

June 27 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2003

meets their individual needs, including the option of staying in their traditional plan.

Seniors will have more choices and better benefits, including long-awaited prescription drug coverage, under a modernized Medicare that provides seniors access to the newest and most effective medicines

and treatment. I will continue working closely with the Congress to improve this legislation as we move forward.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

## Statement on the Death of Strom Thurmond

June 27, 2003

Senator Strom Thurmond led an extraordinary life. He served in the Army during World War II, earning a Bronze Star for valor and landing at Normandy on D-Day. He served his country as Senator, Governor, and State legislator and was a beloved teacher, coach, husband, father, and grandfather. While campaigning across South Carolina with him in 1988, I saw

firsthand the tremendous love he had for his constituents and the admiration the people of South Carolina had for him. He was also a friend, and I was honored to have hosted his 100th birthday at the White House. Laura joins me in sending our prayers and condolences to the entire Thurmond family. He will be missed.

## Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Dinner in Los Angeles, California

June 27, 2003

Thanks for such a warm welcome, and it's great to be here in southern California. I'm honored that so many showed up. I appreciate their record-setting event. I'm grateful that you're laying the groundwork for what will be a great national victory in 2004.

I'm getting ready. *[Laughter]* I'm loosening up. *[Laughter]* But I want to remind you, in order for us to win I'm going to need your help to energize the grassroots, to talk to your neighbors, to put signs in the yard, and to remind people that my vision is for a vision that's hopeful for all Americans.

The political season is going to come in its own time; there will be plenty of time for politics. Right now I'm focused on the people's business in our Nation's Capital. We have a lot on the agenda. And I'm

going to continue to work hard to earn the confidence of our fellow Americans by making sure that this country is secure and strong and prosperous and free.

I'd like to stay for dinner, but I'm off to Crawford. *[Laughter]* I just talked to Laura on the phone, and she sends her very best. She is a fabulous First Lady for America. I want to thank my friend Brad Freeman for his friendship, his not-so-short introduction—*[laughter]*—and his hard work. I want to thank all the cochair for this event. I appreciate so very much your hard work to make this such a success.

I'm honored that Governor Linda Lingle from Hawaii is with us today. She is a—she's a breath of fresh air for the State of Hawaii. I know we've got at least one Members of the United States Congress—Darrell Issa is with us today. Thank you,