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with full and free access to all the sites, so they can root out whatever else needs to be destroyed and then continue to monitor suspect sites. It's up to Saddam to make that happen. If he doesn't, we must be—and we are—prepared to act. As we speak, the British aircraft carrier *Invincible* is patrolling the waters of the Persian Gulf with America's 5th Fleet. United with our allies abroad, we are also united here at home. I thank the many Republicans and Democrats who have expressed strong support for our stand against this menace to global security. No one should doubt our resolve.

Throughout the 20th century, the alliance between the United States and Britain made all the difference between tyranny and freedom, chaos and security. Now, we are turning to face the challenges of a new century. And together, we will again prevail.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:40 p.m. on February 6 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 7. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the Accident Involving United States Aircraft in the Persian Gulf

February 7, 1998

Defending America's interests is difficult, dangerous work—and our men and women in uniform bear that burden every day. Nowhere is their service more important than in the Persian Gulf.

I was saddened to learn that one of our Marine Corps F/A–18 pilots, Lieutenant Colonel Henry G. Van Winkle II, lost his life yesterday in the skies over the Persian Gulf. Lieutenant Colonel Van Winkle was there as part of America's commitment to back up our determined diplomacy with force as we work to prevent Saddam Hussein from threatening the world with weapons of mass destruction.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones—and with all our men and women in uniform around the world as they serve and sacrifice every day to keep Americans safe and America strong.

Remarks at the Festival at Ford's Theatre

February 8, 1998

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. First let me say that Hillary and I, as always, have had a wonderful evening. We look forward to this every year.

I want to thank my special friend Whoopi Goldberg. God's Property was wonderful. I thank all the other magnificent performers who were here tonight. I thank Tricia Lott and Peatsy Hollings, for the work that they do, and all the other sponsors of this extraordinary evening. And a special thanks to you, Frankie, for giving 30 years of your life to a worthy and great American cause.

I also want to thank you for honoring the First Lady tonight. She has worked very hard for the last 5 years and continues to work for the arts and for the preservation of our national treasures, like Ford's Theatre. That's a special focus of our millennium project. And she convinced me that it's something all Americans should do for the 21st century.

President Kennedy once wrote that art is the great unifying and humanizing experience. We are here in Ford's Theatre in the shadow of President Lincoln's memory, a President who gave his life for the unity and the fundamental humanity of our Nation. And these wonderful young people have just sung a song that, for everyone my age, will live forever. John Kennedy was killed when I was a senior in high school; Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy when I was a senior here at Georgetown. Those of us who grew up as children in a time when our national life meant unity and humanity will be forever grateful for the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and what is embodied in this magnificent theater.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:45 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to comedienne Whoopi Goldberg; gospel music group God's Property; event cochairs Tricia Lott, wife of Senator Trent Lott, and Rita L. (Peatsy) Hollings, wife of Senator Ernest F. Hollings; and Frankie Hewitt, producing artistic director, Ford's Theatre Society. The festival was videotaped for later broadcast on the ABC Television Network as "A Gala for the President."