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patriot is somebody who starts a Boy or—Boys or Girls Club. Being a patriot—who does everything he or she can do to make the quality of life in your neighborhood as good as it can be.

I don't know what's going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. Oh, they probably thought after September the 11th, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they learned differently. They learned that this great country is plenty tough, and we'll defend our freedoms. They also learned that we're plenty compassionate and that we'll respond to their evil with decency. One person can't do everything in America, but one person can do something. And as you do that something, I want you to remember that you can change this country, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

I believe that we're in the midst of a cultural change in America; I believe it. I believe we're shifting our culture from one which had said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I believe that since the terrible attack on America took place, that we're ushering in a period of personal responsibility, where each of us must understand, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. The culture of responsibility says, "If you live in Phoenix, Arizona, you must do everything you can to support the quality of life in that community. Don't hope for some distant Government to do it." The culture of responsibility says, "If you run a corporation in America, you're responsible to be honest with the books and treat your employees and shareholders with respect."

I believe it's happening. And perhaps the most vivid example about what I'm talking about, about serving something greater than yourself, took place on Flight 93. America must remember that tragic story, because it speaks volumes about the great spirit of the country—people flying across the plane, 40 passengers and I think four crew members, I believe it was. They learned from their loved ones that something was taking place on the ground that no one could possibly imagine in America. They realized the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They talked to their loved ones. They said the word "love" a lot. They said a prayer. They prayed for strength. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground. They served something greater than themselves. That's a powerful story, because to me, it speaks to the soul of our country, our worth.

There is no question in my mind that if we remain strong and focused and tough, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for our country. We can achieve peace in the Middle East, peace in South Asia. There's no doubt we can do that, if we're tough and strong and determined to speak clearly and always defend freedom. And at home, we can eliminate those pockets of despair. We can help people with love.

And the reason I'm optimistic is because I know America. America is full of the finest people on the face of the Earth. America is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming. May God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:38 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. In his remarks, he referred to Jerry Colangelo, managing general partner, Arizona Diamondbacks; Nancy Salmon, wife of candidate Matt Salmon; Rick Renzi, candidate for Arizona's First Congressional District; Mayor Anton E. "Skip" Rimsza of Phoenix; P. Robert Fannin, chairman, Arizona Republican Party; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 28, 2002

Good morning. On Thursday, I met with Democratic and Republican Members of Congress to discuss the threat posed by the Iraqi regime. The security of our country is the commitment of both political parties and the responsibility of both the President and the Congress. We are united in our determination to confront this urgent threat to America.

We're moving toward a strong resolution authorizing the use of force, if necessary, to

defend our national security interests against the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. And by passing this resolution, we will send a clear message to the world community and to the Iraqi regime: The demands of the United Nations Security Council must be followed; the Iraqi dictator must be disarmed. These requirements will be met, or they will be enforced.

The danger to our country is grave, and it is growing. The Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons, is rebuilding the facilities to make more and, according to the British Government, could launch a biological or chemical attack in as little as 45 minutes after the order is given. The regime has longstanding and continuing ties to terrorist groups, and there are Al Qaida terrorists inside Iraq. This regime is seeking a nuclear bomb and with fissile material could build one within a year.

Iraq has already used weapons of mass death against another country and against its own citizens. The Iraqi regime practices the rape of women as a method of intimidation and the torture of dissenters and their children. And for more than a decade, that regime has answered Security Council resolutions with defiance and bad faith and deception.

We know that the Iraqi regime is led by a dangerous and brutal man. We know he is actively seeking the destructive technologies to match his hatred. And we know that he must be stopped. The dangers we face will only worsen from month to month and year to year. To ignore these threats is to encourage them, and when they have fully materialized, it may be too late to protect ourselves and our allies. By then, the Iraqi dictator will have had the means to terrorize and dominate the region, and each passing day could be the one on which the Iraqi regime gives anthrax or VX nerve gas or, someday, a nuclear weapon to a terrorist group.

We refuse to live in this future of fear. We are determined to build a future of security and peace for ourselves and for the world. The Members of Congress from both political parties with whom I met this week are committed to American leadership for the good of all nations. The resolution we are producing will be an instrument of that leadership.

I appreciate the spirit in which Members of Congress are considering this vital issue. We're making progress. We are nearing agreement, and soon we will speak with one voice.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:07 p.m. on September 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7598—Gold Star Mother's Day, 2002

September 27, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our rich history, many of our Nation's dedicated military men and women have served and sacrificed their lives to secure our country, defend our freedoms, and preserve the values of our democracy. Many of these heroes fell in battle, leaving behind family, friends, and loved ones who grieve their loss to this day. Every year, we recognize and honor mothers who have lost sons and daughters in service to our country—our Gold Star Mothers—and we thank them for their strength and their contributions to our Nation.

Our Gold Star Mothers help us remember those who have been lost by upholding the ideals for which their children gave their lives. These brave women are devoted to improving and enhancing the lives of those in our Armed Forces, their families, and our veterans, and they encourage civic education, patriotism, and the teaching of American history. These efforts enrich the lives of countless young Americans, and they support my Administration's work to build a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in our country.