

Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo, 2003

May 5, 2003

I send greetings to those celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Today, millions of people in Mexico and around the world honor the heritage of a proud people by remembering the heroic Battle of Puebla. On May 5th, 1862, Mexico's General Ignacio Zaragoza and his troops achieved a remarkable victory in the face of tremendous challenge and helped secure Mexico's freedom. This example of courage and sacrifice continues to inspire us today, as we are reminded that people of every culture, of every race, and every background, yearn to be free.

This observance also provides an opportunity for the United States to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mexican Americans to our country. Through their

vibrant culture and deep commitment to faith, family, and community, Mexican Americans have enriched our society and contributed to the diversity that makes our Nation strong. We also recognize the many Mexican Americans serving in our Armed Forces who are working to bring freedom and justice to oppressed people. As we remember our two countries' shared history and common values, we look forward to a future of continued friendship and prosperity.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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Message on the Observance of National Foster Care Month, 2003

May 5, 2003

I send greetings to those celebrating National Foster Care Month.

Children thrive in loving families where they are nurtured, comforted, and protected. For many children, foster parents provide a safe haven until they can return home or be placed with an adoptive family. Across our Nation, approximately 570,000 children are living in foster care. During this month, we honor foster and adoptive parents, mentors, community organizations, and all individuals who embrace the lives of young people in need.

My Administration remains committed to strengthening American families by setting policies that encourage a secure today and a healthy tomorrow for children and families. Through the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, we are working to keep families together. When children must

be separated from their families to protect their safety, this program supports efforts to correct the problem and reunite them safely and quickly. The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program also supports adoption and post-adoptive services to place children with loving families, to ease a child's transition into a new family, and to help ensure that families stay strong and intact. And as teens leave the foster care system, the program authorizes States to provide Independent Living vouchers of up to \$5,000 a year for education and vocational training.

Every child in America deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and loving family. I commend foster parents for providing guidance and support to young people and families in crisis. Your important work helps our children develop into confident and

successful individuals and demonstrates the compassionate spirit of our great Nation.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks to the Tax Relief Coalition May 6, 2003

Thank you all. Good to see you. Thanks for coming. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I heard you were in the neighborhood—[laughter]—so I decided to drop by and say hello. Thanks for your interest in your country. Thanks for your concern about the future. Thanks for worrying about somebody who is wondering whether he or she are going to be able to put food on the table, to find work. And that's what we're here to talk about.

The Tax Relief Coalition is a broad group, united by the commitment to the spirit of risktaking. You understand that free enterprise makes this economy go. You understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. You understand that our duty here in Washington is to set pro-growth policies in place that reward and respect Americans who work hard and take risks. That's what you understand.

I appreciate your understanding, and I'm glad you're here because you're here at just the right time. [Laughter] You see, Congress is now considering what to do. Congress is debating the package. They're trying to figure out what course to take. And I'm glad you're bringing your voices to the Halls of Congress and can be a loud voice, as both the Secretary and I understand, and that's going to be important in the Halls of Congress. [Laughter]

Last Friday, we received some troubling economic news. The unemployment rate is now at 6 percent. The news ought to serve

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as a clear signal to Members of the United States Congress that we need a bold economic recovery plan. Congress will hear from me. Congress will hear from the Secretary. Congress needs to hear from you. We need tax relief that creates the greatest number of jobs. The goal is to create a million new jobs by the end of next year. I've submitted a good, strong plan that will help meet that goal. The United States Congress must not only listen to your voice but must listen to the voice of somebody looking for work. We need aggressive action out of the United States Congress now.

I want to thank our Secretary of Treasury, John Snow. He's experienced. He's capable. He's able. He just as—he could easily have looked me in the eye and said, "No, I don't want to serve my country. I think I'm kind of happy where I am in the private sector." But no, he said, "Mr. President, I want to serve the country." And our country is better off because John Snow said yes. Mr. Secretary, thank you.

I want to thank my friend Dirk Van Dongen, who's been a tireless advocate for policies that help people looking for work. He's the president of the Tax Relief Coalition. I want to thank all the members of the Tax Relief Coalition who are here, who have joined us, who realize that democracy can work if you work at it. And I appreciate you coming.

I want to thank Tom Donohue, who is the president and CEO of the Chamber, for lending this fantastic hall and this beautiful building for—lending us this for the