

## Remarks Following a Tour of the Lake County Emergency Management Agency in Mentor, Ohio

August 2, 2006

I have just been briefed by the emergency management teams of Lake County and the other counties affected by the recent flooding. Law enforcement was there; firefighters were there; and our FEMA representative was there at the briefing.

A couple of impressions: One, the local response was really good. The interoperability between various jurisdictions was superb. And as a result, a lot of people's lives were saved. And I want to congratulate you, Sheriff, and congratulate Larry for your good work in helping people.

Secondly, FEMA has been on the ground here, and I signed a major disaster declaration for this part of the country, which means this: That individuals will be helped. Individuals will be helped with rental assistance; individuals will be helped with temporary housing; individuals will be helped with grants to help rebuild their homes; and small businesses will be helped with low-interest loans. In other words, the first wave of help from the Federal Government as a result of these disasters is now available for people whose lives were affected by the flooding.

There are still assessments going on for further Federal help and Federal assistance, and when those assessments are

made, the proper help will be granted. For those people who are wondering about the Federal help, there's toll-free numbers. You can call the emergency center, they'll give you the toll-free numbers if you've been a citizen affected by these recent floods.

Again, I want to congratulate you all for a job well done. I had the honor of talking to dispatchers, hard-working people that are on the phone all the time helping people. And now, once the lives have been saved, with the exception of one soul, that it's now time to help the people rebuild their lives. There's a lot of people concerned and a lot of people working here, and the Federal Government will do its part with the local authorities.

Thank you all very much. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:47 p.m. at the Lake County Emergency Operations and Communications Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jesse Munoz, Federal Coordinating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap of Lake County, OH; and Larry D. Greene, director, Lake County Emergency Management Agency.

## Remarks on Immigration Reform in McAllen, Texas

August 3, 2006

Thank you all very much. It's good to be home. Thank you for coming. Please be seated. You know, when I left the Governor's office, I knew I would leave it in capable hands with Rick Perry. And I'm proud of the job he's done as Governor of the State of Texas, and I'm proud to

have been introduced by the Governor of my State.

I want to thank you all for the warm welcome. It's nice to get out of Washington. *[Laughter]* It's even better to come down to Texas. And I'm proud to be with my fellow Texans.