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confidence and respect of the American people, but you carry our deep gratitude, as well.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who introduced the President; and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the War on Terrorism and Defense Appropriations Legislation

November 29, 2001

The House of Representatives yesterday took a bold step to ensure that we fully fund the war on terrorism. I commend the passage of the Defense Appropriation and the commitment it embodies to ensure that, even in war times, we be careful stewards of the taxpayers' money. We will fully support our troops in the field, provide the funds necessary to recover from the September 11th attacks, and spend whatever is necessary to defend our homeland. The agreement I reached with Congress in October provides sufficient funds to accomplish these goals at this time. I, therefore, urge the Senate to pass the Defense Appropriation without adding unwise spending that is not currently necessary.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Insurance Industry Terrorist Claims Legislation

November 29, 2001

I commend the House for taking an important step toward ensuring the continued availability of insurance for terrorist-related acts and for ensuring that victims of terrorism don't also become subjects of unfair lawsuits. Access to affordable insurance is necessary for a stable and productive economy where builders continue to build and investors continue to invest. It is time for the Senate to focus on this important issue.

Remarks at a Viewing of "Mark Twain Tonight"

November 29, 2001

Well, thank you all very much, and good evening. Tonight we'll see an extraordinary performer celebrating an extraordinary American life. And it is my honor to welcome you all here.

I particularly want to welcome Dixie Carter. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. I want to say to the students, thank you for coming, and thank you for taking interest in American literature. I want to thank your teachers, as well, and all the scholars who have studied the life and work of Mark Twain.

It's also my honor to introduce our host this evening. This performance helps mark the beginning of a series titled "A White House Salute to American Authors." Promoting American writers is one of Laura's, our First Lady's, projects as well as an enduring commitment in all her life.

All America has seen her love of learning and her love of literature. All of America has seen her grace and concern for children in a difficult time for our Nation. Our country is blessed by her calm and compassion, and I am blessed by her encouragement and her love.

Laura Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. at Ford's Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Dixie Carter. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 7507—National Diabetes Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the past century, we have made significant progress in our fight against disease. Through public health campaigns and aggressive research, we have eliminated polio