

the works of Burns, Holmes, Whittier. His favorite poem was called, "Mortality," by William Knox. He knew every line, every word, by heart. He said it so often, people started to believe he had written it. In a few moments, when I sign the proclamation establishing this as a national monument, you might think of this stanza as a brief meditation, which meant so much to President Lincoln, and you might think of it any time we act to preserve our history and our heritage for our future:

For we are the same our fathers have been;  
We see the same sights our fathers have seen;  
We drink the same stream, we view the same  
Sun,

And run the same course our fathers have  
run.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon at Anderson Cottage at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Donald Hilbert, USA (Ret.), Director, and M. Sgt. Bill Woods, USA (Ret.), resident, U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home. The proclamation of July 7 establishing the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Statement on the National Economy *July 7, 2000*

Today we have more evidence that our economic strategy is working. The American economy has created more than 22 million jobs since the beginning of 1993. More than 20 million of these jobs are in the private sector, giving us the highest share of private-sector job creation since President Truman was in office. The benefits of job creation have been enjoyed across the American economy, with the unemployment rates for African-Americans and Hispanics falling to record lows this year.

This good news is another reminder that America should not reverse course with irresponsible tax cuts that risk our fiscal discipline and jeopardize our continued economic strength. Let's ensure that the American people can continue to break records by maintaining fiscal discipline, paying off the debt by 2012, keeping Social Security and Medicare strong for the next generation, and investing in education and other priorities.

## The President's Internet Address *July 8, 2000*

Good morning. Earlier this week, we launched a new and improved White House website at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). Today I want to talk a little about the website and about our other efforts to use technology to bring Government closer to the people.

I'm proud to have been the President who brought the White House into the digital age. When I became President, there were just 50 websites on the World Wide Web. Now there are 17 million, and almost 50 million households on-line in the United States alone.

It was just 6 years ago that we launched the very first White House website. Our website now has more than 9,000 pages of information, and that's not counting the archives. We've redesigned and updated it to keep pace with its growth and the rapid changes in technology. The new and improved White House website is another important step in our efforts to make Government high-speed, high-tech, and user-friendly. We're bringing information that matters into people's homes: policy papers, the citizens' handbook, links to Federal agencies.

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We've also made it easier to find the features that visitors use most, like E-mailing the White House, taking an on-line tour, or finding special activities for kids. And we've made the website a permanent part of the Executive Office of the President, so that future Presidents will be able to change it to suit their needs as easily as they can change the furniture here in the Oval Office.

Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, we've used information technology to bring Government closer to citizens in many ways. People are now using U.S. Government websites to file their taxes, compare their Medicare options, and find good jobs. They're tapping into the latest health research, browsing the vast collections of the Library of Congress, and following along with NASA's missions in outer space. And we're in the process of creating a single, customer-focused website, [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov), where Americans can find every on-line resource offered by the Federal Government.

But we must do more to ensure that the benefits of the information revolution flow to every American. That means working to close the digital divide, to put computers in every classroom, to train our teachers to make the most of them. We must also pay attention to the issues of computer security and the privacy of our records on computers so that the newest technology doesn't undermine our oldest values.

## The President's Radio Address

*July 8, 2000*

Good morning. With fewer than 40 days left on the congressional calendar, I'd like to speak with you about how we can seize this moment to modernize Medicare and help all seniors afford the prescription drugs that can lengthen and enrich their lives.

It was just 35 years ago this month that President Johnson signed the Medicare Act into law. He spoke of Medicare joining Social Security as a cornerstone of our society upon which the hopes and dreams of generations of seniors could securely rest. He directed our Nation, in his words, "never to ignore those who suffer

Eighty-one years ago this week Woodrow Wilson became the very first President to communicate by radio. On his way home from Europe, President Wilson used the radio, after several unsuccessful efforts, to call the then-young Franklin Roosevelt, who was his Assistant Secretary of the Navy back in Washington. It wasn't immediately clear how this new technology would be used or that in just 15 years Roosevelt, as President, would be making radio broadcasts that 80 percent of our Nation would hear. But it was clear that a new door to the future had opened.

We're at just such a moment again today, and the new White House website is just one small step toward bringing Government more fully into the information age. We have barely begun to understand how information technology will change our lives. But those of us in Government have a responsibility to use these new tools to expand the reach of democracy and give more people a chance to live their dreams.

I'll see you on-line at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov), and thanks for logging on.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11 a.m. on July 7 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10 a.m. on July 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

untended, in a land that is bursting with abundance."

Over these past 35 years, Medicare has proven to be a remarkable success. Before Medicare, nearly half of America's seniors didn't have any health coverage at all. Serious illness often wiped away in an instant all the savings families had put away over a lifetime of hard work. Today, nearly every senior has the security of basic health coverage. And since that time, elderly poverty has fallen dramatically, and Americans over 65 have the highest life expectancy anywhere in the world.