

not only takes great players to win a championship, it takes a great manager, too. And I know all sports fans are impressed by the class of Joe Torre. What a heck of a man he is. And Don Zimmer, you're not so bad, either. [Laughter]

But one of the things everybody forgets about Joe is that he was a pretty darn good player himself. Thirty years ago, he led the National League with a .363 batting average, 137 RBIs, and it's sure good to welcome you back here, Joe. [Laughter]

And there are fellow Texans on this team, and around here that counts for something. [Laughter] So it's good to see "the Rocket"—a friend of my family's, Roger Clemens—Andy Pettitte, and Chuck Knoblauch.

I—something about the Yankees. It's one of the greatest names in sport. It's a tradition and a powerful tradition. I mean, you put on a uniform, it's just not work clothes; it's the uniform that Ruth wore or Gehrig wore, and you all have kept up that tradition. And for that, you need to be congratulated.

It's interesting that we're hosting the great Yanks here in the Rose Garden, and then this Sunday there's a little different celebration taking place. It's a baseball celebration. But on the other side of the driveway down there, we've set up a tee-ball park. And it's a chance for moms and dads to bring tee-ball teams to celebrate

the great sport of baseball right here on the hallowed grounds of the White House. Yankee Stadium is hallowed grounds; so is the White House.

What's going to be interesting about that day is, there is going to be some little kid trying to adjust his batting gloves just like Jeter does, or somebody trying to look like Mariano Rivera, or somebody trying to emulate the swing of Tino Martinez. That's what's going to happen. And as a reminder to those who are on the field that a lot of kids look at you—they really do—and there's a lot of parents pulling for the Yanks to be champs not only on the field but off the field. And there's no question in my mind that these Yanks will rise to both occasions.

Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City and the following New York Yankees personnel: George Steinbrenner III, principal owner; Arthur Richman, senior adviser; Randy Levine, president; Brian Cashman, senior vice president and general manager; Joe Torre, manager; Don Zimmer, assistant manager; Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Mariano Rivera, pitchers; Chuck Knoblauch, outfielder; Derek Jeter, shortstop; and Tino Martinez, first baseman.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration May 4, 2001

Thank you all. We welcome you to this Cinco de Mayo celebration, even though it's on the *cuatro de Mayo*. [Laughter] But it's such an important holiday, we decided to start early.

I really appreciate *el Embajador de Mexico*, Juan Jose Bremer. Thank you for your

kind words, thank you for your leadership, and welcome.

I appreciate so very much Thalia for being here. I am thankful that she did not ask me to dance. [Laughter] But I loved her voice and loved her music. Pablo Montero—thank you very much, Pablo, for

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coming. We will treasure that beautiful gift you gave to Laura, via me. [Laughter]

It is a pleasure to see my friend Don Francisco. I had the honor of interviewing with Don Francisco before. He's a good man. And finally, *por fin, mi amigo* Emilio Estefan—Emilio, thank you very much for coming. He's lucky we didn't let him in without Gloria. [Laughter] I know you join me in thanking the fantastic dancers and the mariachis. It's such beautiful music, and the White House is blessed by your presence.

Some in my administration are here that I must introduce. Hector Barreto, he's going to make fine leader of the Small Business Administration; Eduardo Aguirre, who is going to be a senior official at the Export-Import Bank—Eduardo. Rosario Marin is here; she is going to be the Treasurer of the United States. We could go on all day long, but there's one other fellow I want to introduce. He's a friend of Mexico. He's a great United States Senator, the Senator from the State of New Mexico, Pete Domenici. Is Ed Pastor here? I don't see Ed.

Today we remember a proud moment for the people of Mexico, when Mexican soldiers won the Battle of Puebla. When the news of that victory reached this house, it was recognized and recorded by Abraham Lincoln. Then, and for many years afterwards, the United States and Mexico lived two very different histories, often divided by misperceptions and mistrust. It's changed. The United States and Mexico now share ties of history, *familia*, values,

commerce, and culture. We are more united in friendship and common purpose than ever before.

Just yesterday I had yet another visit with my friend *el Presidente* Vicente Fox. This is the third time my friend and I have had a chance to dialog about the incredibly important relationship between the United States and Mexico. And I hope people take note that in a few months he'll come back as the honored guest of the first state dinner I will have as President of the United States. We have worked together as Governors; we will work together as Presidents. And we'll always work in the spirit of mutual respect.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for people on—it's a reminder of the pride—of the proud heritage of many Americans and the warm and growing friendship between two great nations. It's a day worth celebrating.

I want to thank you all for coming. Laura and I welcome you—so pleased so many folks came. Again, I want to thank the fantastic artists who are here. *Mi Casa Blanca es su Casa Blanca. Adios.*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mexican Ambassador to the United States Juan Jose Bremer; entertainers Thalia, Pablo Montero, and Emilio and Gloria Estefan; Spanish-language television host Mario Kreutzberger, popularly known as "Don Francisco"; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

The President's Radio Address May 5, 2001

Good morning. Today I want to offer a special greeting to everyone celebrating Cinco de Mayo. This day marks the proud moment when Mexican soldiers threw back

an invading army at the Battle of Puebla. One hundred and thirty-nine years later, Cinco de Mayo pays tribute to the strong