

Videotaped Remarks for the “Thanks for Giving” Campaign
November 20, 2001

The President. This year, Thanksgiving will mean more than it ever has before.

The First Lady. So many have given their time, their talent—

The President. —their bravery, their sacrifice, and courage to keep this country strong. Some believe it’s astonishing; I believe it’s the American character.

The First Lady. As your family gathers, give thanks, and think of all that can be done in your community.

The President. Thanks for making such a difference. Thanks for giving.

God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President’s remarks were videotaped during the afternoon on November 15 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for later broadcast. The public service announcement and the script were released on the White House web site on November 20.

Remarks to the Community at Fort Campbell, Kentucky
November 21, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. At ease. Thank you all very much. Laura and I are proud, really proud, to be with the men and women of the finest army in the whole world. This Thanksgiving, Americans are especially thankful for our freedom, and we are especially thankful to you, the people who keep us free.

I want to thank your general, “Commander Cody,” for his hospitality and for his leadership. I took a good look at him. I’m glad he’s on my side, and I’m glad you are, as well. I want to thank General Ellis. General Ellis has got a huge job. We’ve called upon a good man to accomplish that job.

I want to thank Sergeant Major Clifford West. I want to thank the Governors from the States represented here at Fort Campbell: Governor Paul Patton and Governor Don Sundquist, from Kentucky and Tennessee.

I want to thank the Senators who are here with us from the two States: Senator Mitch McConnell, my good friend—I hope to see him in DC for a lot of years coming; and I want to thank Jim Bunning. He was

telling me he thought my fastball, when I threw it at Yankee Stadium, had a little zip on it. Nothing like his fastballs. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Senator Fred Thompson and Senator Bill Frist, two fine United States Senators from Tennessee. I want to thank Congressman Ed Bryant from Tennessee for being here, as well. All of these men respect and support the United States military, and they represent the best of our country in the Halls of our Congress.

Congressman Ed Whitfield, who represents this district, wanted to be here today, but he’s spending the holiday with the U.S. service men and women from Kentucky who are stationed in Kosovo. They’re in our prayers this Thanksgiving, as are all the troops overseas. And I want to thank Congressman Whitfield’s dad, Mr. E.O. Whitfield, for coming here in his stead.

[*At this point, a woman cheered.*]

The President. Sounds like E.O. brought his wife. [*Laughter*]

We’re honored to be at the home of the 101st Airborne. I’ve got two words I

want to say to you: “Air assault!” I met some of you all when I visited Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo, and some of you invited me to your home. I came, and I’m glad I’m here. I will always remember this as the day I ate turkey with the Screaming Eagles.

More than 3,000 soldiers from this post have been deployed to Kosovo for 6-month rotations. They kept supplies away from rebels in Macedonia, made the recent election in Kosovo possible. I’m glad to report that all of them from this base will be home by Thanksgiving.

And there are other fine units that call Fort Campbell home: the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; the 5th Special Forces Group; other essential groups that shall remain nameless. *[Laughter]*

All Americans are especially grateful—especially grateful—for the sacrifice of our military families, the husbands and wives, the sons and daughters, the mothers and dads. Some of you have loved ones that are deployed or will be deployed far from home in a war against terror and evil. And our Nation and the world are counting on your loved ones. They’re making us secure, and they are making us proud.

Men and women of Fort Campbell, your country and your President are proud of you, as well. The 101st Airborne—the 101st Airborne is living out its motto; once again, you have a “rendezvous with destiny.” And so does our country. We’re freedom’s home and defender. And today, we’re the target of freedom’s enemies.

Our enemies are evil, and they’re ruthless. They have no conscience. They have no mercy. They have killed thousands of our citizens and seek to kill many more. They seek to overthrow friendly governments to force America to retreat from the world. They seek weapons of mass destruction. But we’re seeking them. We’re fighting them, and one by one, we’re bringing them to justice.

We fight now—this great Nation fights now to save ourselves and our children

from living in a world of fear. We fight now because we will not permit the terrorists, these vicious and evil men, to hijack a peaceful religion and to impose their will on America and the world. We fight now, and we will keep on fighting until our victory is complete.

We cannot know every turn this war will take. But I’m confident of the outcome. I believe in the strong resolve of the American people. I believe good triumphs over evil, and I believe in the fearless hearts of the United States military.

We fight the terrorists, and we fight all of those who give them aid. America has a message for the nations of the world: If you harbor terrorists, you are terrorists; if you train or arm a terrorist, you are a terrorist; if you feed a terrorist or fund a terrorist, you’re a terrorist, and you will be held accountable by the United States and our friends.

The Taliban know that. Our military forces and the forces of our allies, and many Afghans seeking a better future, are liberating Afghanistan. And the Afghan people are celebrating. Today 27 of 30 Afghanistan provinces are no longer under Taliban control. We’ve cut the Taliban and terrorists’ lines of communications, and they’re on the run.

We’ve made a good start in Afghanistan; yet, there is still a lot to be done. There are still terrorists on the loose in Afghanistan, and we will find and destroy their network, piece by piece. The most difficult steps in this mission still lie ahead. Our enemies hide in sophisticated cave complexes, located in some of the most mountainous and rugged territory. These hideouts are heavily fortified and defended by fanatics who will fight to the death. Unlike efforts to liberate a town or destroy Taliban equipment, success against these cells may come more slowly. But we’ll prevail. We’ll prevail with a combination of good information, decisive action, and great military skill.

The enemy—the enemy hopes they can hide until we tire. But we’re going to prove

them wrong. We will never tire, and we will hunt them down.

The Afghan people deserve a just and stable government. And we will work with the United Nations to help them build it. Our diplomats in the region, in Europe, in New York, and in Washington, are in communications with all parties. We're urging them to move quickly toward a government that is broadly based, multiethnic, and protects the rights and dignity of all Afghan citizens, including women.

Winter is coming, and years of drought and Taliban misrule have placed many Afghans on the brink of starvation. We will work with the world to bring them food and medicine. While we fight evil, this great country will help those who suffer.

Afghanistan is just the beginning on the war against terror. There are other terrorists who threaten America and our friends, and there are other nations willing to sponsor them. We will not be secure as a nation until all of these threats are defeated. Across the world and across the years, we will fight these evil ones, and we will win.

Great causes are not easy causes. It was a long way from Bunker Hill to Yorktown. It was a long way for the 101st from Normandy to final victory over fascism in Europe. When wronged, our great Nation has always been patient and determined and relentless, and that's the way we are today. We have defeated enemies of freedom before, and we will defeat them again.

And this struggle must be won at home, in our own cities, on our own soil. A lot of good people—police officers, FBI agents, intelligence agents, and health officials—are working hard to protect Americans from new threats. And Americans are being vigilant, themselves. No matter what lies ahead, we'll be alert; we'll be careful; and we'll never be intimidated. We're proud Americans, and we'll live like Americans: We'll travel; we'll build on our prosperity; we'll live the lives of free people.

Yet, make no mistake about it: Wars are not won on the homefront alone. Wars are

won by taking the fight to the enemy. America is not waiting for terrorists to try to strike us again. Wherever they hide, wherever they plot, we will strike the terrorists.

This mission will require sacrifice by our men and women in uniform. America appreciates that sacrifice. And I make a promise in return: Our military will have everything you need to win in the long battle that lies ahead. You'll have every resource, every weapon, every possible tool to ensure full victory for the cause of freedom.

These have been hard months for Americans. Yet, this Thanksgiving we have so much to be thankful for. We're thankful for the love of our families. We're thankful for the goodness and generosity of our fellow citizens. We're thankful for the freedoms of our country. And we're so very thankful to you, the men and women who wear our uniform.

Thanks to you, the people of Afghanistan have the hope of a better life. Thanks to you, many Afghan women are walking in public again and walking with dignity. Thanks to you, eight humanitarian aid workers, including two Americans, are free today, instead of sitting in a Taliban jail. Thanks to you, every nation is seeing what will happen if you cast your lot with the terrorists. Thanks to you, there is less fear in the world and more freedom and more hope and a better chance for peace.

Every one of you is dedicated to something greater than yourself. You put your country ahead of your comfort. You live by a code, and you fight for a cause. And I'm honored to be your Commander in Chief.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I want to thank you all for such a warm greeting. I want to thank your service to a great nation.

May God bless the men and women who wear our uniform, and may God bless America.

Nov. 21 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:48 p.m. at the parade grounds. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Richard A. Cody, USA, commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford R. West, USA, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell; Gen. Larry R. Ellis, commanding general,

U.S. Army Forces Command; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry of the United States, Peter Bunch and Diana Thomas of Australia, and George Taubmann, Margrit Stebnar, Kati Jelinek, and Silke Duerrkopf of Germany.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Burma *November 21, 2001*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was

declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

The President's Radio Address *November 24, 2001*

Good morning. Thanksgiving this year comes 72 days after a terrible national shock, an act of evil that caused, and continues to cause, so much suffering. Yet, the evil the terrorists intended has resulted in good they never expected. And this holiday season, Americans have much to be thankful for.

We're thankful for the character of our fellow citizens who are flying flags and donating to charity and comforting those who grieve. Americans have aided the families of victims and the starving children of Afghanistan, half a world away. This country has a good and generous heart.

We're thankful for the decency of the American people who have stood for the American tradition of tolerance and reli-

gious liberty, a tradition that has welcomed and protected generations of immigrants from every faith and background.

We are thankful for new heroes, police officers and firefighters and emergency workers, who have renewed our respect for public service and provided lasting lessons in courage.

We're thankful for the men and women of our military, who are defending our lives and liberty with such skill, honor, and success.

We're thankful, this year even more intensely, for our lives and our families and the love of those around us. Americans are remembering what really matters—holding our children more closely, giving them more time.