

finest of Navy traditions. May God bless them, and may God bless their families. And May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Coach Johnson.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

### Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John D. Negroponte To Be Ambassador to Iraq

April 19, 2004

**The President.** Today I'm announcing my intention to nominate Ambassador John Negroponte as the Ambassador to Iraq. Ambassador Negroponte now serves our Nation at the United Nations as the Ambassador there. He has done a really good job of speaking for the United States to the world about our intentions to spread freedom and peace. John Negroponte is a man of enormous experience and skill. Therefore, I'm comfortable in asking him to serve in this very difficult assignment. No doubt in my mind he can handle it. No doubt in my mind he'll do a very good job. And there's no doubt in my mind that Iraq will be free and democratic and peaceful.

So, John, thank you for agreeing to serve your country yet once again. I'm proud of your service. Good luck to you. Thank you.

**Ambassador Negroponte.** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you.

**The President.** You bet.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:51 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

### Remarks in Hershey, Pennsylvania

April 19, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thanks for letting me come. [Laughter] It's good to be here in Hershey, Pennsylvania. For a fellow who likes chocolate—[laughter]—this is a special place. I know that Milton Hershey, who was one of the country's great entrepreneurs, would be incredibly proud of the way this community has prospered and

grown. I bet he'd be especially proud of the hospital that we saw coming in. The Senators with whom I was traveling pointed out the fantastic hospital facilities. I'm told that this is a community where people really care deeply about their neighbors and the quality of life in the community in which they live. And so I want to thank the citizens from Hershey for being so gracious and warm and setting such a good example.

I want to thank the community leaders who are here from around the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I appreciate your service to our country. It's a tough job to serve at the local level. [Laughter] When things go wrong, your name is right there in the phonebook. [Laughter] But we share a common calling, and that's public service, serving our Nation. I want to thank you for doing what you're doing. It's such an honor, isn't it, to serve the people of our respective communities and our Nation.

And you and I know what our first responsibility is. The first responsibility, whether it be Washington, DC, or Washington Township, is the safety of our citizens. That's a solemn duty we have, to work together to make sure that our Nation is as secure as it can possibly be.

The task, our mutual tasks, our joint obligation changed dramatically on September the 11th, 2001. There's now an urgency to our duty. We have a urgent duty to do everything we can to fulfill our solemn obligation.

There are people here in this world who still want to hurt us. See, they can't stand America. They can't stand us because we love certain things and we're not going to change. We love our freedom. We love the fact that we can worship freely any way we see fit. We love the fact that we can speak our minds freely. We love our free political process. We love every aspect of freedom, and we refuse to change. These terrorists will not be stopped by their own conscience. They don't have a conscience. But they will be stopped. They will be stopped because our great Nation is resolute abroad, we're vigilant at home, and we are absolutely determined to prevail.

I appreciate Donna's invitation and her introduction. She handled it very well. [Laughter] I want to thank Keith Hite, the executive