

party lines to do what was best for his fellow Texans, and I was proud to work with him when I was Governor. Texas has lost a fine man. Laura and I pray for the

full and speedy recovery of Frank's wife, Helen. We send our deepest sympathies to the entire family for their loss.

### Statement on the Death of Police Officer Steve B. Favela November 26, 2006

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Officer Steve Favela of the Honolulu Police Department. Officer Favela died from injuries he suffered while protecting us during our visit to Hawaii. We send our condolences to his wife, Barbara, his entire family, and his fellow law enforcement officers. We pray that God will

comfort them and that their friends and loved ones will sustain them in this difficult time.

Officer Favela risked his life every day to protect the people of his community. In this time of great sadness, we give thanks for his life of service.

### Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Andrus Ansip of Estonia in Tallinn, Estonia November 28, 2006

[The Prime Minister's remarks are joined in progress.]

Prime Minister Ansip. —once again, thank you very much for your support and for the support of your country.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Ansip. [Inaudible]

President Bush. Well, we're honored to be here. It's a great country. And I thank

you for your leadership. I'm very proud of the economic accomplishments and your contributions to peace and liberty around the world. I've really been looking forward to coming here. I'm honored that you agreed to—[inaudible]. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:37 a.m. at the Stenbock House.

### Remarks Following a Meeting With Proponents of Democracy in Tallinn November 28, 2006

It's an amazing country you have here. They've got an e-government system that should be the envy of a lot of nations. They've got a tax system that is transparent,

open, and simple; people file their taxes over the Internet.

You're doing a fine job, Mr. Prime Minister. I'm proud of you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:31 a.m. at the Stenbock House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Andrus Ansip of Estonia.

## The President's News Conference With President Toomas Ilves of Estonia in Tallinn

November 28, 2006

*President Ilves.* Again, I'm very happy to greet the President of the United States, George W. Bush, in our fall weather here in Tallinn. Unfortunately, the weather isn't better than it is, but that's how it happens. This visit and these very open meetings that we have had, President Bush has had with me as well as with the Prime Minister, Andrus Ansip, truly prove that Estonia and the United States are close allies.

One of the main messages today was the message of freedom to those states who, like us, have chosen the way to democracy and freedom and will not bow to pressure from any of their neighbors, and by these countries we mean Georgia, Ukraine, the Balkan States. We should not hesitate to support these states. And we should not falter when any of our allies are losing hope or faith, and we will help them in every way we can.

We will also not falter in making Afghanistan more secure, where Estonian soldiers are helping to protect the welfare of Afghan citizens, again, together, hand in hand with the United States. NATO's greatest foreign operation in the post-cold war period—it is the greatest challenge of the postwar period. It is a challenge not only for the neighbors of these countries but also for the whole world, as was proved by September the 11th.

We are hoping to strengthen the ties between European countries and the United States. Conflicts between us are minor or nonexistent, and any issues will be easy to resolve. President Bush's visit to Tallinn is taking place at a time immediately before the summit of NATO in Riga. This summit

shows how far the Baltic States have developed and how strong the support of our allies is for us. We want to give a strong message at the summit, and that is that the doors to NATO are not closed and this is becoming a very mature, good organization.

And I want to tell Mr. Bush, welcome to Estonia.

*President Bush.* I'm proud to be the first sitting American President to visit Estonia. I'm really glad I came. Yours is a beautiful country and a strong friend and ally of the United States. I appreciate the warm welcome I've received. My only regret is that Laura is not with me. She's receiving the Christmas tree at the White House. She sends her very best, Mr. President.

We had a lot—we had a really good discussion. The President and I spent a lot of time talking about the issue of freedom and liberty and peace. I appreciate very much the leadership Estonia is providing inside NATO.

We talked about how our nations can cooperate to achieve common objectives and promote common values, values such as human dignity and human rights and the freedom to speak and worship the way one sees fit.

Estonia is a strong ally in this war on terror. I appreciate so very much the President's understanding of the need to resist tyranny. Of all the people in the world who understand what tyranny can do, it's the Estonian people. I appreciate very much the fact that Estonia is helping others resist tyranny and realize their dreams of living in a free society.