

If you're fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you're worried about the quality of the education in the community in which you live, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you're responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a new responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourself.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of our leaders. This isn't one of those times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high and the challenges are difficult, a period of time when American resolve is needed.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. I stood with George and Rudy. I'll never forget that day. There were workers in hardhats shouting at the top of their lungs, "Whatever it takes." I remember a fellow pointed at me and said, "Mr. President, never let me down." As we all did that day, the men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

In these times, I have also been witness to the character of this Nation. Not so long ago, some had their doubts about the American character, whether we could meet a serious challenge or whether we had the capacity to serve a cause greater than self-interest. But Americans have given their answer. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We will need all of these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead in the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every part of this country. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our country, the best days lie ahead.

God bless you all. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. at the Carltun. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; Rudolph W. Giuliani, former mayor of New York City; Alexander F. "Sandy" Treadwell, chairman, New York Republican State Committee; Mike Long, chairman, Conservative Party of New York State; Joseph Mondello, chairman, Nassau County Republican Party; and Patricia L. Acampora, New York State assemblywoman.

## Remarks Following a Wreath-Laying Ceremony for Victims of the March 11 Terrorist Attacks in Madrid, Spain *March 12, 2004*

Mr. Ambassador, thank you for having Laura and me here during this solemn occasion. The United States of America sends our prayers and sympathies to the Spanish people, who mourn the loss of life, who

today weep for their loved ones, who wonder about their future now that there's been such tragedy.

The bombings in Spain are a grim reminder that there are evil people in the

world who are willing to kill innocent life. I appreciate so very much your Government's strong stand against terrorism and terrorist organizations like ETA. The United States of America stands firmly with you as we work to make the world more peaceful and more free.

Killers try to shake our will. They try to shake our confidence in the future. Spanish people will stand firm against this type of killing, and they'll have a friend

with the American people. So Mr. Ambassador, we ask for God's blessings for the people of your great country.

Thank you very much for having Laura and me here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. at the Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC. In his remarks, he referred to Francisco Javier Ruperez Rubio, Spain's Ambassador to the U.S.; and Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA).

### Interview of the President and the First Lady by Television of Spain (TVE) March 12, 2004

#### *Reaction to March 11 Terrorist Attacks in Madrid, Spain*

*Q.* First of all, I would like to thank you very much on behalf of the Spanish people for being able to send a message. And I'd like to ask your feelings about this horrifying thing that happened yesterday in Madrid. First question: What are your feelings?

*The President.* Well, I can remember when our citizens lost life. I remember the horror, the outrage, the anger, and the incredible sadness. So I guess my—I feel the same way today. My first reaction is, my heart breaks for those who are mourning the loss of their loved one. It must be a sense of emptiness and a sense of real—their hearts are broken. And we send our prayers to those who are so sad—

*The First Lady.* Grieving, who are grieving today. We all are thinking about them. And I want all the people who lost somebody yesterday in Spain to know that the American people are sending our love and our condolences. And we know what it feels like, and we know how tough it is.

*Q.* That would be the second question. The message for the people of Spain is that of solidarity and love?

*The President.* Of course. I think the people of Spain are going to rally around

those who have lost life. It's amazing what happens when something like this happens to a society. There's an outpouring of love and concern. There's an outpouring of love here in America from people that the families in Spain will never know. There's just a lot of people who care deeply about the fact of the lost life. Neighbors will help neighbors.

I think you're going to find as well that the people of Spain—or we'll find as well—the people of Spain will refuse to be intimidated, that they're not going to allow killers, coldblooded killers, to intimidate the country. And these people kill because they hate freedom and they hate what Spain stands for. Spain is a great culture and a great people, with great traditions of democracy. And the killers hate freedom, and they're trying to intimidate. And the Spanish people will not be intimidated.

*Q.* As you know, the royal family is working hard, as is the Spanish Government, trying to heal, if it's possible. Any message for the many women, many families who now feel really lost?

*The First Lady.* I want to encourage women and men, and mothers and fathers particularly, to put their arms around their children. These are very frightening times