

America, is going to be a more peaceful place, and I think at home, we can be a more compassionate place as well.

People say to me, "You know, Mr. President, what can I do in the war against terror?" My answer is, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you want to fight evil, do some good. It doesn't take much. I talked about the ultimate sacrifice of serving something greater than yourself. But you can serve something greater than yourself by mentoring a child. You can serve something greater than yourself by feeding the homeless. You can serve something greater than yourself by just walking across the street to a shut-in and saying, "I love you. Is there anything I can do to make your day better?" If you want to fight evil, do some good.

And there's all kinds of opportunities. We've got the USA Freedom Corps for old and young alike who want to volunteer. We've got a Peace Corps that we're going to expand and send around—double the size of the Peace Corps. There's all kinds of opportunities. In my State—in my State—my speech in front of the Congress, I said, "Why don't—if you want to help, dedicate 4,000 hours of your life from this point forward to help a neighbor in need." And it's happening.

I truly believe out of the evil will come a new culture of personal responsibility, one that says—that stands in contrast, by the way, to a period of time that said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." There's a new culture that's coming around that

says, "I'm responsible for the decisions I make in life. I'm responsible for loving my family. I'm responsible for loving my neighbor." And to make that responsibility era full, if you're running a company in America, you have responsibility to be honest and open with your shareholders and your employees as well. It's happening, and it's happening in this country because the strength of America is not in the halls of our governments; the strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of incredibly decent and kind and compassionate Americans.

No, out of evil will come incredible good. The world will not only be more peaceful, but this world will show the true face—this country will show the world the true face of America, a welcoming society, a society that says that the American Dream belongs to all, a society that's willing to tackle the pockets of despair and hopelessness with love and compassion and decency. Out of the evil done on September the 11th, we will show the world the true nature of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank you all for coming to support this good man, and thank you for giving me the honor of being the President of the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B at the Santa Clara Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of gubernatorial candidate William Simon; Gov. Gray Davis of California; and former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas.

## Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Medal of Honor Posthumously to Captain Ben L. Salomon and Captain Jon E. Swanson *May 1, 2002*

Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House, and welcome to our beautiful

Rose Garden. We gather in tribute to two

young men who died long ago in the service to America. In awarding the Medal of Honor to Captain Ben Salomon and Captain Jon Swanson, the United States acknowledges a debt that time has not diminished.

It's my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tony Principi; Secretary Tom White of the Army; General Eric Shinseki; General John Jumper; Brigadier General David Hicks, the chaplain—thank you, General Hicks for your prayer; Congressman Brad Sherman; Congressman Charlie Norwood; Congressman Mark Udall; World War II veterans; Vietnam veterans; fellow Americans.

Joining us in this ceremony are four men who themselves earned the Medal of Honor: Barney Barnum, Al Rascon, Brian Thacker, and Nicky Bacon. Thank you all for coming. President Harry S. Truman said he would rather have earned the Medal of Honor than be the Commander in Chief. When you meet a veteran who wears that medal, remember the moment, because you are looking at one of the bravest ever to wear our country's uniform. We're honored to welcome these gentlemen.

I'm also pleased to welcome the family of Captain Swanson: Sandee Swanson and their daughters, Holly and Brigid. We're so glad you all are here. I know how proud you must be of the man you have loved and missed for so many years. And seeing you here today, I know that Jon would be extremely proud.

For Captain Ben Salomon, no living relatives remain to witness this moment. And even though they never met, Captain Salomon is represented today by a true friend, Dr. Robert West. Welcome, sir.

Five years ago, Dr. West was reading about his fellow alumni of the University of Southern California's dental school. He came upon the story of Ben Salomon of the class of 1937, who was a surgeon in World War II and was posthumously nominated for the Medal of Honor. The medal was denied on a technicality. Looking into

the matter, Dr. West found that an honest error had occurred and that Captain Salomon was indeed eligible to receive the Medal of Honor.

He earned it on the day he died, July the 7th, 1944. Captain Salomon was serving in the Marianas Islands as a surgeon in the 27th Infantry Division, when his battalion came under ferocious attack by thousands of Japanese soldiers. The American units sustained massive casualties, and the advancing enemy soon descended on Captain Salomon's aid station. To defend the wounded men in his care, Captain Salomon killed several enemy soldiers who had entered the aid station. As the advance continued, he ordered comrades to evacuate the tent and carry away the wounded. He went out to face the enemy alone and was last heard shouting, "I'll hold them off until you get them to safety. See you later."

In the moments that followed, Captain Salomon singlehandedly killed 98 enemy soldiers, saving many American lives but sacrificing his own. As best the Army could tell, he was shot 24 times before he fell, more than 50 times after that. And when they found his body, he was still at his gun.

No one who knew him is with us this afternoon. Yet, America will always know Benjamin Louis Salomon by the citation to be read shortly. It tells of one young man who was the match for 100, a person of true valor who now receives the honor due him from a grateful country.

The Medal of Honor recognizes acts of bravery that no superior could rightly order a soldier to perform. The courage it signifies—gallant, intrepid service at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty—is written forever in the service record of Army Captain Jon Swanson.

A helicopter pilot in the Vietnam war, Captain Swanson flew his last mission on his second tour of duty, on February 26th, 1971, over Cambodia. As allied forces on the ground came under heavy enemy fire, Captain Swanson was called in to provide

close air support. Flying at treetop level, he found and engaged the enemy, exposing himself to intense fire from the ground. He ran out of heavy ordnance, yet continued to drop smoke grenades to mark other targets for nearby gunships.

Captain Swanson made it back to safety, his ammunition nearly gone and his Scout helicopter heavily damaged. Had he stayed on the ground, no one would have faulted him. But he had seen more—he had seen that more targets needed marking to eliminate the danger to the troops on the ground. He volunteered to do the job himself, flying directly into enemy fire, until his helicopter exploded in flight.

Captain Swanson's actions, said one fellow officer, "were the highest degree of personal bravery and self-sacrifice I have ever witnessed." Others agreed, and the Medal of Honor was recommended by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and by the late Admiral John McCain. However, only the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded, until a recent review of the case made

clear that the Nation's highest military honor was in order. And so today, on what would have been his 60th birthday, the Medal of Honor is presented to the family of Jon Edward Swanson.

The two events we recognize today took place a generation apart, but they represent the same tradition. That tradition of military valor and sacrifice has preserved our country and continues to this day. Captain Salomon and Captain Swanson never lived to wear this medal, but they will be honored forever in the memory of our country.

And now, Commander Reynolds, will you please read the citations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army. Following the President's remarks, Lt. Comdr. Steve Reynolds, USCG, Coast Guard Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.

## The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders *May 2, 2002*

*President Bush* It is a pleasure to welcome President Aznar and President Prodi to Washington, DC, for this summit. We had a good discussion on the common challenges facing the United States and the European Union, including the urgent need to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

Just one month ago I called on all the parties in the Middle East to step up to their responsibilities to end terror, to make progress toward peace, and to build better lives for all the people of the region. In recent days, we're beginning to see some signs of progress. The situation in Ramallah has been resolved nonviolently. We're working for peace in Bethlehem. I'm en-

couraged by my meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah and the steps he has taken to advance his vision of peace. Next week I will meet with Prime Minister Sharon and King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss next steps on the road ahead.

The United States and the EU share a common vision of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security. This vision offers the Palestinian people a new opportunity to choose how they live. We should take this opportunity to help build institutions that will serve the Palestinian people, a Palestinian state, and its neighbors as well.

A Palestinian state must be achieved by negotiating an end to occupation, but such