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last summer when I awarded him the Medal of Honor posthumously. Rocky set an example of bravery and dedication that changed the lives of his fellow soldiers but most of all honored the country he loves. He was of Italian descent, proud of his heritage, but most of all, he loved America. He loved what we stood for and was willing to sacrifice for it.

And that's what's happening today. People are willing to sacrifice for the country they love. They remember the lessons of September the 11th, 2001. And so do I. It's something we should never forget, especially the lessons of those who sacrificed, for lives lost.

Peter Ganci, you may have heard of Peter. He was the fire chief of New York City. He died at the World Trade Center when he went into the—into the destruction to save men and women. Fifty people—50 of his men were rescued before the second tower fell. The chief was in there urging them to flee for their safety. He ordered all out of the area. He refused to go. And his statement was, ''I'm not leaving my men.'' One brave guy who embodies the best of the sons and daughters of Italy.

The faith of the Italian-American community in God is an important part of our Nation's fabric. The faith in family, the love of life, and the commitment to our country are great gifts. Italian Americans share those gifts generously. And that is why we celebrate Columbus Day.

And for the contribution the Italian Americans have made to America, I say: Thank you; we are grateful. But most of all, I ask God's blessings, not only of those of Italian descent but I ask God's blessings for all of us who are fortunate enough to live in the United States of America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. in Room 450 in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Ann Principi, wife of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, and their son, Capt. Anthony Principi, Jr., USAF; Alice Bernardi, wife of Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development Roy A. Bernardi; Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health; Harvey Waite, husband of Representative Virginia Brown-Waite; and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

Remarks Honoring the 2003 National Basketball Association Champion San Antonio Spurs

October 14, 2003

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thank you. Please be seated. Welcome. To all you San Antonio Spurs fans, we're glad you're here in the Rose Garden. I'm particularly glad the San Antonio Spurs are here today. We want to congratulate you on a fantastic championship run.

I first want to welcome my friend Peter Holt, who turned out to be a pretty darn good owner. [*Laughter*] It's more than I can say for the former Ranger ownership. [*Laughter*] But congratulations, Peter, to you and your organization. I want to thank R.C. Buford, who is the general manager, and Gregg Popovich, who is the manager of—the coach of the club. And I want to welcome the players and your wives and friends and family here. After this is over, I'd like to invite you in the Oval Office and let you see where the decisions are made that affect the peace and freedom of this world.

I want to welcome some huge San Antonio Spurs fans: Senator John Cornyn from San Antonio; Lamar Smith and Henry Bonilla as well from San Antonio. You got to know that during the playoffs, these guys were touting the Spurs. They were giving a pretty hefty line to anybody who dared bet against the Spurs, and you didn't let them down. So welcome. I'm glad you're here.

Danny Ferry is here. Where is Danny Ferry?

Audience member. He's there.

The President. Yes, there he is. He and I share an interesting relationship. As you may know, his father, Bob, won the NBA Championship ring. And so Danny and Bob Ferry are only the second father/son combination to ever win a championship ring—[*laughter*]—if you get my drift. [*Laughter*] We're members of the famous fathers club. [*Laughter*] And anyway, I want to welcome

you here. You'll see where the—only the second son of a President office is in a minute. [*Laughter*]

I also—one of the things that happens when a championship team comes here, it gives me a chance to talk about the development of a culture, a winning culture inside an organization. I like to call it a culture of service, people being willing to serve something greater than themself, in this case, a team.

I was struck by Tim Duncan's comments after the sixth game when they were talking about the fantastic individual effort he had. And a reporter said, "What about that effort?" He said, "It's cool," but then immediately went on to talk about the accomplishments of his teammates, recognizing that you can't win a championship unless you're able to rely upon others and lift others up and participate with others and work hard with others. And it's a phenomenal tribute to the San Antonio Spurs that they've got such great individual players who are willing to work as a team. And it's a wonderful example for our country—it really is.

The other thing that struck me about this organization that is so powerful is that there is a culture of service when it comes to utilizing their positions as champs to make somebody else's life better. Gregg Popovich won a Point of Light for his drug—anti-drug programs in the early nineties. What a class act that must be for players to work for a coach who then takes time out of his private life to set a good example for the children of the community in which he lives and to work to rally the armies of compassion to make somebody else's life better, in this case to help a community fight off the scourge of drugs.

Or David Robinson, who is now heavily involved in education in the San Antonio community. He's not only a great husband but a great role model for others to see. I know many of you all do the same thing in your communities, that you care deeply about the lives of your fellow citizens, and I want to congratulate you. I think you're champs because you understand that serving something greater than yourself is the road to championships. And that's what you're here to do, is to receive the accolades from our country for serving as not only great athletes but as great role models for children who look up to you.

So welcome to the Rose Garden. Congratulations on such a great, successful season. And may God continue to bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:56 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Peter Holt, chairman and chief executive officer, R.C. Buford, general manager, Gregg Popovich, head coach, Danny Ferry, director of basketball operations, Tim Duncan, center, and David Robinson, retired center, San Antonio Spurs; and Representatives Lamar Smith and Henry Bonilla of Texas.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

October 14, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2004–04

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Consistent with the authority vested in me under section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2003, Public Law 108–7, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 15.