words.

One, I always come to make sure that the Federal Government is coordinating closely with the State government. I know Governor Schwarzenegger well enough to tell you that if we weren't, he'd let me know.

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California.** That's right.

**The President.** And I want to thank those in the—who work for the Federal Government for their hard work and willingness to respond quickly and their service to our country.

Secondly, I want to say something to the firefighters. We had the privilege of going and meeting some of these smoke jumpers. These are unusual people who are very courageous, determined, and dedicated. And I had this special sense there, when I was with

them, the esprit de corps, and we want to thank them for their courage.

I want to thank all those who are helping making the effort work here. People are working long hours, and the citizens of this part of the world really, really thank you for it.

I want to thank the Boy Scouts. We've got three scouts here who are representative of a bunch of scouts who are working on the Healthy Forest Initiative and are helping make sure these firefighters are—don't have to deal with some of these hot blazes the way they have in the past.

And finally, I'd like to just let the people out here know that we're paying attention in Washington, DC; we care about you; and that we'll respond as best as we possibly can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. at the Northern Operations Command Center. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Diane Feinstein of California. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Gov. Schwarzenegger.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996**

July 17, 2008

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114)(the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond August 1, 2008, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Howard L. Berman, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House

Committee on Foreign Affairs; and David R. Obey, chairman, and Jerry Lewis, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

**Remarks on Arrival in Houston, Texas**

July 18, 2008

**Congressional Candidate Pete Olson**

It sure is good to be back in Houston, Texas. I am—I've come back to help Pete Olson win the congressional seat in the 22d Congressional District. I'm proud to support him. He's a Rice University graduate; he went to the University of Texas Law School; Navy fighter pilot; proud father, loyal husband, and a smart guy.

I—our country faces some big issues, one of which is to make sure we defend our homeland against coldblooded killers. I'm convinced Congressman Olson understands that. We've got to make sure we keep our taxes low. And one thing is for certain, we need to explore for more oil and gas here at home. People are worried about the high gasoline prices. One way to take the pressure off gasoline prices is to make it clear that the United States is going to be active about finding crude oil and natural gas right here in our own hemisphere, in our own country. And I'm convinced we can do so in environmentally friendly ways.

No doubt in my mind, Pete Olson will make a fine United States Congressman, and I'm proud to be here to support him.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:38 p.m. at Ellington Field.

**Statement on the 90th Birthday of Nelson Mandela**

July 18, 2008

On behalf of the people of the United States, Laura and I extend congratulations to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on his 90th birthday. I applaud the leadership he is providing on many vital causes in South Africa and around the world. Mr. Mandela is a great example of courage, hope, and the power of freedom.