

trying to adjust his batting gloves just like Jeter does, or somebody trying to look like Mariano Rivera or somebody trying to emulate the swing of Tino Martinez. That's what's going to happen.

And as a reminder to those who are on the field that a lot of kids look at you, they really do. And there's a lot of parents pulling for the Yanks to be champs not only on the field but off the field. And there's no question in my mind that these Yanks will rise to both occasions.

Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, Arthur Richman, senior adviser, Randy Levine, president, Brian Cashman, senior vice president and general manager, Joe Torre, manager, Don Zimmer, assistant manager, Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Mariano Rivera, pitchers, Chuck Knoblauch, outfielder, Derek Jeter, shortstop, and Tino Martinez, first baseman, New York Yankees.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 4, 2001

Thank you all. We welcome you to this Cinco de Mayo celebration, even though it's on the *cuatro de Mayo*. [Laughter] But it's such an important holiday, we decided to start early.

I really appreciate *El Embajador de Mexico*, Juan Jose Bremer. Thank you for your kind words, thank you for your leadership, and welcome.

I appreciate so very much Thalia for being here. I am thankful that she did not ask me to dance. [Laughter] But I loved her voice and loved her music. Pablo Montero. Thank you very much, Pablo, for coming. We will treasure that beautiful gift you gave to Laura, via me. [Laughter]

It is a pleasure to see my friend Don Francisco. I had the honor of interviewing with Don Francisco before. He's a good man. And finally *por fin, mi amigo* Emilio Estefan. Emilio, thank you very much for coming. He's lucky we didn't let him in without Gloria. [Laughter] I know you join me in thank-

ing the fantastic dancers and the mariachis. It's such beautiful music, and the White House is blessed by your presence.

Some in my administration are here that I must introduce. Hector Barreto, he's going to make fine leader of the Small Business Administration; Eduardo Aguirre, who is going to be a senior official at the Export-Import Bank—Eduardo. Rosario Marin is here; she is going to be the Treasurer of the United States. We could go on all day long, but there's one other fellow I want to introduce. He's a friend of Mexico. He's a great United States Senator. The Senator from the State of New Mexico, Pete Domenici. Is Ed Pastor here? I don't see Ed.

Today we remember a proud moment for the people of Mexico, when Mexican soldiers won the Battle of Puebla. When the news of that victory reached this house, it was recognized and recorded by Abraham Lincoln. Then, and for many years afterwards, the United States and Mexico lived two very different histories, often divided by misperceptions and mistrust. It's changed.

The United States and Mexico now share ties of history, *familia*, values, commerce, and culture. We are more united in friendship and common purpose than ever before. Just yesterday I had yet another visit with my friend *El Presidente* Vicente Fox. This is the third time my friend and I have had a chance to dialog about the incredibly important relationship between the United States and Mexico. And I hope people take note that in a few months he'll come back as the honored guest of the first state dinner I will have as President of the United States. We have worked together as Governors; we will work together as Presidents. And we'll always work in the spirit of mutual respect.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for people on—it's a reminder of the pride—of the proud heritage of many Americans and the warm and growing friendship between two great nations. It's a day worth celebrating.

I want to thank you all for coming. Laura and I welcome you, so pleased so many folks came.

Again, I want to thank the fantastic artists who are here. *Mi Casa Blanca es su Casa Blanca. Adios.*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Juan Jose Bremer; entertainers Pablo Montero, Emilio Estefan, Gloria Estefan, and Thalia; Spanish-language television host Mario Kreutzberger, popularly known as “Don Francisco”; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Proclamation 7432—Older Americans Month, 2001

May 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In cities, towns, and communities across the United States, older Americans make countless contributions to the life of our Nation. Each year, during the month of May, Americans acknowledge in a special way the contributions of older Americans to our society. This year’s theme, “The Many Faces of Aging,” calls on us to recognize the richness and the promise of our rapidly increasing older population.

Older adults have much to teach us, from persevering in the face of hardship to sustaining our family structure and caring for those in need. Generations of older Americans have done the hard work of building communities, places of worship, businesses, and schools, laying the foundation for our American way of life. Embodying the steadfast devotion, courage, and sacrifice that our ancestors brought to this country, older Americans continue to energize our national life. Many of these former teachers, leaders of industry, war heroes, and religious figures help new generations learn about our past by taking time out of their lives to share their experiences and to serve as role models. Their values of hard work, determination, compassion, and faith continue to benefit our families and all Americans. As we celebrate Older Americans Month, I encourage Americans to take advantage of the wisdom and experience of our elder citizens.

Working in partnership with States and local organizations, my Administration is pro-

posing that the Federal Government do more to facilitate service opportunities for seniors.

My Administration is committed to improving the quality of life of our Nation’s seniors, who are often burdened with concerns about health care. We will strengthen Medicare for the baby boomers and subsequent generations. We will renew the promise made to our seniors and people with disabilities by providing access to affordable prescription drugs and better options to meet their health care needs. By ensuring that our senior citizens live in comfort and security, we honor them and thank them for their service.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2001, as Older Americans Month. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials, businesses, communities, faith-based organizations, families, health care professionals, volunteers, and all citizens of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation’s continuing commitment to honor older Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Proclamation 7433—Small Business Week, 2001

May 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Small business owners who work long hours, juggling family and career responsibilities and serving as community volunteers, are integral to our country’s prosperity and