

This young century will be liberty's century. By promoting freedom here at home and freedom abroad, we'll build a safer world and a more hopeful America. By reforming systems of Government, we will free more Americans to be able to realize their dreams. We'll spread ownership and opportunity to every corner of this country. We'll pass the enduring values of our country to a new generation. We will continue to lead the world to become more free and more peaceful.

You know, for all Americans, these years in our history will stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This isn't one of those times. This is a time when we need firm resolve, clear vision, and a deep faith in the values that make this a great nation.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. I met a fellow behind the stage here who was at Ground Zero the same day I was at Ground Zero. He was there to save lives. I was there to thank people for saving lives—so on September the 14th, 2001, that—both of us were in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It's a day I will never forget. I told him that. I said, "It's a day that

I'll never forget." There were workers in hardhats yelling at me at the top of their lungs, "Whatever it takes." I tried to do my best to comfort those who had been in the rubble. A fellow looked me right in the eye and said, "Do not let me down." I wake up every morning—every morning—thinking about how to better protect our country. I will never relent in defending America, whatever it takes.

Four years ago, when I traveled our great country asking for the vote, I made a pledge to my fellow Americans that if you gave me a chance to serve, I would uphold the honor and the dignity of the office to which I had been elected. With your help, with your hard work, I will do so for 4 more years.

God bless. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. at the Tri-State Milton J. Ferguson Field. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Zell Miller of Georgia, who made the keynote address at the 2004 Republican National Convention; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; former Democratic Presidential candidate Howard Dean; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Remarks in Ironton, Ohio September 10, 2004

The President. Thank you all. I'm glad you all are here. Thanks for coming out. I want to introduce you—you know your Senator, Mike DeWine. This is my friend Senator Zell Miller from Georgia. One Republican, one Democrat, all united to making this country a better place for everybody.

Thank you all for coming out to say hello. We're here to ask for the vote in Ironton, Ohio, and I appreciate you giving me a chance.

We've got plans to make this world a safer place, a stronger place, and a better place for every American. I'm here to ask for your help. I'd like to—I'd like your support, I appreciate your prayers. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thanks for coming out to say hello. I appreciate you. Thank you all.

Thank you, Mayor. I appreciate you coming.

Mayor John W. Elam. President Bush, it is certainly an honor to have you here. We're looking forward to 4 more years.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Mayor Elam. I have a proclamation here that I know will take awhile to read. And I would also like to present you with a key to the city of Ironton.

The President. Oh, yes. Thanks for coming out. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:14 p.m. at the Lawrence County Courthouse. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Zell Miller of Georgia, who made the keynote address at the 2004 Republican National Convention. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Discussion in Portsmouth, Ohio September 10, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you all. Thanks. Be seated. I got some work I got to do here. [*Laughter*] First, thank you all for coming. I've got an interesting way of explaining today why I have made some decisions I made and what I intend to do to lead this country for 4 more years. I've asked some of our fellow citizens to come and share with us some stories that may help people in this part of the world understand about why we do what we do in this administration.

First of all, I want to tell you I'm here to ask for the vote. See, I believe you got to get out among the people and ask for the vote. And I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here. I'm glad you invited me to come here to Portsmouth. The murals are fantastic. They are beautiful. They said, "You got to see the murals." I said, "Okay, take me by them." [*Laughter*] And I'm glad they did. It's beautiful. What a special part of your city. Thanks for sharing them with me.

I want to thank—by the way, I always thought Roy Rogers was from Texas. [*Laughter*] I know, I'm wrong. [*Laughter*] I'm sorry Laura is not here.

Audience members. Aw-w-w!

The President. I know. We got on the bus and Zell, who is a wonderful fellow and a great friend, says to me, "You'd be

wise if you took Laura with you." I said, "Well, I know, Zell, but she went to two other States." She's out campaigning. She's a fabulous woman. You're not going to believe this, but—we're about to talk to some schoolteachers here—when I asked Laura to marry me, she was a public school librarian.

Audience members. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Public school librarians for Laura here. [*Laughter*] And so, of course, I went through the traditional, "Will you marry me?" And she said, "Yes, just so long as I don't have to give any political speeches." [*Laughter*] I said, "Okay, that's fine with me. You won't have to give any political speeches." Fortunately, she didn't hold me to that promise. [*Laughter*] She gave a heck of a speech the other night in New York City. She sends her love and sends her best.

And Zell gave a heck of a speech the other night too. The way I'd like to summarize his speech is that it's okay for a Democrat to support me for President. And if you're interested in a stronger America, a safer America, and a better America, put Dick Cheney and me back into office. And I appreciate you being here. I want to thank my friend for coming.

I know there's a lot of—[*applause*]—thank you all. Remember I've got some