

examples in service and sacrifice and courage. These veterans have shaped our history, and with their values, your generation will help guide our future.

God bless. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. in the auditorium at Thomas S. Wootton High School. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator Bob Dole; Rebecca Newman, principal, Thomas S. Wootton High School; and Ron Ten Eyck, commander, American Legion Post 86, Rockville, MD.

Proclamation 7491—Veterans Day, 2001

October 30, 2001

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, the signers of the Declaration of Independence declared that “all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Throughout the course of American history, courageous men and women have taken up arms to secure, defend, and maintain these core principles upon which our Nation’s freedoms depend. On September 11, 2001, terrorists ruthlessly attacked our land and these freedoms. The terrorists’ deluded attempt to assail our spirit failed, and our Nation’s response reveals that the spirit of freedom is as strong as ever. Our troops are now fighting overseas to defeat terrorism, and, in that effort, they follow in the footsteps of the 48 million men and women who, since our Nation’s founding, have stepped forward to defend our land.

Today, there are more than 25 million living veterans who served our Nation in times of peace and war. Many of them willingly entered harm’s way to fight for our freedoms. These veterans have diverse religious beliefs and come from varying backgrounds and ethnicities. By their service, they kept America strong, and they have protected our way of life from tyranny’s grip for over two cen-

turies. At this moment, men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world. They represent our resolute dedication to achieving a lasting peace out of the new challenges and threats of the 21st century.

On Veterans Day, let us pause to reflect on the sacrifices of all of those who have put on the uniform to serve in the United States military. Let us honor our veterans, who proved their heroism and love of country time and again, from Yorktown and Gettysburg to Iwo Jima and the Persian Gulf. They consistently defended our ideals across the globe; and they continue to inspire those who defend America today, half a world away. More than a million have died in service to America; and more than a million and a half have been wounded. Some sustained serious injuries in combat and now live with disabilities. Our Nation will always be grateful for the noble sacrifices made by these veterans. We can never adequately repay them. But we can honor and respect them for their service.

As we consider the sacrifices and efforts of our veterans, we must never forget that freedom comes at a cost. Therefore, I ask all schools to observe November 11 through November 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week, and to invite a veteran to speak at their school. This “Lessons in Liberty” initiative will serve to honor America’s veterans, while reminding young people of the strong principles upon which our Nation is founded. Our veterans have much to share with our young people about liberty, patriotism, democracy, and independence. They are living examples of the timeless truth that freedom is not free. I call upon our veterans to serve our country in a different way, by teaching a new generation of young Americans the importance of the liberties they helped secure.

In respect and recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103 (a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2001, as

Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 11 through November 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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., November 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Remarks to the National Association of Manufacturers

October 31, 2001

Thank you all. Welcome. Nice to see everybody. Thank you very much. I've just finished icing down my arm. [*Laughter*]

Today there's some news out on our economy, and it confirms that the events of September the 11th really shocked the Nation. It affected our workforce and affected our business base. The gross domestic product for the third quarter was negative.

People are having tough times in America. People are losing their jobs. And I'm deeply concerned about that, and I know you are, as well. Consumer confidence is down. After all, we're at war, and for the first time in our Nation's history, part of the battlefield is here at home.

Shipments, particularly in the manufacturing sector, declined dramatically in recent months. And it's time for our Government to act in a positive and constructive way. The Congress needs to pass a stimulus package

and get it to my desk before the end of November.

I had breakfast today with the Speaker and Minority Leader, Majority Leader Daschle and Senator Lott. All five of us agreed that we need to work together to get a package, that we've got to put aside political differences and act swiftly and strongly on behalf of the American worker and the American business person. And so my call to Congress is: Get to work, and get something done. The American people expect us to do just that.

I want to thank Paul O'Neill for being here. He is leading the charge on Capitol Hill for a commonsense economic stimulus package. He brings a lot of experience to the job. After all, he was a manufacturer at one time. He knows the struggles that you go through. And like me, he hurts with the workers who aren't finding work these days. And I appreciate Christie Todd being here, as well. One of the smartest things I've done is to tap some of my former Governor colleagues and ask them to come to the Government. I tapped a great one when I tapped Christie Todd Whitman. She brings a lot of sense and a good view of our environmental policy. And the American people are proud of the job she's doing, and so am I. Thank you for both being here.

I also want to thank Tim very much for his friendship and his introduction. I didn't realize you were quite so eloquent. [*Laughter*] You must be taking speech lessons. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Don Wainwright as well and, of course, Jerry Jasinowski for his friendship and support.

I—the American people know that we have acted quickly in terms of this attack that has taken place, and we've done so on the domestic front in quick order. Both Republicans and Democrats decided to spend a considerable sum of money to address the country's needs.

We've allocated \$55 billion, and it didn't take long to spend it, I might add. A big chunk of that is going to go to make sure we defend our country, make sure our Defense Department is bolstered during this war. A significant amount of money went to help New York City recover as it should. We want New York City to be on her feet. It's