AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

in the farm bill that's right now before Congress. Good stewardship is the daily work of America's farmers and those who own the land. I like to tell people, Laura and I are proud to be Texas—own a Texas ranch, and for us, every day is Earth Day. If you own your own land, every day is Earth Day. If you have to make a living off your land, it's important to make your land as productive as is possible. Every day is Earth Day. And so, therefore, I support—strongly support a strong farm conservation effort in the farm bill before the Congress. With more funding and incentives for conservation, we can help our farmers preserve wetlands and wildlife habitat and to better protect water quality.

Americans have reached a great consensus about the protection on the environment; we've come to understand the success of a generation is not defined by wealth alone. We want to be remembered for our material progress, no question about it, but we also want to be remembered for the respect we give to our natural world.

This Earth Day finds us on the right path, gaining in appreciation for the world in our care. Each of you here today is doing your part to advance that work and to spread this spirit. And on behalf of our country, I want to thank you.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:27 p.m. at Whiteface Mountain Ski Lodge. In his remarks, he referred to Steven J. McCormick, president and chief executive officer, Nature Conservancy. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards

April 22, 2002

The President. Please be seated. We meet this evening to recognize some of our Nation's finest artists and scholars and authors. We honor their lifelong pursuit of excellence, and we hold up their achievements to future generations.

I want to welcome you all. I want to thank Dr. Bruce Cole, who is the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Eileen Mason, Acting Chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts. I want to recognize Mrs. Lynne Cheney; Secretary of State Colin Powell and his wife, Alma; Tom Ridge, who is the Director of the Homeland Security Office.

Tonight we've got members of the Supreme Court with us: Antonin Scalia and his wife, Maureen; Stephen Breyer and his wife, Joanna. We've got a special entertainment tonight provided by my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here: from the United States Senate, Pete Domenici and Joe Lieberman, and from the House of Representatives, Norman Dicks, Mike McNulty, Tom Petri, Silvestre Reyes, and Louise Slaughter.

I also want to thank Adair Margo, who is the Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. I want to thank the members of that committee, as well as the members of the National Council on the Arts and National Council on the Humanities.

I also want to pay tribute to the memory of Michael Hammond, who passed away in January after serving for only one week as the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. A classically educated scholar, Mike Hammond was also a composer and an educator and an expert on the neurology of the brain. All of us who were privileged to know Mike will miss him deeply.

The men and women who are about to receive the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal are singers and dancers and painters and producers and actors and writers and scholars. Yet, for all their differences, they have one thing in common: They're all teachers. They teach us about a "Boy Named Sue"—[*laughter*]—about an "Odd Couple." They teach us about a "Last Lion" or a "Ragman's Son." They help us to see more clearly and to think more deeply. They connect our past to our present and point the way to our future. And of course, they all have "The Right Stuff." [*Laughter*]

Honoring our leading artists and writers comes naturally to us. Yet, art and literature are often the first targets of tyranny, because they're the most prominent features of a free, creative, and open society. This creativity,

this openness, and this freedom are what America defends today.

This evening, as we celebrate the achievements of these remarkably talented women and men, let us also take just a moment to celebrate the Nation that esteems their craft, their hard work, and their sacrifice. America is proud to stand for creativity and freedom and civilization, and we honor these men and women who embody these values for America and for the world.

It is now my privilege to present the 2001 National Humanities Medal winners.

First, Jose Cisneros: Jose is well-known and well-loved for his historically accurate depictions of the Old Southwest. Major, please read the citation.

[*At this point, Maj. James M. McAllister, USA, Army Aide to the President, read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Robert Coles is a scholar, teacher, psychiatrist, best known for his sensitive observation of the inner lives of our children. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Sharon Darling, a former schoolteacher, is president of the National Center for Family Literacy, an organization that spans the Nation and reaches thousands of families every single year. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. William Manchester is a gifted historian and biographer who makes the past come alive for millions of the readers. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Richard Peck has written more than 25 novels for younger readers which stress the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Eileen Jackson Southern, who could not join us tonight, is a pioneering musicologist who has helped us understand the power of African-American music. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation.*]

The President. Tom Wolfe is a chronicler of our times who has told us more about ourselves than many shelves of sociology books. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, established by Congress in 1949, has worked more than 50 years to put historic preservation on the national agenda. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. It is now my privilege to present the 2001 National Medals of Arts winners.

Rudolfo Anaya, called the Godfather of Chicano Literature, has written many works about the myths and folklore of the Southwest. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Johnny Cash: The Man in Black, country legend, an American beloved by millions. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Kirk Douglas is a distinguished actor, director, writer, and producer who has brought us more memorable performances on stage and screen than nearly anybody else for the past 60 years. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Helen Frankenthaler is an abstract expressionist painter whose works combine thoughtfulness with spontaneity. And I'm proud to say that Laura and I have one of her early works, "Painted on the 21st Street," which hangs in the private residence

at the White House. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Judith Jamison: She's a master dancer, teacher, choreographer, and arts administrator who has been a creative force in the dance world for nearly four decades. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Yo-Yo Ma: World-renowned cellist who represents the very best in classical music. I tipped my hand a little earlier, but later on this great American figure will be performing with another world-renowned figure. [*Laughter*] Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Mike Nichols: The endlessly inventive comedian, producer, and director of stage and screen. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. The Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, begun by master dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey in 1958, today ranks as one of America's most prestigious dance companies. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Yes. Alvin Ailey. Congratulations.

And now it is my great pleasure to introduce my wife—[*laughter*]—the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush.

[*The First Lady congratulated the honorees and introduced Yo-Yo Ma and Condoleezza Rice, who performed a duet on cello and piano.*]

The President. Well, thank you all for coming tonight. It's been a fantastic evening. Again, I want to congratulate our honorees. And may God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Remarks Following Discussions With King Mohamed VI of Morocco and an Exchange With Reporters

April 23, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Oval Office. We've had a really good discussion about a number of matters. No question that Morocco is a great friend of the United States of America, and for that, Your Majesty, we are very grateful. I appreciate your steadfast support when it comes to the war on terror. I appreciate your leadership in the region.

Today I've informed His Majesty that our Government will work to enact a free trade agreement with Morocco. It's in our Nation's interest that we do so. His Majesty believes it's in his nation's interest that we have a free trade agreement as well.

To this end, it's very important that the United States Senate act on free trade, to give me the trade promotion authority, as well as to work on an extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act. Trade is an important part of good foreign policy; it's an important part of making sure Americans can find jobs. And the Senate needs to act, and it needs to act now.

We will continue our discussions over lunch. I look forward to those discussions. His Majesty brings a lot of knowledge, a lot of vision, and it's my honor to welcome him here to the Oval Office.

Your Majesty.

King Mohamed. Thank you. Well, as I told you, I will ask that—[*inaudible*]—to translate me. It will be easier for me and safer for you. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, King Mohamed spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The translation follows.*]

His Majesty wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for the words you have just expressed about Morocco and words which