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the future. If we take these actions now, we can help to assure that the system that has served our parents and grandparents so well will be there to serve our children and grandchildren well into the 21st century.

Thanks to the advocates who are here—Senator Harkin and others—I'm confident that is exactly what we will do next year.

Thank you very much, and happy holidays.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Margaret Dixon, immediate past president, American Association of Retired Persons; Deborah Briceland-Betts, executive director, Older Women's League; and George J. Kourpias, president, National Council of Senior Citizens.

Statement on International Maritime Organization Action To Protect the Northern Right Whale

December 7, 1998

Today's vote by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to strengthen protections for the northern right whale is a vital step to ensure the survival of these majestic but endangered creatures.

Like many other marine mammals, the northern right whale once was hunted nearly to extinction. The 300 or so that survive spend much of the year in waters off Cape Cod and off the Georgia and Florida coasts. Biologists believe the greatest human threat they face today is collisions with large ships.

In April I instructed our representatives to the IMO to seek strong measures to address this threat. Under our proposal, approved unanimously today by the IMO, commercial ships entering the whale's calving and feeding grounds will be required to report by radio to the U.S. Coast Guard, which will relay back the latest information on the whales' locations and advice on avoiding collisions.

Today's action by the IMO demonstrates once again that through international cooperation we can restore and protect our precious oceans and the magnificent diversity of life they sustain.

Proclamation 7157—Death of Albert Gore, Sr.

December 7, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Albert Gore, Sr., was the embodiment of everything public service ought to be. The Nation has lost a great patriot and a true role model for young people everywhere.

As a mark of respect for the memory of Albert Gore, Sr., former Senator from the State of Tennessee, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions on Tuesday, December 8, 1998. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff on that day at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., December 8, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 9.

Executive Order 13106—Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay and Delegation of a Federal Pay Administration Authority

December 7, 1998

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the

United States of America, including the laws cited herein, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Statutory Pay Systems.* The rates of basic pay or salaries of the statutory pay systems (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5302(1)), as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5303(a), in accordance with section 647(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, as incorporated in Division A, section 101(h) of Public Law 105–277, are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The General Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5332(a)) at Schedule 1;

(b) The Foreign Service Schedule (22 U.S.C. 3963) at Schedule 2; and

(c) The schedules for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. 7306, 7404; section 301(a) of Public Law 102–40) at Schedule 3.

Sec. 2. *Senior Executive Service.* The rates of basic pay for senior executives in the Senior Executive Service, as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5382, are set forth on Schedule 4 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 3. *Executive Salaries.* The rates of basic pay or salaries for the following offices and positions, which remain unchanged pursuant to section 621 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, as incorporated in Division A, section 101(h) of Public Law 105–277, are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5312–5318) at Schedule 5;

(b) The Vice President (3 U.S.C. 104) and the Congress (2 U.S.C. 31) at Schedule 6; and

(c) Justices and judges (28 U.S.C. 5, 44(d), 135, 252, and 461(a)) at Schedule 7.

Sec. 4. *Uniformed Services.* Pursuant to sections 601 and 604 of Public Law 105–85, the rates of monthly basic pay (37 U.S.C. 203(a)) for members of the uniformed services and the rate of monthly cadet or midshipman pay (37 U.S.C. 203(c)) are set forth on Schedule 8 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 5. *Locality-Based Comparability Payments.* (a) Pursuant to section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, and in accordance with section 647(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, as incorporated in Division A, section 101(h) of Public Law 105–277, locality-based comparability payments shall be paid in accordance with Schedule 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(b) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall take such actions as may be necessary to implement these payments and to publish appropriate notice of such payments in the *Federal Register*.

Sec. 6. *Effective Dates.* Schedule 8 is effective on January 1, 1999. The other schedules contained herein are effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1999.

Sec. 7. *Prior Order Superseded.* Executive Order 13071 of December 29, 1997, is superseded.

Sec. 8. *Delegation of a Federal Pay Administration Authority.* Executive Order 12748, as amended, is further amended in section 2(c) by deleting "5304(h)" and inserting "5304(g)–(h)" in lieu thereof.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
December 7, 1998.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., December 8, 1998]

NOTE: This Executive order and the attached annexes were published in the *Federal Register* on December 8.

Remarks to the White House Conference on Social Security

December 8, 1998

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Let me begin by welcoming all of you and acknowledging Senators Daschle and Santorum, Congressman Gephardt and Congressman Shaw, who will speak, and the very, very large delegation we have from the United States Congress, Members of both parties right out here to my left. I thank you all for coming.

I think the fact that we have such a large representation from the Congress, as well as leaders of various organizations of people throughout the United States and people