

of America. We've got people who feed the hungry, provide care for the homeless, love a neighbor in need, and it doesn't require one law from Washington, DC. Many of these folks respond to a higher law, a higher calling. This is a compassionate, decent, fantastic country, and it's been my honor to be your President for 7½ years.

I'm proud to be here with you. I'm proud to call you friend. This is not a farewell address. [Laughter] I'm sprinting to the finish. [Laughter]

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. at the Greenbrier. In his remarks, he referred to James H. "Buck" Harless, chairman of the board, International Industries Incorporated; William B. Raney, president, West Virginia Coal Association; and Mayor Debbie Fogus of White Sulphur Springs, WV.

### **Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments**

*August 1, 2008*

*Dear Madam Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to my FY 2009 Budget for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Interior, Labor, and State, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. The amounts requested are fully offset by proposed reductions to other accounts.

Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2009 Budget would not be increased by these proposed requests.

The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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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.

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#### **July 26**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### **July 28**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan. Later, in the East Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with members of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program. Then, in the Oval Office, he participated in an interview with John Chettle for his book "The Shaping of the President's Mind: What They Read and Why It Matters."

#### **July 29**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a bill signing ceremony for H.R. 1553, the Caroline Price Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008.

During the day, the President met with Chinese human rights activists Bob Fu, Sasha Gong, Ciping Huang, Rebiya Kadeer, Wei Jingsheng, Harry Wu, and interpreter Alim Seytoff. Later, he dropped by a meeting between National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi of China.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Cleveland, OH, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Linda Campbell. Later, he traveled to Euclid, OH, where he toured Lincoln Electric Company. He then traveled to Gates Mill, OH, where, at a private residence, he attended a Congressional Trust 2008 reception.

In the evening, the President stopped by the home of Gates Mill, OH, resident Ruth E. Harris to wish her a happy 91st birthday. He then returned to Washington, DC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in a bill signing ceremony for S. 2766, the Clean Boating Act of 2008.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick W. Dunne to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate James A. Slutz to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy) and to designate him as Acting.

The President announced his intention to appoint B. Jackson Miller, Dana M. Muir, and John J. Szczur as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

### **July 30**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### **July 31**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the East Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the Scouts in Action Commendation and the families of Boy Scouts who were killed during the June 11 tornado in Little Sioux, IA. Later, he traveled to Lewisburg, WV, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jackie Goodall.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to White Sulphur Springs, WV. Later, he traveled to the Bush family home in Kennebunkport, ME, arriving in the afternoon.

The White House announced that the President, Mrs. Bush, and their daughter Barbara will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic games in Beijing, China, on August 8 along with the following members of the Presidential delegation: George H.W. Bush; Clark T. Randt, Jr., and Sarah Talcott Randt; Marvin and Margaret Bush; Dorothy Bush Koch; Roland and Lois Betts; and Brad Freeman.

The President declared a major disaster in Idaho and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding from May 15–June 9.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gineen Bresso Beach to be a Commissioner of the Election Assistance Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Eileen Johnson, Robert C. O'Brien, and James Wright Willis as members of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael Lewis Cromartie and Leonard A. Leo as members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The President announced his intention to designate Cheryl Ann Oldham as Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to designate Katharine Lee Reid as Chairman of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

### **August 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced that he has nominated Michael W. Hager to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management and that he intends to designate him as Acting.

The President announced that he has nominated Deborah Hersman to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The President announced that he has nominated Gregori Lebedev to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and Alternate U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced that he has nominated Sung Y. Kim to be accorded the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six-Party Talks.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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**Submitted July 30**

Patrick W. Dunne,  
of New York, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, vice Daniel L. Cooper, resigned.

James A. Slutz,  
of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), vice Jeffrey D. Jarrett, resigned.

**Submitted July 31**

J. Richard Barry,  
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, vice William H. Barbour, Jr., retired.

Gineen Bresso Beach,  
of Florida, to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2009, vice Caroline C. Hunter, resigned.

Deborah Hersman,  
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2013 (reappointment).

Sung Y. Kim,  
of California, a Foreign Service Officer of Class One, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six-Party Talks.

Thomas Marcelle,  
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, vice Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., retired.

Anthony W. Ryan,  
of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Robert K. Steel, resigned.

John J. Tharp, Jr.,  
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Mark R. Filip, resigned.

**Submitted August 1**

Michael W. Hager,  
of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of 4 years, vice Linda M. Springer.

Gregori Lebedev,  
of Virginia, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador.

Gregori Lebedev,  
of Virginia, to be Alternate U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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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.

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**Released July 28**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director James A. Nussle and Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Edward P. Lazear on the mid-session review

Fact sheet: President Bush Meets With Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani

**Released July 29**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's meeting with Chinese human rights activists

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's goal to end chronic homelessness in America

Fact sheet: Committed to Cleaner, More Abundant Domestic Energy