

person who dies in the line of duty leaves a family that lives in grief. Every marine who dies in the line of duty leaves comrades who mourn their loss.

There is a tradition in the corps that no one who falls will be left behind on the battlefield. Our country has a tradition as well. No one who falls will be forgotten by this grateful Nation. We honor their service to America, and we pray their families will receive God's comfort and God's grace.

These are sacrifices in a high calling, the defense of our Nation and the peace of the world. Overcoming evil is the noblest cause and the hardest work. And the liberation of millions is the fulfillment of America's founding promise. The objectives we've set in this war are worthy of America, worthy of all the acts of heroism and generosity that have come before.

Once again, we are applying the power of our country to ensure our security and to serve the cause of justice. And we will prevail.

Our armed services have performed brilliantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Moving a massive force over 200 miles of enemy territory in a matter of days is a superb achievement. Yet there is work ahead for our coalition, for the American Armed Forces, and for the United States Marines. Having traveled hundreds of miles, we will now go the last 200 yards. The course is set. We're on the advance. Our destination is Baghdad, and we will accept nothing less than complete and final victory.

May God bless our country and all who defend her. *Semper fi.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. at W.P.T. Hill Field. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. David Mize, USMC, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; Maj. Gen. John Castellaw, USMC, commanding general, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing; Mayor Elsie P. Smith of Jacksonville, NC; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Giving Notification of Intent To Transfer Emergency Response Funds to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks

April 3, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In order to continue the investigation into the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF).

At this time, \$9 million of ERF funds will be transferred to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States to ensure that it has the necessary resources to investigate fully the terrible tragedy of September 11, 2001. My Administration is strongly committed to the purpose and mission of the Commission and will continue to cooperate with the Commission in accordance with applicable law to help ensure that it succeeds. I expect that the Commission's final report will contain important recommendations.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Statement on Congressional Action on the Supplemental Budget Request To Support Military and Humanitarian Operations in Iraq and To Ensure Domestic Safety

April 4, 2003

I commend the Congress for responding with bipartisan cooperation and speed to my request for supplemental war funding. The House and Senate took strong and decisive action to provide our troops with the resources necessary to fight and win the war in Iraq, to respond to increased homeland