

I want to tell you about one of the most meaningful moments of my Presidency, if you've got a minute. I had the privilege of meeting Master Gunnery Sergeant Guadalupe Denogean. Sergeant Denogean was an immigrant from Mexico who had served in the Marine Corps for more than 26 years. He was wounded in combat in Iraq. When he was brought home for treatment, they asked the Sergeant if he had any special requests. He said he had two. First, he wanted a promotion for the Corporal who had helped to rescue him, and second, he wanted to become an American citizen. And I was privileged to be right there at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center the day he raised his right hand and took the oath of citizenship. I'm proud to be the Commander in Chief of this good Sergeant, and now I'm proud to call him fellow citizen.

You see, brave Americans like Sergeant Denogean are sacrificing for the cause of our country, and America has needed that sacrifice. Our men and women in uniform have removed two terrorist regimes that threatened our people and are now helping the Iraqi and Afghan people get on the path to democracy and self-government. By fighting the terrorists abroad they have made American people more secure here at home. By standing for the cause of freedom, they're making our world more peaceful, and by acting in the best traditions of duty and honor, they're making our country proud.

This country of ours has been through challenging times in the past few years. We're overcoming those challenges, thanks to the courage and the character of the American people. We're ready to meet every challenge that comes our way and, of course, to seize new opportunities. And as always, America looks to the future with confidence.

Once again, I appreciate the good work of LULAC and of your members and of your leadership. Thank you so very much for having me. *Que Dios los bendiga, y que Dios bendiga a los Estados Unidos. Gracias.*

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 2:20 p.m. from the Map Room at the White House to the convention meeting in San Antonio, TX. In his remarks, he referred to Hector M. Flores, national president, League of United Latin American Citizens; Kenneth W. Cole, vice president,

government relations, General Motors Corp.; and Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, USA, commander, Multi-National Force-Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Death of Austrian President Thomas Klestil

July 8, 2004

Laura and I offer our deepest condolences to the people of Austria and to the Klestil family on the death of President Thomas Klestil.

President Klestil was a distinguished statesman who had previously served as Austria's Ambassador to the United States and as Austria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. President Klestil was well known in the United States as a man dedicated to freedom and human dignity, and as President he was a committed and eloquent advocate of these values. We join all the people of Austria in mourning his passing.

Executive Order 13345—Assigning Foreign Affairs Functions and Implementing the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act

July 8, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (ATDA Act), as amended, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Foreign Assistance Act), as amended, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Functions to be Performed by the Secretary of the Treasury.* (a) The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby designated to perform the functions of the President under the following provisions of law:

- (1) sections 603(b), 604(a), and 611 of the ATDA Act (7 U.S.C. 1738b(b), 1738c(a), and 1738j); and