

ideals of our Nation. These are the ideals that preserve America as the beacon of hope, the great light of freedom.

A few years ago, I met a young guy named Elijah Anyieth. Elijah was a little boy, and his village was bombed during Sudan's civil war. He lost both his parents, and he spent years wandering from one refugee camp to another. Eventually, he resettled in Virginia, thanks to a partnership between a faith-based group and the State Department.

Once Elijah arrived, a local Catholic charity found him a place to call home. He came to a foreign soil after wandering in refugee camps, and he found some love. He enrolled in high school. Just last month, he graduated from college. He's landed his dream job. The boy who grew up without electricity or running water is now a mechanical engineer. Elijah, where are you? There he is, right there. [*Applause*] You applaud for a good man named Elijah, but also for those kind souls who share in the great story of this good man.

It's only in a place like America—think about it; think about our country for a second—could a life nearly extinguished by hate be restored by love and compassion.

So I've been proud to stand by you as you have worked these miracles across our country. You probably don't even realize some of the acts of kindness are miracles. I'm telling you, they are. And you can find it in the hopeful expressions on the people you've helped. And so I thank you for your efforts. I thank you for your life-changing work. And I thank you for your record of compassion that I'm confident you will build on in the years to come.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:59 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Edith Espinoza, administrative assistant, Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc., who introduced the President; Jay F. Hein, Director, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; and Rwanda's Ambassador to the U.S. James Kimonyo.

Remarks on Congressional Action on the Legislative Agenda

June 26, 2008

Fourth of July is fast approaching, and Democratic leaders in Congress have scheduled another recess. Americans are concerned that Congress may leave town with a lot of important business that hasn't been completed.

Before they leave, the Congress needs to pass an emergency war funding bill so that our troops on the frontlines have the tools they need to protect themselves and us. The House passed a good bill, and now the Senate needs to act.

Before they leave, Congress needs to give our intelligence professionals the tools they need to act quickly and effectively to monitor foreign terrorist communications so

we can stop any new attack. The House passed a good—very good bipartisan bill, and the Senate needs to act.

Before they leave, the Senate needs to make progress on the enormous backlog of nominations that they've held up. Many of these nominations are for vital positions affecting our courts, our economy, our public safety, and our national security. Every day that these nominees are delayed makes it harder for the Government to meet its responsibilities, and the Senate needs to act right away.

Now, when they come back—when they get off their recess, the Democratic Congress needs to act on critical issues that

they've failed to address. One such issue is housing legislation. The Congress needs to come together and pass responsible housing legislation to help more Americans keep their homes.

Another area of concern for the American citizens is the price of gasoline. And one way to relieve the price of gasoline is to expand domestic production of crude oil here at home. The Congress failed to act on this measure, and they got to when they come back.

And finally, the Congress needs to act when it comes to the Colombia free trade agreement. This is a good deal for our

economy. It will help our economy grow, and it's strong—to support our friend and ally in the neighborhood, Colombia.

I'm—I asked the Democratic leaders to make the last 2 days before their recess productive. I will, of course, wish the Members—to have a great Fourth of July week. And I'm looking forward to working with them to address critical issues facing our Nation when they return.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.

Statement on the United States Supreme Court Ruling on Individual Gun Rights

June 26, 2008

As a longstanding advocate of the rights of gun owners in America, I applaud the Supreme Court's historic decision today confirming what has always been clear in the Constitution: The Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear firearms.

I also agree with the Supreme Court's conclusion that the DC firearm laws violate this fundamental constitutional right. The District of Columbia should now swiftly move to ensure that its residents' rights under the Second Amendment are fully protected.

The President's Radio Address

June 28, 2008

Good morning. This week, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives held a conference to highlight the work being done by our Nation's armies of compassion, with help from the Federal Government. This conference demonstrated the remarkable difference these groups have made over the past 8 years.

When I first came to office, I was troubled to see many of our citizens' greatest needs going unmet: Too many addicts walked the rough road to recovery alone,

too many prisoners had the desire for reform, but no one to show them the way. Across our country, the hungry, homeless, and sick begged for deliverance, and too many heard only silence in reply.

The tragedy was that there were good men and women across America who had the desire to help but not the resources. Because many of them worked with small charities, they were overlooked by Washington as potential partners in service. And because many of them belonged to faith-