

and responsible way to address this challenge facing our Nation. By giving the auto companies a chance to restructure, we will shield the American people from a harsh economic blow at a vulnerable time. And we will give American workers an opportunity to show the world once again that they can meet challenges with ingenuity and determination and emerge stronger than before.

Thank you for listening.

Remarks During a Visit With Volunteers of the One Warm Coat Service Project

December 22, 2008

The President. Listen, Laura and I are here with the Mayor and other volunteers who are just trying to make a difference in one person's life. And today we're honoring a project called One Warm Coat. And it's an effort—a nationwide effort to convince our fellow citizens to contribute a used, but not overly used, coat to help a soul who may need to be warm this winter.

I think there's 2,000 chapters nationwide. The program was started by this lady right here—who is the ultimate social entrepreneur—and until 1992, this was operated out of San Francisco. And today it's—as I said, there's 2,000 coat drives. If you want to help, you can get on the web page and call onewarmcoat.org—call it up on your computer.

A couple of examples, or a couple of reasons why we've come—and one such example is the great example of how a single citizen, and eventually a group of citizens, can make a difference, positive difference; that our communities are enriched by programs such as these.

We're also here, by the way, at the headquarters for Pathway to Housing, which is a program of—all aimed at helping the homeless find a place to live.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12 p.m. on December 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 19, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

And I want to thank, Mr. Mayor, your leadership—and all of you all for being involved in this vital program.

If you want to serve your Nation, you can find a lot of ways to serve. And I hope you do. I hope you realize the great blessings that come when you put your heart and soul into making somebody else's life better.

And so, Mr. Mayor, Laura and I wish you and the citizens of this fine city a happy holidays, and thank you for joining us today.

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty of Washington, DC. Thank you. Thank you for the donations from your White House staff and yourself personally.

The President. A hundred and fifty coats, I'm so pleased that those good souls who Laura and I work with agreed to contribute.

Anyway, thank you all.

The First Lady. Happy holidays. Thank you.

The President. All get a team picture, come on. Come on, Laura—soldiers in the army of compassion.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. at Pathways to Housing DC. In his remarks, he

referred to Lois Pavlow, founder, and Sherri L. Wood, national coordinator, One Warm Coat. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks Following a Visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and an Exchange With Reporters December 22, 2008

The President. Every time I come here, I get amazed at the quality of care, the professionalism, and the courage of our troops. I can say with certainty that the health care that our troops get in the military medical facilities is excellent. I am so pleased to hear from spouses and other loved ones about the care they get as well, when they come to visit their wounded child or wounded husband or wounded spouse.

And so this will probably be my last time coming here as the Commander in Chief. It gives me a great pleasure to thank all

those who serve here and all those who serve throughout our military, the military medical facilities. You know, I oftentimes say being the Commander in Chief of the military is the thing I'll miss the most, and coming here to Walter Reed is a reminder of why I'll miss it.

Thank you very much.

President's Health

Q. How is your shoulder, Mr. President?

The President. Yes, good shape, it's about an 80-mile-an-hour fastball.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2008 December 23, 2008

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

LUKE 2:10-12

Each year, Christmas brings together families, friends, and communities to rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate the wonderful gifts God has bestowed upon us. During this season, we remember Jesus' birth from the Virgin Mary, His justice and mercy that changed the world, and His ultimate sacrifice for all people. Though Jesus was born humbly in a manger, He was destined to be the Savior of

the world. The light He brought into the world continues to break through darkness and change people's lives two thousand years later.

This holiday season, as you rejoice in the good news of Jesus' love, forgiveness, acceptance, and peace, I encourage you to show grace to those less fortunate, just as God showed it to us. By serving those in need and through other acts of love and compassion, we can honor God's goodness and affirm the immeasurable value God places on the sanctity of life. We remember the members of our Armed Forces serving to protect our country and secure God's gift of freedom for others around the globe. All Americans are indebted to these men