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"Freedom to Manage Act," and the "Managerial Flexibility Act," which will allow you to manage more efficiently and serve the public in better fashion.

Those of you in high places of Government are more than administrators and experts. You hold the ideals and hopes of the Nation in trust. And I want to thank you for your willingness to serve our great Nation.

It is an incredible honor for me to be the leader of such a strong team on behalf of the American people, a team of men and women who could be doing something else but have decided, "I want to serve the greatest land on the face of the Earth."

Let's do our duty. Let's hold ourselves to the highest of standards. And we'll leave this city and this Government better than we found it.

Thank you for having me. May God bless your work, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. at Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Ruth Sanchez-Way, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Remarks in a Welcoming Ceremony for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Arlington, Virginia

October 15, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, thanks for those kind remarks, and congratulations once again. I know your family is proud, and I want to congratulate Mary Jo, Rich, and your daughters, Nicole and Erin.

I also want to congratulate Pete Pace, who succeeds General Myers as the Vice Chairman. Pete, I want to congratulate Lynne, as well; Tiffany, Lieutenant Pete Pace, and of course, I've got to congratulate your mom, Doris. Moms are pretty important, as I learned firsthand. And so did you.

Mr. Secretary, we did a fine job in picking these two men. There's no question we made the right choice. And there's no question I made the right choice when I named you Secretary of Defense.

The country is coming to know Don like I know him. He's a no-nonsense kind of guy. He speaks his mind. He's results-oriented. He's the right man at the right time to defeat the evil ones. I appreciate your service. I appreciate the service of Paul Wolfowitz, your Deputy, and all the folks you've assembled at the Defense Department. I also want to welcome the Members of Congress who are here; I know Congressman Ike Skelton is here, and others are, as well.

General Myers and I have spent a lot of quality time together recently. He has my complete confidence. Richard B. Myers is the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, taking his place in a line that began with another general who was born in Missouri, Omar Bradley. And like Omar Bradley, General Myers is known for his calm manner, sound judgment, and his clear strategic thinking. Now, at any time those qualities would be important; but today, they're indispensable.

When General Myers and General Pace stood at my side in Crawford, Texas, this summer, I spoke of our duty to protect and defend America's values and interests in the world. Since that time, those values and interests have come under direct attack.

America has awakened to a great danger. We have entered a different kind of war. And the enemy is finding out we are ready. We are fighting this war, and we will win this war on many fronts—by diplomacy, law enforcement, financial sanctions, and intelligence. And our military is playing an essential role. Eight days ago, I sent the Armed Forces into action. They have performed with skill and precision. They know their work, and they know the American people are behind them.

I made a commitment to every service man and woman: For the mission that lies ahead, you will have everything you need, every resource, every weapon, every means to assure full victory for the United States, our allies, our friends, and the cause of freedom.

In the war against terror, there will be times of swift and visible action. There will be times of steady and quiet progress. We will be patient, and we will be persistent. The terrorists are beginning to understand: There is no place to run; there is no place to hide; there is no place to rest.

During last week's memorial service at the Pentagon, Secretary Rumsfeld observed that the terrorists reserve special contempt for the United States military. And it's easy to see why. In the values and traditions of our military, you represent everything they hate. You defend human freedom. You value life. Here and around the world, you keep the peace that they seek to destroy. You live by a code of honor and a tradition of loyalty and decency.

The new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs represents the best in this tradition. Since the day he was commissioned as second lieutenant in 1965, Dick Myers has brought great credit to his uniform and to his country. He and his outstanding Vice Chairman have assumed crucial positions at a crucial hour, and our country is thankful for your service.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in Conmy Hall at Fort Myer. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Jo Myers, wife of Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, and their son, Rich, and their daughters, Nicole and Erin; and Lynne Pace, wife of Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, their son, Lt. Pete Pace, USMC, their daughter, Tiffany, and Gen. Pace's mother, Doris Pace.

Proclamation 7485—National School Lunch Week, 2001

October 15, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's future depends on fulfilling the promise in our children. As parents, teachers, community activists, governmental leaders, and concerned citizens, we must strongly commit ourselves to ensuring that our young people receive the care, education, and resources they need to realize their potential.

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has played an important part in pursuing that goal, by serving schoolchildren nutritious, well-balanced meals. Currently, the National School Lunch Program daily provides more than 27 million lunches in more than 97,700 schools. Of the children who participate in this program, 57 percent receive their meals for free or at a reduced price. For many of them, lunch is their only meal of the day that meets recommended nutritional guidelines.

The National School Lunch Program contributes to the development of healthy eating habits among our children. The Program's Team Nutrition Initiative focuses on teaching and motivating children to make food choices that enhance their energy, growth, and potential.

The Program is vitally important to achieving our educational goals. Poorly fed children have more difficulty learning, are less attentive in class, and suffer more chronic problems, such as absenteeism and tardiness, than children who are properly nourished. By making nutritious meals available to all schoolchildren, the National School Lunch Program will help us ensure that we leave no child behind.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of our Nation's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87–780), has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 14 through October 20, 2001, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who lead child nutrition programs at the State and local levels in appropriate activities and celebrations that promote these programs.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 17.