

has adopted numerous resolutions concerning Georgia. These resolutions are based on the premise that South Ossetia and Abkhazia remain within the borders of Georgia and that their underlying conflicts will be resolved through international negotiations. These resolutions are based on the premise that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are to be considered a part of the Georgian territory, and that to the extent that there's conflicts, they will be resolved peacefully.

These resolutions reaffirm Georgia's sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity. Russia itself has endorsed these resolutions. The international community is

clear that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are part of Georgia, and the United States fully recognizes this reality.

We will continue to stand behind Georgia's democracy; we will continue to insist that Georgia's sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity be respected.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:06 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia; and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council.

Memorandum on Assignment of Function Under Sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act To Convene a National Science and Technology Summit and Submit a Report to the Congress Detailing the Results of the Summit

August 18, 2008

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Subject: Assignment of Function Under Sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act To Convene a National Science and Technology Summit and Submit a Report to the Congress Detailing the Results of the Summit

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3,

United States Code, I hereby assign to you the function of the President under sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 19, and it was not received for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Statement on the Death of President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa of Zambia

August 19, 2008

Laura and I are saddened to hear of the passing of Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa. President Mwanawasa was a champion of democracy in his own country

and throughout Africa. As President of Zambia, President Mwanawasa launched a sweeping anticorruption campaign and dedicated himself to improving the welfare

of all Zambians. As Chairman of the Southern African Development Community, President Mwanawasa worked tirelessly to uphold the values of good governance, speaking out against human rights abuses

and threats to democracy when many others were silent.

On behalf of the United States, we extend our sincere condolences to President Mwanawasa's wife, his family, and all Zambians during this difficult time.

Remarks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Orlando, Florida

August 20, 2008

Thank you all very much. Thank you for the warm welcome. And I am proud to address the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I spoke to you when I was a Presidential candidate, and this is the fifth time that I have spoken to your national convention as your President. And every time I've been honored to meet with members of the VFW, I come away from these meetings with my—inspired by your love of country, by your devotion for duty, and for the example you set for those who wear the uniform today.

I also appreciate the fact that you're here in spite of the weather. [Laughter] Tropical Storm Fay set a challenge for this convention, but your members were wise enough to hang around. I do want to thank the citizens of—the officials of the State of Florida for working hard to make sure that people were ready to address the storm. We watched this very carefully, and I must say that the people of this State worked hard to make sure that this convention and other lives were saved. We appreciate the work of the local officials. And of course, we'll continue to monitor the storm as it moves through the area.

I do want to thank my friend George Lisicki for his leadership as your national commander. He's done a fine job on behalf of the VFW. I know firsthand; I've had him to the Oval Office. He's not afraid to speak his mind; I listen. And I know you're proud of the job he has done. And

I'm also—[applause]. And I want to thank his wife Gloria for putting up with him. [Laughter]

I do want to thank Bob Wallace, the executive director of the VFW. He has worked very hard to represent you, and he's done so in fine fashion.

I'm proud to be here with Glen Gardner, incoming national commander-in-chief of the VFW, and his wife Jean. I've known Glen for a long time; I admire him. I told him I'm fixing to retire, so I'm not going to be around to work with him. But no doubt in my mind he'll do a fine job on behalf of the VFW.

I want to thank Virginia Carman, national president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Dixie Hild is the incoming national president of the Ladies Auxiliary. I want to thank the rest of the leadership for letting me come by to visit with you.

I met an interesting person here today, a woman named Keela Carr. When I go to a city, I like to herald people who are volunteering on behalf of the country. Keela has walked from California to Washington, DC, to thank the veterans for their service to the United States of America. And I'm proud to have met Keela Carr. And I want to thank you for doing what you're doing, Keela.

And I want to thank the members of the Armed Forces that are here today. There is no greater honor than being the Commander in Chief of the United States