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America does not seek to produce more generations of war veterans; we are a peaceful Nation. But we'll always need the commitment and courage and honor that we find in our veterans. Those who have worn the uniform have made a contribution, not just to the defense of our Nation but to the character of our Nation. You've given your best to America, and in so many ways you are the best that is in America.

For all that, you have the deep respect of those who wear the uniform today, the Commander in Chief, as well. And you have the gratitude of a Nation that is in debt.

Thank you for letting me come. May God bless our veterans.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. at the Midwest Express Center. In his remarks, he referred to David, Zack, Benjamin, and Caldwell Spence, sons of Representative Spence; John F. Gwizdak, commander in chief, and James N. Goldsmith, senior vice commander in chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Bob Wallace, executive director, Veterans of Foreign Wars Washington office; Patricia Jankowski, president, and Diana Stout, senior vice president, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin. The President also referred to Executive Order 13214, President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, published in the *Federal Register* on May 31; Public Law No. 106–117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, approved November 30, 1999; and Public Law No. 107–11, to expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, approved May 28.

Exchange With Reporters at the Harley-Davidson Factory in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

August 20, 2001

The President. Everybody enjoying themselves in Waco?

Q. Love it.

The President. That's the spirit.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, there were some comments on the Sunday chat shows yesterday that you're disconnected in the Middle East peace process. Do you have any response to that?

The President. Every time I talk to you all, you ask me about the Middle East. Nothing has changed. We're very much engaged, trying to break the cycle of violence. I spoke to Ariel Sharon the other day. The Secretary of State is in constant dialog with the parties in the Middle East. In order to get to a peace process or discussions of peace, we must end the violence, and it requires two parties. It requires the desires of both parties to do that.

Thank you. Anything else?

It's great to be here in one of the world-class manufacturing companies, a company that not only is good at making a product, a company that is fabulous at marketing a product. The Harley-Davidson is a great example of the American entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to having lunch with the workers and thank them for putting out such a quality product.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:10 p.m. outside the Harley-Davidson Pilgrim Road Powertrain Operations factory. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Harley-Davidson Employees in Menomonee Falls

August 20, 2001

I really appreciate your hospitality. First of all, I'm really impressed by the quality of the workers who are here. It's obviously reflected in the quality of the product. Harley-Davidson is uniquely American. People love them. And some people are bold enough to drive them, and some of us aren't. [*Laughter*] I'm hitting the speed limit this year, 55. [*Laughter*]

But I really appreciate your hospitality and letting us come by and say hello. I can't tell you how great it is to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. I thank all the—there are more people than I can think that impress me. One of the things that impressed me, besides people's friendliness, is the number of people that said, "I pray for you and your family." For those of you that do that, thanks. It really is something unique about America—you