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Perry, superintendent of schools, Alexandria City Public Schools; and Harold Decker, chief executive officer, American Red Cross.

Statement on the Death of John Robson
March 20, 2002

I am deeply saddened by the death of John Robson. John was a man of true character and integrity. Serving four Presidents with dedication and honor, most recently as Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, John set an example of distinguished public service. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Margaret, and to his son, Doug. He will be missed.

Statement on the Observance of Nowruz
March 20, 2002

I send warm greetings to Iranian-Americans and the Iranian people observing Nowruz, the traditional Persian New Year.

This year's observance occurs at a time when our Nation is united in its determination to make the world safe from terrorism. The community of more than one million Iranian-Americans has fully participated in this noble endeavor by condemning the terrorist acts, participating in rescue efforts at Ground Zero, and offering help and support to the victims, who included individuals of Persian heritage.

From arts and education to industry and science, Iranian-Americans have made significant and enduring contributions to the cultural and civic life of our Nation. Your observance of the traditional Persian New Year honors an ancient and storied history and marks a time of renewal. As the season changes, may your observance of Nowruz serve as a special time for you to reflect on your rich heritage and to enjoy the company of family and friends.

Statement on the Observance of Nowruz
March 20, 2002

I send warm greetings to Afghans and Afghan-Americans observing Nowruz.

This year's observance occurs during a period of trial, when the people of Afghanistan and the United States are joined in our determination to make the world safe from terrorism. Afghans have shown extraordinary courage in helping to rid their country of the Taliban and Al Qaida. We will continue to help Afghanistan become a stable, prosperous, and free country. And we will support Afghanistan in its effort to protect itself from becoming a base for international terrorism.

This Nowruz will be particularly special to millions of Afghans. Throughout their