

He has touched you because of his decency and warmth, his humility and humor. You know what we know, that we are all fortunate to have George Bush as a part of our lives.

Some of you are here to pay tribute to a man who has made your life's calling a little easier. Because of our honoree's sense of duty and service, millions have been raised to heal hurt and disease as well as educate our young. Some are here to see the 80-year-old dude, who tomorrow will strap on a helmet, zip up a suit, and launch forth from a perfectly safe aerospace vehicle, arms sprayed, back arched, yelling at Father Time, "Take this, you old man." One or two of you thought the Astros were at home. *[Laughter]*

Jeb, Neil, Marvin, Doro, and I are here with our families because of our deep and pure love for our dad. We love his enthusiasm for life and his dedication to his faith, his family, his friends, and his country. We respect and honor the example he has set in service to our Nation, as a fighter pilot, a Representative, a diplomat, and a President. We take comfort in knowing that he was the same caring, decent man before, during, and after his time in the arena.

We like to do things with him. He is a fun guy. We like to fish, throw a shoe, play peggity, or play golf with him. We like to talk and laugh with him. We still get a kick out of his dirty shirt joke or "show him a clean one" line. We understand his gentle tease and have learned the art of the effective needle from him. We appreciate those times when he gives us ample material with his weird taste in clothes. *[Laughter]*

We are awed by his energy, his zest for life. If ever there was a guy who could say his dance card was completely full, it is our dad. We love the fact that he loves Mother. And we are amazed and deeply touched by his unconditional love for us.

So here's to you, young fella. May God grant you health, joy, and many years of happiness. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 p.m. at Minute Maid Park. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks on the Unveiling of the Official Portraits of President William J. Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton

June 14, 2004

Good morning. Thank you, Henry. Laura and I appreciate you all coming. President Clinton and Senator Clinton, welcome home. All who live here are temporary residents. The portraits that are presented today will be held permanently in the White House collection for all the ages. And so beginning today, the likenesses of President William Jefferson Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will take their place in a line that began with George and Martha Washington.

Laura and I are pleased to welcome members of the Clinton and Rodham family. Thank you all for coming. It's great to see Chelsea. The fact that you survived your teenage years in the White House—*[laughter]*—speaks to the fact that you had a great mom and dad. We are pleased that Mrs. Dorothy Rodham is here. Welcome. We're glad you're here and those two boys you're still trying to raise. *[Laughter]* Hugh and Tony, thank you for coming. We're glad you're here.

It's good to see so many who served our Nation so ably in the Clinton administration. Thank you all for coming back. Thanks for your service to the country, and welcome back to the White House. We're really glad you're here, and I know the President is as well.

As you might know, my father and I have decided to call each other by numbers. *[Laughter]* He's 41, I'm 43. It's a great honor to—it's a great pleasure to honor number 42. We're glad you're here, 42.

The years have done a lot to clarify the strengths of this man. As a candidate for any office, whether it be the State attorney general or the President, Bill Clinton showed incredible energy and great personal appeal. As chief executive, he showed a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit that Americans like in a President. Bill Clinton could always see a

better day ahead, and Americans knew he was working hard to bring that day closer.

Over 8 years, it was clear that Bill Clinton loved the job of the Presidency. He filled this house with energy and joy. He's a man of enthusiasm and warmth, who could make a compelling case and effectively advance the causes that drew him to public service.

People saw those gifts very early in Bill Clinton. He is remembered in Hope, Arkansas, and other places along the way as an eager, good-hearted boy who seemed destined for big things. I was particularly struck by the story of a nun at St. John's School in Hot Springs who decided that Billy Clinton should get a C in deportment. That was a rare grade for the future Rhodes scholar and President. *[Laughter]* So Bill's mother gave the nun a call to see what was wrong. The Sister replied, "Oh, nothing much. But let me tell you, this boy knows the answer to every question, and he just leaps to his feet before anyone else can." *[Laughter]* She went on, you know, "I know he'll not tolerate this C, but it'll be good for him. And I promise you, if he wants to be, he will be President someday."

People in Bill Clinton's life have always expected him to succeed, and more than that, they wanted him to succeed. And meeting those expectations took more than charm and intellect. It took hard work and drive and determination and optimism, and after all, you've got to be optimistic to give 6 months of your life running the McGovern campaign in Texas. *[Laughter]*

He won his first statewide office at age 30, sworn in as Governor at 32. He was a five-time Governor of Arkansas, the first man from that State to become the President. He's also the first man in his party since Franklin Roosevelt to win a second term in the White House. And I could tell you more of the story, but it's coming out in fine bookstores all over America. *[Laughter]*

At every stage in the extraordinary rise of Bill Clinton, from the little ranch house on Scully Street to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, he and Roger had a wonderful, loving mother, and I am certain that Virginia Kelley would be filled with incredible pride this morning.

And so would Hugh Rodham, Senior. Mr. Rodham did have the joy of seeing his only

daughter become America's First Lady. And I know he would not be surprised to see her as she is today, an elected United States Senator and a woman greatly admired in our country.

From the earliest days of her youth in Park Ridge, Illinois, Hillary Rodham impressed her family and friends as a person of great ability and serious purpose. At Maine Township High School South, at Wellesley College, and at Yale Law School, classmates saw her not just as an achiever but as a role model and as a leader. She inspires respect and loyalty from those who know her. And it was a good day in both their lives when they met at the library at Yale Law School.

Hillary's commitment to public service continued when she left this house. Listen, New York politics is a serious business—*[laughter]*—it's rough business. It takes an extraordinary person to campaign and win the United States Senate. She has proven herself more equal to the challenge, and she takes an interesting spot on American history today, for she is the only sitting Senator whose portrait hangs in the White House.

The paintings of the Clintons are the work of a fine American artist, Simmie Knox. Mr. Knox has rendered portraits of a Supreme Court Justice, a Cabinet minister, a mayor, and Members of Congress. And today we thank him for putting his skilled hand to the portraits that are about to be unveiled.

More than 40 years have passed since a boy of 16 came here to the White House with a group from the American Legion Boys Nation. On that day in the summer of 1963, Bill Clinton of Arkansas looked into the face of John F. Kennedy and left the Rose Garden feeling very proud that he had shaken the hand of a President. Today he can be even prouder of decades of service and effort and perseverance that brought him back to this place as the 42d President of the United States.

My congratulations to you both, and now will you join me on the stage for the presentation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Henry A. Dudley, Jr., chairman, White House Historical Association.

Exchange With Reporters in Liberty, Missouri

June 14, 2004

Medicare Drug Discount Card

Q. How much did she save, Mr. President?

The President. Seventeen dollars. Her total cost is \$1.90.

Q. Not bad.

The President. So, like, if you add \$17 to \$1.90—[*laughter*]—here, Wanda, come over here. Give us your card.

One of the reasons we're here is we want people to understand the benefits of this card so more people use it.

Wanda Blackmore. This is my Medicare card.

The President. Yes, brand new. When did you get it?

Ms. Blackmore. I got this Saturday, and this is the second time I've used it.

The President. What's that going to do for you?

Ms. Blackmore. Keep my blood flowing.

The President. Keep your blood flowing. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:11 p.m. at the Hy-Vee pharmacy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks in a Discussion at the Liberty Community Center in Liberty

June 14, 2004

The President. Thank you very much. Thanks for coming. We're glad to be in Liberty, aren't we? What a great town. Gosh, I want to thank the citizens for lining the street and waving to us coming in. [*Laughter*] I really appreciate it. Mr. Mayor—I know the mayor is here, Steve Hawkins. Mayor, thank you for—please thank the citizens of your city for being so kind, and it's really great to be here.

You're wondering why I'm on stage with some local citizens, important Washington, DC-type personalities—[*laughter*]—it's be-

cause we're going to talk about something really important that's happening in the country, and that is, we're going to talk about how to make sure our seniors get the best health care possible. That's what we're here to talk about. We've got some—this is going to be a very interesting discussion, one that I think you'll find to be educational, one that will help illuminate what's going on with a good piece of law in a practical way. Before I do, I want to say something about my friend Sam Graves. Congressman Graves, thank you for coming. I asked him what he did to lose weight. [*Laughter*] He looks a lot prettier now than he used to. [*Laughter*] He said he quit eating sugar. But he is a fine Congressman. I really enjoy working with him. And I appreciate you being here, Sam. He's from a farming background. He's plenty capable and plenty smart. And I'm saying that because I want him to feel good as he gets back in the limousine. I'm giving him a ride on Air Force One back to Washington. [*Laughter*]

I'm with my friend Mark McClellan. I'll tell you about him in a minute.

Today when I landed, I met a lady named Ruth Blake. Where are you, Ruth? Yes, there she is. Ruth, thank you for coming. You're probably wondering why I'm introducing Ruth. The reason why is she's from Shepherd's Center, which is a—[*applause*]—sounds like you brought your family. [*Laughter*] Ruth is a volunteer. She manages the adult education program that educates and empowers seniors. And the reason I bring that up is I just want our fellow citizens here in Liberty, Missouri, to understand that I know the great strength of the country is the heart and souls of the American people—that our greatest strength—[*applause*].

I see some of our military folks here. That's a strength of America. We'll keep the military strong. And we've got to keep the military strong to make the world—to help the world be a peaceful world. It's incumbent upon America to lead and work with other nations to spread freedom. Free countries are peaceful countries. And I believe we have an obligation to work toward freedom and peace, not only for our own security, not only because we must never forget the lessons of