

Week Ending Friday, November 14, 2003

**Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Defense Authorization Conference Report**

*November 7, 2003*

I commend the House for passing the Defense Authorization conference report and showing strong bipartisan support for America's national security, our troops, and their families. This bill includes my request for a third straight pay raise, more resources for equipment and training, and quality of life improvements so that our military continues to be the finest fighting force in the world.

The legislation also makes good progress toward transforming and modernizing our military so that it is best prepared to protect Americans.

Finally, I am pleased that the House has resolved the issue of concurrent receipt for military retirees in a fair and responsible manner.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7731—National Adoption Month, 2003**

*November 7, 2003*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Every year, tens of thousands of American families answer the call to adopt a child. During National Adoption Month, we recognize America's adoptive and foster families. We also commit to helping all of our children, including those waiting in foster care, find safe, permanent, and loving homes.

On November 22, communities across the country will come together to celebrate National Adoption Day by finalizing the adoptions of over 3,000 children from foster care.

On this day and all this month, we honor families that have opened their hearts and homes to a child.

The number of children who are adopted has increased in recent years. Still, thousands of children in our country—many with special needs—continue to wait in foster care for an adoptive family.

We are taking important steps to make adoption more commonplace and to protect the well-being of our children. We have eased the financial burden of adoption by nearly doubling the maximum adoption tax credit. We expanded the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which encourages adoption at the local level and supports adoptive families with services that ease a child's transition into a new family and help to strengthen the family. The Department of Health and Human Services provides incentives to States that increase the number of children adopted from State-supervised foster care.

Last year, my Administration launched the first Federal adoption website, [www.AdoptUSKids.org](http://www.AdoptUSKids.org), which features pictures and profiles of children available for adoption. This site helps loving families connect with waiting children across the country. Already, more than 1,700 children featured on the site have been placed with adoptive families. This progress is testimony to the selfless spirit of American families.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2003 as National Adoption Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of November, 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., November 12, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7732—World Freedom Day, 2003**

*November 7, 2003*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Fourteen years ago, freedom-loving people tore down the Berlin Wall and began to set a nation free from Communist oppression. On World Freedom Day, the United States joins with other countries in commemorating that historic day. The United States is committed to liberty, freedom, and the universal struggle for human rights. We strive to advance peace and democracy and to safeguard these ideals around the world.

After dividing families, friends, and communities for 28 years, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall reunited Germany and helped spread freedom across Central and Eastern Europe. With free elections and the spread of democratic values, these countries won their liberty, and their people became free. These democracies today contribute to a strong Europe, and the United States values their friendship and their partnership.

On World Freedom Day, Americans express gratitude for our freedom and dedicate ourselves to upholding the ideals of democracy. Today, we are working with other nations to bring freedom to people around the world. American and coalition forces are sacrificing to bring peace, security, and liberty to Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. This is a mission for all who believe in democracy, tolerance, and freedom.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2003, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to affirm their dedication to freedom and democracy for all.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of November, 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., November 12, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 8, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13.

**The President's Radio Address**

*November 8, 2003*

Good morning. This week, we heard some good news about the effects of tax relief on the American economy. The Department of Labor reported that our economy added 126,000 new jobs in October. And over the past 3 months, there were 286,000 new jobs. The unemployment rate fell to 6 percent. The 4-week average for jobless claims has declined in 6 of the past 7 weeks, and manufacturers reported that orders and shipments are both rising.

This news comes one week after we heard that economic output rose at a 7.2 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the fastest pace of growth in nearly 20 years. America's economy is getting stronger every day. American companies are investing. Americans are buying homes at a record pace, and homeownership is near record levels. Stock market values have risen, adding about \$2 trillion in wealth for investors since the beginning of the year.

We can all be encouraged, but we cannot be satisfied. These are early signs of progress. Now we must turn this progress into broad and lasting gains for all Americans. Our improving economy is also a changing economy,