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The war on terror has brought hardship and loss to our country, beginning with the grief of September the 11th. Let us also remember that the first victory in this war on terror came that same day on a hijacked plane bound for the Nation's Capital. Those men and women on Flight 93, knowing they would die, found the courage to use their final moments to save the lives of others. In those moments and many times since, terrorists have learned about the courage of America and that we will not be intimidated. We will fight them with everything we have.

Few of us are called to show the kind of valor seen on Flight 93 or on the field of battle. Yet all of us share a calling to be strong in adversity and unafraid of danger. We Americans have come through so much together, yet there is a lot to do. And if we're patient and united and determined, this Nation will not only prosper; this Nation will be secure as we prevail in the war against terror.

Thank you for letting me come today, and may God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:03 p.m. at the New Hampshire Holiday Inn-Center of New Hampshire. In his remarks, he referred to Raymond E. Pinard, chairman, board of directors, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce; Harold Turner, Jr., chairman, board of directors, Business and Industry Association; Gov. Craig Benson of New Hampshire and his wife, Denise; Mayor Robert A. Baines of Manchester; Mayor Bernard A. Streeter of Nashua; Peter W. Heed, New Hampshire attorney general; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Proclamation 7718—Leif Erikson Day, 2003

October 9, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Traveling across the Atlantic as the first Nordic to lead an expedition to North America, Leif Erikson showed great courage in the face of danger. His actions marked the beginning of a longstanding exchange of people, ideas, and innovations between North America and the Nordic nations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. As the United States celebrates Leif Erikson Day, we honor his historic voyage and give thanks for the many contributions of Nordic Americans to our Nation, and of our Nordic allies.

Since Leif Erikson's voyage, millions of immigrants from the Nordic countries have come to America. As teachers, lawyers, judges, doctors, authors, athletes, artists, scientists, and business people, and in many other occupations, Nordic Americans have contributed to America's cultural, political, and economic strength. America has also benefited from the diplomatic relationships we have long enjoyed with the Nordic nations.

To honor Leif Erikson, Nordic-American heritage, and America's continued relationship with Nordic countries, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as ''Leif Erikson Day.''

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2003, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic-American heritage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 14, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 15.

Remarks at a Reception for Gubernatorial Candidate Ernie Fletcher in Lexington, Kentucky

October 9, 2003

Thanks for coming. It's great to be back in this beautiful State. It's good to see a lot of friends. I know something about the culture of Kentucky. I know the priorities of this State. I promise you I'll keep my speech