

*May 28 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001*

Joyce Martinez, wife of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel R. Martinez; Jeni Cook, Director of Chaplain Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; former Senator Bob Dole, national chairman, and Frederick W. Smith, cochairman, World War II Memorial Campaign; and Elizabeth Dole, former Secretary of Transportation. Following his remarks, the President signed

H.R. 1696, to expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, which was assigned Public Law No. 107–11. The Memorial Day proclamation of May 25 and the Executive order of May 28 on the President’s Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation’s Veterans are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

### Statement on Signing Legislation To Expedite the Construction of the World War II Memorial

*May 28, 2001*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1696, a bill to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. It is indeed fitting that this measure becomes law on Memorial Day.

This legislation will allow the Nation to express the appreciation due the World War II generation for their selfless sacrifices that preserved the freedoms we all enjoy. I commend the Congress for a truly bipartisan effort to expedite construction of the memorial.

Now that debate over the site and basic design is concluded, the time has come for

all concerned with the creation of the memorial to act with the same determination and sense of common purpose so wonderfully displayed by those we honor. We must get the job done, so that those who served are able to see the Nation’s permanent expression of remembrance and thanks.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
May 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1696, approved May 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–11.

### Remarks at a Memorial Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

*May 28, 2001*

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for those kind remarks. Secretary Principi, General Shelton, and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jackson, members of the Cabinet, Members of the United States Congress, honored guests. We have a lot of generations represented here today. But I would like for what’s now called the “Greatest Generation” to please stand with those who served in World War II, their

widows, World War II orphans. Please rise. [*Applause*]

My fellow Americans, a few moments ago, for the first time as President, I paid tribute at this tomb where American soldiers were laid to rest. Their names are known only to God, but there is much we do know about them and about all the others we remember today. We know that they all loved their lives as we love ours. We