

Remarks on Arrival in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma September 12, 2008

I'm privileged to be the President of a country that produces citizens such as these. The United States is a country of volunteers, and three such volunteers are with us, Oklahoma citizens who serve in a variety of ways.

Karen has produced a tie to—a way to keep our—to help our soldiers stay cool in Iraq. She is supportive of our troops. She and her organization have done fine work.

The major here, a golf pro, who is going to go on his third tour in Iraq, has used his position in the golfing industry to raise money to help Gold Star families. How cool is that? This guy is going to Iraq on Monday, and yet he has—he served that way, but he also serves in a very compassionate way.

Captain Castleberry and some of his folks he works with out at sheriff's department pulled up stakes and headed down to Morgan City, Louisiana, in the wake of Gustav. Nobody made him do it; he just decided to do it on his own.

Our country is better off because millions of citizens, such as these three folks, have heard the call to serve something greater than themselves. And I urge our fellow citizens all around the Nation to find ways to serve. It turns out that when you help somebody in need, you help yourself even more.

I am deeply concerned about Hurricane Ike. It is a major storm headed toward a large population center. I was on the phone this morning with Secretary Chertoff and Director Paulison of FEMA. I spoke to my friend, Governor Perry, yesterday. The State of Texas is preparing for this emergency. I suspect there's going to be some Texans headed for Oklahoma. And I know that they're going to find good people up here who want to help them.

And so I want to thank the citizens of Oklahoma for getting ready to help a Texan in need. I urge my fellow Texans to listen carefully to what the authorities are saying in Galveston County or parts of Harris County, up and down the coast. Now, we'll be monitoring the situation very carefully. The Federal Government will not only help with the prestorm strategy, but once this storm passes, we'll be working with State and local authorities to help people recover as quickly as possible.

Thank you all for what you're doing; God bless your work. Good luck to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. at Tinker Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Karen Stark, founder, HUGS Project; Daniel M. Rooney, founder, Folds of Honor Foundation; Capt. Joe Castleberry, Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office; and Gov. J. Richard Perry of Texas.

Remarks Following a Discussion on Health Savings Accounts and an Exchange With Reporters in Oklahoma City September 12, 2008

The President. I want to thank our participants for joining me here in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I want to thank the mayor, Members of Congress, United States Sen-

ator. Most importantly, I want to thank women entrepreneurs. Seventy percent of all new jobs in America are created by small-businesses owners. Today with us are