

the Members of Congress who put the interest of the workers and taxpayers ahead of lawyers. I look forward to working with the new Congress on stronger measures to prevent abusive lawsuits. And today I'm taking steps to ensure that no taxpayer dollar will be spent on legal settlements without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary will work to ensure that settlements are fair to victims, not windfalls for the legal class of America.

The act of Congress I sign today will encourage greater competition in the insurance market and add strength to our economy. But there's more to do. I'll work with Democrats and Republicans in the next Congress to pass a growth-and-jobs package early next year. My Administration is determined to make America safer, to make our economy stronger, and we're making progress on both fronts.

America has entered a new kind of war, requiring aggressive action abroad and active defense at home. Yesterday I signed into law the new Department of Homeland Security, to organize our Government for the long-term challenge of protecting America. Today, with terrorism insurance, we're defending America by making our economy more secure. Both these achievements show the unity of our Nation in a time of testing and our resolve to lead America to a better day.

I'm now pleased to sign the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 3210, approved November 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107-297. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Memorandum on Implementation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

November 26, 2002

### *Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury*

I hereby direct you to exercise your authority under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to propose a rule that would require an insurer to obtain your advance

approval of any proposed settlement of causes of action described in section 107 arising out of or resulting from an act of terrorism.

GEORGE W. BUSH

## Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 26, 2002

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad you all are here.

I see the turkey standing there. [*Laughter*] He looks a little nervous, doesn't he? [*Laughter*] He probably thinks he's going to have a press conference. [*Laughter*]

I really appreciate you coming to watch me give this bird a Presidential pardon. I'm especially glad to see all the young people who are here. Thank you for coming—and such wonderful looking costumes. We welcome the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Boy Scouts, and school students from the

Washington, DC, area. Thanks for coming to the White House.

I wish my dog Barney was here. [*Laughter*] But I'm afraid Barney would have met his match with that turkey. [*Laughter*] So we kept him inside.

I want to thank the Secretary of Agriculture for coming. Ann, it's great to see you. I appreciate all our distinguished guests for being here. I particularly want to thank Ron Prestage, who is the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. It turns out his dad, Bill, was the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. We kind of like father-and-son combos around here. [*Laughter*] It's also good to have Alice Johnson with us as well. Thank you all for coming.

The Thanksgiving proclamation which I signed this morning is a Presidential tradition which began with George Washington. The days of Thanksgiving are an American tradition. We've observed this tradition since the Pilgrims. Americans have always been a grateful people: We're grateful for our freedom; we're grateful for our families; we're grateful for our beautiful country. Each year at Thanksgiving, we gather in that spirit to count our blessings and to share those blessings with our families and with others.

On this holiday, American families will be thinking of loved ones far from home, especially members of our military, who defend our country. We remember those in other lands who suffer under oppression,

who long for freedom, and we pray that they might one day live in a world at peace and in a free society. And in this Nation of many faiths, we ask that the almighty God continue to bless us and to watch over us.

And now, as we look to our national day of Thanksgiving, I have the honor of carrying out an important Presidential tradition. The bird's name is Katie. [*Laughter*] Ron, it was awfully nice of you to name that bird after your daughter. It's a high honor to be named—to have that turkey named after your child. And it's a fine looking turkey. [*Laughter*]

By virtue of this pardon, Katie is on her way not to the dinner table but to Kidwell Farm in Herndon, Virginia. There she'll live out her days as safe and comfortable as she can be.

Thank you all for coming. Happy Thanksgiving. I look forward to having a conversation with Katie. Let's do it.

[*At this point, the President greeted audience members.*]

All right, thank you all for coming. Happy Thanksgiving.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Alice Johnson, president, National Turkey Federation. The Thanksgiving Day proclamation of November 21 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Message on the Observance of Hanukkah, 2002 *November 26, 2002*

I am pleased to send greetings to everyone celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights.

For eight days and nights, Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the ancient

story of Israel's courageous faith. In a victorious struggle against their oppressors, the Maccabees heroically overcame enormous odds to liberate the ancient kingdom of Israel. Hanukkah reminds us that faith can