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we love freedom, we are always prepared to bear even its greatest costs.

Arriving here today, all of us passed the strong straight figures of men and women who serve our country today. To see their youth and discipline and clarity of purpose is humbling to a Commander in Chief. They are the new generation of America's defenders. They follow an unbroken line of good and brave and unfaltering people who have never let this country down.

Today we honor those who fell from the line, who left us never knowing how much they would be missed. We pray for them with an affection that grows deeper with the years. And we remember them, all of them, with the love of a grateful Nation.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:34 a.m. in the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. James T. Jackson, USA, Commanding General, Military District of Washington.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Commemoration in Mesa, Arizona

May 28, 2001

Thank you all very much. Secretary Principi, thank you for agreeing to serve our Nation. Thank you for your vision and hard work to make sure that those who have worn the uniform receive the benefits that they are owed. Principi is a good man who is going to do a fine job on behalf of the American people.

I'm honored to be here with my friend the Governor of the State of Arizona, Jane Dee Hull; Senator Jon Kyl from the great State of Arizona; Congressman Bob Stump, the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee; J.D. Hayworth; and the Congressman from this district, Jeff Flake.

It's an honor to be here with the commanders of Arizona's military bases. I'm pleased to be here with the distinguished guests on the stage. There's one special American here today, a man named Tom Lockhart, who was a captain in the United States Air Force, who had the dubious distinction of trying to teach me how to fly a T–38 aircraft at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. And I'm so honored my friend, Silver Star winner Tom Lockhart, is with us today, as well.

Before I begin, I do want to ask us to join in a moment of silence for a veteran who passed away today, the Congressman from the State of Massachusetts, Congressman Joe Moakley. Please join me in a moment of silence.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

Thank you very much. Joe loved America, and he will be sorely missed.

Today's the day we say thanks to many heroes. There's a true hero who is a Senator from the State of Arizona, he is overseas today, but I know you all join me in thanking John McCain for his service, not only to Arizona but to the United States of America. And no President can pass through Arizona without remembering the great Arizona statesman who left us 3 years ago, Senator and Major General Barry Goldwater.

I want to thank you all for coming out. I am so pleased that so many of your citizens lined the streets and came into this hangar on this kind of warm Arizona day. [*Laughter*] I began this day with a group of veterans at the White House by signing into law a bill to expedite construction of a national World War II Memorial on The Mall in Washington, DC.

I had the honor of bringing one of the two pens I used to sign the bill with me today and present it to the law's primary sponsor in the House of Representatives, Congressman Bob Stump.

Throughout America, we will find monuments to those who served in that war. The generation of World War II defeated one of history's greatest tyrannies, leaving graves and freedom from Europe to Asia. In Phoenix, near your State capital, you keep the anchor of the U.S.S. *Arizona*, honoring the men who died on that ship almost 60 years ago. It is time to build a lasting national memorial to World War II in our Nation's Capital, and the work begins soon.

I would like all those who served our Nation in World War II, World War II widows, and World War II orphans to raise their

hands so we can thank you for your service. [*Applause*] Now you can put them down.

Many veterans of other wars are with us today, Korea, Vietnam, the cold war, and other conflicts. We're honored by your presence. And we're honored by the president of the Buffalo Soldiers standing with us today, as well. And we're especially honored by the presence of several men who wear the Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. Thank you all for being here.

Arizona is also home to some veterans of the Navajo Code Talkers program. In the Pacific theater, these men made a brilliant and legendary contribution to victory in the Second World War. Countless American lives were spared because our military could communicate in the unbreakable code of the Navajo language. In a time of great need, our country was served bravely and served well by the Navajo.

There are many thousands of veterans in this State. And often veterans are not eager to look back at their experiences. Hardest of all is to recall the ones who never lived to be called veterans. But memory is our duty, and on this day, it is our privilege.

At 3 p.m., in every town, city, village, and hamlet in America, Americans of all walks of life are pausing for a moment of silence. It is 3 p.m. in this great State of Arizona. Please join me in a moment of silence for those who gave their lives to our great Nation.

[*A moment of silence was observed.*]

God bless.

The heroes we remember never really set out to be heroes. Each loved his life as much as we love ours. Each had a place in the world, a family waiting, and friends to see again. They thought of the future, just as we do, with plans and hopes for a long life. But they left it all behind when they went to war and parted with it forever when they died. Every Memorial Day we gather at places like this to grasp the extent of their loss and the meaning of the sacrifice. It always seems more than words can cover. In the end, all we can do is be thankful; all we can do is remember, and always appreciate the price that was paid for our own lives and our own freedom.

Today, in thousands of towns, Americans have gathered to pay their own tributes to the men and women who died young, some very young. We often think of this as one of great national loss, and that is certainly the case. But for so many, and perhaps many here today, there is one name among all the others, a name that recalls a different time and memories held close and quiet. To those who have known such loss and felt such absence in their life, Memorial Day gives formal expression to a very personal experience. Your losses can be marked but not measured. And we can never measure the value of what was gained in their sacrifice. We live it every day in the comforts of peace and the gifts of freedom. These have all been purchased for us, and we're grateful for the sacrifice.

It's not in our nature to seek out wars and conflicts, but whenever they have come, when adversaries have left us no alternative, American men and women have stood ready to take the risks and pay the ultimate price. People of the same caliber and the same character today fill the ranks of the All-Volunteer Army of the United States of America. Any foe who might ever challenge our national resolve would be repeating the grave error of defeated adversaries. Because this Nation loves peace, we do not take it for granted. And because we love freedom, we are always prepared to bear its greatest costs.

I oftentimes see the military folks who serve our Nation so proud and humbled—to see them in lines of such discipline and training and preparedness. They're the new generation of America's defenders. They follow in an unbroken line of good and brave and unfaltering people who have never let this country down.

Today we honor those who fell from the line, who left us never knowing how much they would be missed. We pray for them with an affection that grows deeper with the years. And we remember them, all of them, with the love of a grateful Nation.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. at the Champlin Fighter Aircraft Museum.

Statement on the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity II

May 28, 2001

The corruption of governmental institutions threatens the common aspirations of all honest members of the international community. It threatens our common interests in promoting political and economic stability, upholding core democratic values, ending the reign of dictators, and creating a level playing field for lawful business activities.

A few short years ago, talking openly about corruption was considered taboo. Today, however, officials from many countries are meeting and working together to demand greater transparency and accountability in public affairs. From Asia to Europe to Africa to the Americas, these efforts are exposing corrupt practices to the sunshine of public scrutiny, where, ultimately, they cannot survive.

This week the second Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity will help to keep the promotion of integrity and transparency high on the international agenda. I want to underscore the United States' support for the Global Forum's work, applaud the large number of participating states, and especially, thank the Government of the Netherlands for hosting this event.

Increasing accountability and transparency in governance around the world is an important foreign policy objective for my administration. The United States is committed to bringing renewed energy to the global anticorruption agenda and to increasing the effectiveness of the American policies and programs that address this important issue.

I salute the work of delegates to the second Global Forum, and I strongly support your important objectives.

Statement on the Death of Representative John Joseph Moakley

May 28, 2001

Laura and I extend our deepest sympathies to the Moakley family. Joe was a fine man. As a veteran and later a Congressman, he served his country and the people of Massachusetts with distinction and honor. He was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and was known for his candor, wit, and humility. We will miss him.

Remarks at Camp Pendleton, California

May 29, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. General Hagee, thank you very much. Thank you for your warm welcome here at the white house——

[*At this point, there was an interruption in the audience.*]

The President. Thank you. Behave yourself. [*Laughter*]

General Hanlon, thank you very much. And General Conway, I appreciate so very much you greeting me. It's an honor to be here with Colonel Christian, Sergeant Major Royce Coffee, Sergeant Major M.G. Markiewicz, and the fine troops of Camp Pendleton.

I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Congress who are here, stalwarts when it comes to sound defense spending, strong advocates for tax relief, education reform—Congressmen Mary Bono, Duke Cunningham, Duncan Hunter, Darrell Issa, and Dana Rohrabacher. Thank you so much for coming here.

It is a real great privilege for me to be here today. I've had a heck of a week, particularly since I've been able to spend a lot of time around America's military forces. Last Wednesday I attended a reenlistment ceremony at the White House, where we swore in a group of sailors and marine airmen to a new term. Two days later I had the honor of giving the commencement address at Annapolis at the Naval Academy. And yesterday I had the high privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery. I spent a lot of quality time with a lot of quality people, the people who wear the uniform in the United States military, the men and women who serve and sacrifice so Americans can sleep in peace, knowing that freedom is in good hands.