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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Proclamation 7862—Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2005

January 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a visionary American and a dedicated leader who believed deeply in liberty and dignity for every person. His faith and courage continue to inspire America and the world. We honor his life and his work.

Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King witnessed firsthand the injustice of a segregated society. He realized that change was necessary to ensure the full promise of our Constitution for all Americans, and his charismatic leadership awakened the conscience of America.

Dr. King's dream inspired our Nation with what he called "a certain kind of fire that no water could put out." Since Dr. King's involvement in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, Americans have witnessed the power of the law to prevent injustice and encourage the finest qualities of our Nation. Last year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Once this landmark legislation was signed into law, Americans could no longer be denied a room in a hotel or a table at a restaurant because of their race.

Our Nation has accomplished much over the past 40 years. Our journey toward justice and equality has not always been an easy one, and it is not over. However long the journey, our destination is set: liberty and justice for all. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed in the good that exists in all men and women. We will remember the work of Dr. King as we continue striving to meet the founding ideals of our great Nation.

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 Monday, January 17, 2005, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I encourage all Americans to observe this day with appropriate activities and programs that honor the memory and legacy of Dr. King.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:29 a.m., January 19, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21.

Proclamation 7863—National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 2005

January 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that all Americans are endowed by the Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we celebrate the sacred gift of life.

We have a responsibility in America to defend the life of the innocent and the powerless. Our Nation has made significant progress in recent years toward building a culture of life. Last year, I signed into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, which provides that any person who causes death or injury to a pregnant woman commits

two separate offenses. I worked with members of both parties to ban the brutal practice of partial-birth abortion, and I signed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. Working with the Congress, my Administration has halted spending of taxpayers' money on international programs that promote abortions overseas. We continue to promote abstinence education, adoption programs, crisis pregnancy programs, and other efforts to help protect life.

My Administration remains committed to the steadfast belief in the dignity of every human being and the promise of every life. Across our country, we must continue to encourage our citizens to make ours a more just and welcoming society in which every child is born into a loving family and protected by law. We will work with decency and respect to change hearts and minds, one person at a time. In doing so, we will build a lasting culture of life and a more compassionate society.

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 Sunday, January 16, 2005, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. I call upon all Americans to recognize this day with appropriate ceremonies in our homes and places of worship and to reaffirm our commitment to respecting the life and dignity of every human being.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:29 a.m., January 19, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21.

Proclamation 7864—Religious Freedom Day, 2005

January 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

George Washington wrote, "The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States, of worshipping Almighty God agreeably to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights." On Religious Freedom Day, Americans commemorate the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom in 1786, which helped set the course for freedom of religion to be included in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of religion to a stable and lasting Union. Our Constitution protects individuals' rights to worship as they choose. Today, we continue to welcome the important contributions of people of faith in our society. We reject religious bigotry in every form, striving for a society that honors the life and faith of every person. As we maintain the vitality of a pluralistic society, we work to ensure equal treatment of faith-based organizations and people of faith.

As the United States advances the cause of liberty, we remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world, but God's gift to each man and woman in this world. This truth drives our efforts to help people everywhere achieve freedom of religion and establish a better, brighter, and more peaceful future for all.

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 January 16, 2005, as Religious Freedom Day. I encourage all Americans to reflect on the great blessing of religious freedom, to endeavor to preserve this freedom for future generations, and to commemorate this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, in

the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:29 a.m., January 19, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21.

The President's Radio Address

January 15, 2005

Good morning. This week, I met with some of our fellow citizens from across the country to discuss one of the great responsibilities of our Nation, strengthening Social Security for our children and grandchildren.

For 70 years, the Social Security system has fulfilled the promise made by President Franklin Roosevelt, keeping our elderly citizens out of poverty while assuring younger Americans a more secure future. Along with employer-funded pensions and personal savings, Social Security is for millions of Americans a critical element to their plans for a stable retirement. And for today's senior citizens and those nearing retirement, the system is sound. But for younger workers, Social Security is on the road to bankruptcy. And if we do not fix it now, the system will not be able to pay the benefits promised to our children and grandchildren.

When President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935, the average life expectancy was about 60 years, which meant that most Americans would not live to become eligible for benefits, then set at age 65.

Today, most Americans enjoy longer lives and longer retirements. And that presents a looming challenge. Because Social Security was created as a pay-as-you-go system, current retirees are supported by the taxes paid by current workers. Unfortunately, the ratio of workers to retirees is falling steadily. In the 1950s, there were about 16 workers paying in for each person drawing out. Today, it's about three workers for every beneficiary. And by the time today's workers in their mid-twenties begin to retire, there will be just over two.

What this means is that in the year 2018, the system will go into the red, paying out more in benefits each year than it receives in payroll taxes. After that, the shortfalls will grow larger until 2042, when the whole system will be bankrupt. The total projected shortfall is $10.4 trillion. To put that number in perspective, $10.4 trillion is nearly twice the combined wages of every single working American in 2004.

Every year we put off the coming crisis, the higher the price our children and grandchildren will have to pay. According to the Social Security Trustees, waiting just 1 year adds $600 billion to the cost of fixing Social Security. If we do not act now, Government will eventually be left with two choices, dramatically reduce benefits or impose a massive, economically ruinous tax increase. Leaving our children with such a mess would be a generational betrayal.

We owe it to the American worker to fix Social Security now, and our reforms begin with three essential commitments. First, if you're receiving your Social Security check or nearing retirement, nothing will change for you. Your benefits are secure. Second, we must not increase payroll taxes on American workers because raising taxes will slow economic growth. Third, we must give younger workers, on a voluntary basis, the option to save some of their payroll taxes in a personal retirement account.

Unlike Social Security benefits, which can be taken away by politicians, the money in a personal account would be yours. And unlike the money you put into Social Security today, the money in personal accounts would grow. A child born today can expect less than a 2 percent return after inflation on the money they pay into Social Security. A conservative mix of bonds and stocks would over time produce a larger return. Personal accounts would give every younger worker, regardless of income, the chance to save a nest egg for their later years and pass something on to their children.

Saving Social Security is an economic challenge, but it is also a profound moral obligation. Today's young Americans deserve the same security their parents and grandparents

enjoyed. Because the system is broken and promises are being made that Social Security cannot keep, we need to act now to strengthen and preserve Social Security.

I look forward to working with Members of Congress from both parties to keep the promise of Social Security.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:25 a.m. on January 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at Georgetown University's "Let Freedom Ring" Celebration

January 17, 2005

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Thanks for the invitation. Laura and I are pleased to join you on this national holiday as we honor two exceptional Americans who we're proud to call friends.

I want to thank Dr. DeGioia and Georgetown University for sponsoring the John Thompson Legacy of a Dream Award. I want to thank the Georgetown Gospel Choir for sharing their gifts at this celebration. I want to thank John Thompson for being here and for setting such a great example. I appreciate the thoughtful words from one of the most recognized voices in America, Tom Joyner. I can't wait to hear Aaron Neville. I want to thank the Members of Congress, the members of my administration, and all the distinguished guests who are here today. I also want to thank Dr. Dorothy Height for joining us this afternoon.

Every year on this day we reflect the history of civil rights in America. It's a story of our Founders—among them, slaveowners—who declared a standard of equality and justice that would one day be used to put an end to slavery. It's a story of a terrible war that freed men and women from bondage but not from oppression and segregation. It's a story of generations "not having received the promises but having seen them afar off." And it's a story of Americans like Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who held our Nation to those promises and would not rest until they were written into law.

Dr. King was a minister of the Gospel who could have had an easy life in a respected pulpit. Today he would be just 76 years old. Instead, he chose to minister in the spirit of John Wesley, who said, "I look upon all the world as my parish." The Nation first took notice in the 1950s and in the 1960s, when he wrote, "I am in Birmingham because injustice is here." In the space of just a few years, through the power of his intellect, the truth of his words, and the example of his courage, he left this country a different and better place and made his own journey to a different and better place.

Dr. King believed so fully in the ideals of America that he was offended every day that they were violated. He had studied the founding documents and found no exceptions to the promise of freedom. He was disappointed in the unfair practices of his country. Yet he said, "There can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love." Dr. King loved America enough to confront its injustices, not compromising the truth and not fearing any man, and America loves him in return.

Martin Luther King also knew that man's right to be free is rooted in something far beyond the charters of a country. He believed and he knew that the image of God we share is a source of our dignity as human beings and the basis for our equality. He believed and he knew that the teachings of Jesus stand in eternal judgment of oppression. He believed and he knew that the God who made us for freedom will bring us to freedom.

By observing and honoring Dr. King's birthday, we teach the next generation lessons that must never be forgotten. We need our children to know how great the struggle for racial justice in our society has been and how much work remains to be done. We need them to know that the greatest causes sometime involve the greatest sacrifices and that history moves forward on the strength of those sacrifices. And we need the children of America to know that a single life of conscience and purpose can touch and lift up many lives.

The influence of one good life is also the message of the Legacy of a Dream Award—in this case the influence of two good lives. Alma and Colin Powell are among the most admired people in our country. For these 4 years, they've also been America's representatives to the world. They are honorable people who bring honor to this Nation, and America is grateful for their example of service.

As their friends know, Alma and Colin met on a blind date. [*Laughter*] Alma has said she remembers the future general looking like a lost 12-year-old. [*Laughter*] That's the side of the man I've never seen before. [*Laughter*] For his part, Colin has said that night he was "mesmerized by a pair of luminous eyes, an unusual shade of green." And from that day to this, he has been fortunate to have this beautiful, accomplished woman at his side.

Colin Powell has lived his own inspiring story, a story of exceptional accomplishment that started before segregation ended. When he was a young officer, someone told him, "You are the best black lieutenant I have ever known." He later wrote, "Inside me, I was thinking, if you intend to measure me only against black lieutenants, you are making a mistake." [*Laughter*] He went on to write, "I'm going to show you the best lieutenant in the Army, period."

The best lieutenant in the Army went on to a distinguished military career that ended with four stars on his shoulder. Along the way, he earned two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, the Soldier's Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Congressional Gold Medal, and two Presidential Medals of Freedom. I'm not through yet. [*Laughter*] I'm just getting started. [*Laughter*] See, he's been an official in the administration of six Presidents, including service as the National Security Adviser to President Reagan, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Presidents Bush and Clinton.

More than 4 years ago, when I needed a Secretary of State, I knew what I was looking for. I wanted someone who believed deeply in the values of our country and could share them with the world, a person of wisdom and decency, a leader who could bring out the best in people. I found all this and more in Colin Powell. Our 65th Secretary of State became one of the most effective and admired diplomats in America's history. He has helped to rally the world in a global war and to resolve dangerous regional conflicts and to confront the desperate challenges of natural disaster and hunger and poverty and disease. He's been tireless and selfless and principled. In the work he and I have shared, he has become a great friend, and I appreciate all he has done for our wonderful country.

His proudest achievements probably have little to do with public service. See, he's a wonderful dad to Michael and Anne-Marie and Linda. Over the years, he's been a mentor to young people. As a founder of America's Promise, Colin has drawn countless others to become involved in the lives of children and to give them the hope and confidence they need for a successful life. Today we honor not just Colin Powell's lifetime of leadership, but we honor his great kindness and his compassion.

The same kinds of idealism and character have marked the life of Alma Johnson Powell. Like her husband, she was raised by strong and decent people. And Birmingham, where Martin Luther King was jailed—Birmingham, which—where he was jailed, was also the home of the Johnson family. That's where she was raised, in other words. [*Laughter*] Alma remembers her father during the worst of days sitting up at night with a shotgun by his side to protect his wife and his children. Mr. Johnson was a high school principal, and he was a legend to generations of students who remember his high standards and his imposing presence. His daughter, Alma, has always been impressive as well because of her grace and her principle.

For many years, Alma served America as a soldier's wife, moving the household 18 times and leading the family when the Army—anyone who wants to know the meaning of duty and unselfish love can look at our military families, like the Powells. This good-hearted mother and grandmother shares her love with others as the chair of America's Promise. People here at the Kennedy Center know her as the leading member of the board of trustees. She's a noted

author of several children's books and a volunteer who gives her time to help young people make good choices in life. Alma Powell is one of the finest people Laura and I are privileged to know. And she is a superb choice for the Legacy of a Dream Award. I'm not kidding, either.

You have chosen, on this important day for America, to pay tribute to a woman and a man who have upheld the highest ideal of American citizenship. In their love of country and their heart for service, they show the same character found in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. Thank you for the privilege of joining you this afternoon and for the pleasure of being able to honor these fine, fine Americans.

May God bless the Powells, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:16 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to John J. DeGioia, president, and John Thompson, former head men's basketball coach, Georgetown University; radio show host Tom Joyner; entertainer Aaron Neville; and civil rights leader Dorothy Height.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 17, 2005

On January 23, 1995, by Executive Order 12947, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process. On August 20, 1998, by Executive Order 13099, the President modified the Annex to Executive Order 12947 to identify four additional persons, including Usama bin Laden, who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

Because these terrorist activities continue to threaten the Middle East peace process and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, and the measures adopted on those dates to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond January 23, 2005. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 17, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:29 a.m., January 19, 2005]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

January 17, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2005. The most recent

notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21, 2004 (69 *FR* 2991).

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and to maintain in force the economic sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks "Saluting Those Who Serve"

January 18, 2005

At ease. Thanks for the warm welcome. It is such a pleasure to be with the courageous men and women of the United States Armed Forces. As we prepare to celebrate our Nation's 55th Presidential Inauguration, I can think of no better way to begin than by giving thanks for our freedom and those who make it possible.

Please be seated. It may be a long speech. [*Laughter*]

Whether you serve in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, each of you has stepped forward to serve. You have risked your lives in faraway mountains and arid deserts, in perilous skies and on the high seas, to defend liberty and to free those trapped by tyranny. As I prepare to take the oath of office, I want you to know how grateful I am for your service and sacrifice and how proud I am to be your Commander in Chief.

And I am really proud of our First Lady, my wife. I love her dearly. I appreciate so very much the service and advice and friendship of our Vice President, Dick Cheney. Like me, he married well. [*Laughter*] It's good to see my mother and father. Secretary Rumsfeld, thank you for your great service to our Nation, and it's good to see Joyce.

I appreciate the military commanders who are here. I want to thank the members of my administration who've joined us, Members of Congress, members of the active military, wounded troops, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Family members of our fallen soldiers, thank you so much for being here today.

Our troops watching from Baghdad, Iraq, and Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, God bless you all.

I thank Kelsey Grammer—what a fine man. I appreciate his patriotism and being the emcee of this fantastic event. I want to thank all the other entertainers who have taken of their time to entertain our troops and really to say—what they're doing here is to say, "Thank goodness for your service."

The Inauguration of a President is a great moment in the life of our country. With an election behind us, the American people come together in unity to celebrate our freedom. A Presidential Inauguration is a testament to the power of democracy, a symbol of our confidence in the popular will, and a sign of hope for freedom-loving people everywhere.

We are blessed to live in hopeful times, when the promise of liberty is spreading across the world. In the last 4 years, more than 50 million people have joined the ranks of the free. The people of Afghanistan have thrown off an outlaw regime and chosen a President in the first free elections in that nation's 5,000-year history. And in coming days, the Iraqi people will have their chance to go to the polls, to begin the process of creating a democratic government that will answer to the people, instead of to a thug and a tyrant.

These are landmark events in the history of liberty. And none of it would have been possible without the courage and the determination of the United States Armed Forces.

Through your service and sacrifice in the war on terror, you are making America safer. You're making America safer for not only those of us who live today but for future generations of Americans. Your sacrifice has made it possible for our children and grandchildren to grow up in a safer world.

Many here today have endured long separations from your families. We understand that, and we thank you for that. Some are preparing to do so. Others have suffered terrible injuries, wounds you will carry with you for the rest of your lives. Still others have lost loved ones in this struggle, heroes who gave their lives so that we might live in freedom. We hold them in our hearts; we lift them up in our prayers.

We're grateful to you, and we are grateful to your families who love and support you. Your families miss you, and they worry about you, and they pray for you, always wondering where you are and if you're safe. By their sacrifice, they also serve. Our Nation is grateful to our military families.

You, those who wear our uniform, have given much, and much more will be asked of you in the months and years ahead. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the liberty that has been won at great cost now must be secured. We still face terrorist enemies who wish to harm our people and are seeking weapons that would allow them to kill on an unprecedented scale. These enemies must be stopped, and you are the ones who will stop them.

The road ahead will be difficult and dangerous, but we can proceed with courage and with confidence. History moves toward freedom because the desire for freedom is written in every human heart. And the cause of freedom is in the best of hands, the hands of the United States Armed Forces.

And so, thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice. May God bless you, and may God bless your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:18 p.m. at the MCI Center. In his remarks, he referred to Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; and actor Kelsey Grammer.

Remarks at "America's Future Rocks Today—A Call to Service"

January 18, 2005

Thank you all. I hope you've enjoyed this fantastic concert. I'm traveling—as you can see, I'm traveling in pretty good company today, with the First Lady of the United States, Laura, the mother of Barbara and Jenna who we love dearly.

Listen, I want to thank all the entertainers who were here today. How about Hilary Duff. She was fantastic. Thank you, Hilary. JoJo—JoJo is here—[*applause*]—yes. Ruben Studdard—you talk about a success story. Ryan Cabrera—I appreciate Ryan being here. How about 3 Doors Down? Pretty cool guys, right? Seem cool to me. Fuel—I appreciate Fuel being here.

Jason Sehorn—I'm honored that my friend Jason—and I'm really proud and pleased that he brought his wife, Angie Harmon. I want to thank Steve Baldwin for being with us today. I'm honored that Steve was here. Erika Harold, Miss America 2003—what a fine person Erika is. How about Kelly Purdue, "The Apprentice." Next thing you know, the guy will be running for President. Nancy O'Dell—I'm honored that Nancy is with us. I appreciate you all coming.

Listen, I'm particularly thrilled to be standing on the stage with some of America's soldiers in the army of compassion. So the theme of this Inauguration is to celebrate freedom and to honor service. Today Laura and I went by and we were able to thank some of the men and women who wear our Nation's uniform for their service to our country, for their sacrifice for our freedoms. And today, at this concert, we're particularly thrilled that we're honoring service.

You know what that means? It means love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Take time out of your life to make somebody else's life better. By helping heal a broken heart or surrounding a friend with love or feeding the hungry or providing shelter for the homeless, you can help change

America for the better, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

I want to thank you all for setting such a fantastic example. Thank you for your service.

And my call to you all is that as you enjoy the great freedoms of America and as you enjoy yourself at this Inauguration, I hope you take away the lesson of helping somebody in need. And when you do, it will not only make our country a better place; it will lift up your own spirit.

Thanks for coming. Enjoy yourself. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:54 p.m. at the District of Columbia National Guard Armory. In his remarks, he referred to professional football player Jason Sehorn and his wife, actress Angie Harmon; actor Stephen Baldwin; and television personality Nancy O'Dell.

Remarks at the "Celebration of Freedom" Concert

January 19, 2005

Thank you all. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for being out here in the cold. You know, I was realizing there is—you know, no night is too cold to celebrate freedom.

Mr. Vice President, thank you for your kind introduction. I thank you and Lynne for your fine service to the American people. Our Nation has never had a finer Vice President. Sorry, Dad. [*Laughter*] Our Nation has never had a finer First Lady than Laura. Sorry, Mother. [*Laughter*]

I'm really proud that much of my family is with me tonight and will be there tomorrow. I'm really so happy my dad and mom are with us.

Appreciate the members of the Cabinet who are here, Members of Congress, members of the Armed Forces. How about the Apollo astronauts? I can't thank them enough for coming. And I love our entertainers who are here. I want to thank our host, Ryan Seacrest. Thanks for so much, Ryan. You're doing a fine job. I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank all the other entertainers who have come tonight. It means so much to Laura and me, and I hope it means a lot to you, that they have taken time out of their busy schedules to entertain you and to kick off this Inauguration.

I really thank you all for coming. Many of you have traveled a long way. What you're doing is you're taking a part in a great tradition of hope and renewal in our Nation's Capital, and we are really glad you are here.

An Inauguration is a time of unity for our country. With the campaign behind us, Americans lift up our sights to the years ahead and to the great goals we will achieve for our country. I am eager and ready for the work ahead, and I know that this office carries a duty to the entire Nation. After all, we are one America, and every day that I am your President, I will serve all Americans.

In these 4 years, we have moved forward as a people. We have faced challenges. We have faced them together. And we've taken up serious tasks at home as well as abroad. We have grown in appreciation for our freedom, and we have grown in appreciation for the men and women who defend it.

At this very hour, more than a million of our fellow citizens are standing watch for America. We are grateful to them all, and we are grateful to their families. We pray for our troops; we pray for their families. And on this night, as we celebrate the blessing of liberty, America honors the spirit of service that keeps our Nation strong and free.

Tomorrow I will take an oath and deliver an Inaugural Address. You'll be pleased to hear I'm not going to deliver it twice. But I will speak about freedom. This is the cause that unites our country and gives hope to the world and will lead us to a future of peace. We have a calling from beyond the stars to stand for freedom, and America will always be faithful to that cause.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our great Nation. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:57 p.m. on the Ellipse. In his remarks, he referred to radio and television personality Ryan Seacrest.

Inaugural Address

January 20, 2005

Vice President Cheney, Mr. Chief Justice, President Carter, President Bush, President Clinton, Members of the United States Congress, reverend clergy, distinguished guests, fellow citizens:

On this day, prescribed by law and marked by ceremony, we celebrate the durable wisdom of our Constitution and recall the deep commitments that unite our country. I am grateful for the honor of this hour, mindful of the consequential times in which we live, and determined to fulfill the oath that I have sworn and you have witnessed.

At this second gathering, our duties are defined not by the words I use but by the history we have seen together. For a half a century, America defended our own freedom by standing watch on distant borders. After the shipwreck of communism came years of relative quiet, years of repose, years of sabbatical, and then there came a day of fire.

We have seen our vulnerability, and we have seen its deepest source. For as long as whole regions of the world simmer in resentment and tyranny, prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder, violence will gather and multiply in destructive power and cross the most defended borders and raise a mortal threat. There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment and expose the pretensions of tyrants and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant, and that is the force of human freedom.

We are led, by events and common sense, to one conclusion: The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.

America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one. From the day of our founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on this Earth has rights and dignity and matchless value, because they bear the image of the Maker of heaven and Earth. Across the generations, we have proclaimed the imperative of self-government, because no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave. Advancing these ideals is the mission that created our Nation. It is the honorable achievement of our fathers. Now, it is the urgent requirement of our Nation's security and the calling of our time.

So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. This is not primarily the task of arms, though we will defend ourselves and our friends by force of arms when necessary. Freedom, by its nature, must be chosen and defended by citizens and sustained by the rule of law and the protection of minorities. And when the soul of a nation finally speaks, the institutions that arise may reflect customs and traditions very different from our own. America will not impose our own style of government on the unwilling. Our goal instead is to help others find their own voice, attain their own freedom, and make their own way.

The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentrated work of generations. The difficulty of the task is no excuse for avoiding it. America's influence is not unlimited, but fortunately for the oppressed, America's influence is considerable and we will use it confidently in freedom's cause.

My most solemn duty is to protect this Nation and its people from further attacks and emerging threats. Some have unwisely chosen to test America's resolve and have found it firm. We will persistently clarify the choice before every ruler and every nation, the moral choice between oppression, which is always wrong, and freedom, which is eternally right.

America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains or that women welcome humiliation and servitude or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies. We will encourage reform in other governments by making clear that success in our relations will require the decent treatment of their own people. America's belief in human dignity will guide our policies. Yet rights must be more than the grudging concessions of dictators. They are secured by free dissent and the participation of the governed. In the long run, there is no justice

without freedom and there can be no human rights without human liberty.

Some, I know, have questioned the global appeal of liberty, though this time in history, four decades defined by the swiftest advance of freedom ever seen, is an odd time for doubt. Americans, of all people, should never be surprised by the power of our ideals. Eventually, the call of freedom comes to every mind and every soul. We do not accept the existence of permanent tyranny because we do not accept the possibility of permanent slavery. Liberty will come to those who love it.

Today, America speaks anew to the peoples of the world. All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: The United States will not ignore your oppression or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you.

Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are, the future leaders of your free country.

The rulers of outlaw regimes can know that we still believe as Abraham Lincoln did: "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves and, under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it."

The leaders of governments with long habits of control need to know: To serve your people, you must learn to trust them. Start on this journey of progress and justice, and America will walk at your side.

And all the allies of the United States can know: We honor your friendship; we rely on your counsel; and we depend on your help. Division among free nations is a primary goal of freedom's enemies. The concerted effort of free nations to promote democracy is a prelude to our enemies' defeat.

Today I also speak anew to my fellow citizens. From all of you I have asked patience in the hard task of securing America, which you have granted in good measure. Our country has accepted obligations that are difficult to fulfill and would be dishonorable to abandon. Yet, because we have acted in the great liberating tradition of this Nation, tens of millions have achieved their freedom. And as hope kindles hope, millions more will find it. By our efforts, we have lit a fire as well, a fire in the minds of men. It warms those who feel its power. It burns those who fight its progress. And one day this untamed fire of freedom will reach the darkest corners of our world.

A few Americans have accepted the hardest duties in this cause, in the quiet work of intelligence and diplomacy, the idealistic work of helping raise up free governments, the dangerous and necessary work of fighting our enemies. Some have shown their devotion to our country in deaths that honored their whole lives, and we will always honor their names and their sacrifice.

All Americans have witnessed this idealism and some for the first time. I ask our youngest citizens to believe the evidence of your eyes. You have seen duty and allegiance in the determined faces of our soldiers. You have seen that life is fragile and evil is real and courage triumphs. Make the choice to serve in a cause larger than your wants, larger than yourself, and in your days you will add not just to the wealth of our country but to its character.

America has need of idealism and courage because we have essential work at home, the unfinished work of American freedom. In a world moving toward liberty, we are determined to show the meaning and promise of liberty.

In America's ideal of freedom, citizens find the dignity and security of economic independence instead of laboring on the edge of subsistence. This is the broader definition of liberty that motivated the Homestead Act, the Social Security Act, and the GI Bill of Rights. And now we will extend this vision by reforming great institutions to serve the needs of our time. To give every American a stake in the promise and future of our country, we will bring the highest standards to our schools and build an ownership society. We will widen the ownership of homes and businesses, retirement savings, and health insurance, preparing our people for the challenges of life in a free society. By making every citizen an agent of his or her own destiny, we will give our fellow Americans greater freedom from want and fear and make our society more prosperous and just and equal.

In America's ideal of freedom, the public interest depends on private character, on integrity and tolerance toward others and the rule of conscience in our own lives. Self-government relies, in the end, on the governing of the self. That edifice of character is built in families, supported by communities with standards, and sustained in our national life by the truths of Sinai, the Sermon on the Mount, the words of the Koran, and the varied faiths of our people. Americans move forward in every generation by reaffirming all that is good and true that came before, ideals of justice and conduct that are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

In America's ideal of freedom, the exercise of rights is ennobled by service and mercy and a heart for the weak. Liberty for all does not mean independence from one another. Our Nation relies on men and women who look after a neighbor and surround the lost with love. Americans, at our best, value the life we see in one another and must always remember that even the unwanted have worth. And our country must abandon all the habits of racism, because we cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time.

From the perspective of a single day, including this day of dedication, the issues and questions before our country are many. From the viewpoint of centuries, the questions that come to us are narrowed and few: Did our generation advance the cause of freedom? And did our character bring credit to that cause?

These questions that judge us also unite us, because Americans of every party and background, Americans by choice and by birth are bound to one another in the cause of freedom. We have known divisions, which must be healed to move forward in great purposes, and I will strive in good faith to heal them. Yet those divisions do not define America. We felt the unity and fellowship of our Nation when freedom came under attack, and our response came like a single hand over a single heart. And we can feel that same unity and pride whenever America acts for good and the victims of disaster are given hope and the unjust encounter justice and the captives are set free.

We go forward with complete confidence in the eventual triumph of freedom, not because history runs on the wheels of inevitability—it is human choices that move events; not because we consider ourselves a chosen nation—God moves and chooses as He wills. We have confidence because freedom is the permanent hope of mankind, the hunger in dark places, the longing of the soul. When our Founders declared a new order of the ages, when soldiers died in wave upon wave for a union based on liberty, when citizens marched in peaceful outrage under the banner "Freedom Now," they were acting on an ancient hope that is meant to be fulfilled. History has an ebb and flow of justice, but history also has a visible direction, set by liberty and the Author of Liberty.

When the Declaration of Independence was first read in public and the Liberty Bell was sounded in celebration, a witness said, "It rang as if it meant something." In our time, it means something still. America, in this young century, proclaims liberty throughout all the world and to all the inhabitants thereof. Renewed in our strength, tested but not weary, we are ready for the greatest achievements in the history of freedom.

May God bless you, and may He watch over the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:59 a.m. at the West Front of the Capitol. Prior to his remarks, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist administered the oath of office. The address was broadcast live on radio and television. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Inaugural Luncheon

January 20, 2005

Mr. Speaker, thank you, sir. Senator Trent Lott, thanks for being such a great organizer. This part of this day has gone incredibly well, and I appreciate your hard work. Senator Dodd, Senator Frist, other distinguished Members of the Congress, and some who aren't quite so distinguished—[*laughter*]—it's an honor to be here.

I really want to thank you for your hospitality. Laura and I are grateful for your gifts and grateful for your wonderful hospitality.

What a day, and what a special lunch. We really appreciate you having us.

I appreciate the Justices of the Supreme Court being here. I want you to know how touched I was that Chief Justice came to administer the oath. That was an incredibly moving part of the ceremony.

I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I appreciate General Myers, who is here. And I want to thank all my friends from Texas who have come. I'm surprised that some were able to penetrate the security. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate you coming.

I'm really proud of Dick Cheney, my Vice President. He is a fabulous man, a man of sound judgment and great character, and I'm honored to serve with you, Dick.

I want to thank President Carter and Mrs. Carter for coming and President Clinton and Senator Clinton for joining us today. It means a lot that both former Presidents were here. I thank you very much for the—for your presence.

I'm also really happy that another former President is with us; that would be my dad. Thanks for coming—and Mother. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Barbara and Jenna. I love them dearly. I thank them for joining the campaign trail. It was the—like the camping trip I promised to take them on and never did. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank my brothers and sisters. They have meant a lot to me. Their unconditional love is an important part of keeping perspective here in the Nation's Capital.

I am impressed by this Inaugural ceremony. It is a magnificent event. I think any President who has ever been through one is able to step back and say, "What an impressive moment, not in my life but in the life of the country." It reminds us that we serve a cause larger than ourself. We have one country, one Constitution, and one future that binds us.

As leaders, we have a common duty to achieve results for the people, regardless of our political parties. There's important work to be done, and I look forward to working with Members of both Houses and both parties to achieve that job.

We have a solemn duty to protect our people and to win the war on terror, and we will. We have other vital duties, and we will strive to achieve results on behalf of the people. I'm eager for the work. I'm looking forward to it, and I hope you are as well. I'm looking forward to putting my heart and soul into this job for 4 more years. Together, we can make this great Nation of ours a safer place and a freer place and a better place for all our fellow citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our great land.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:19 p.m. in Statuary Hall at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Prior to the President's remarks, Senator Trent Lott, chairman, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, introduced the President and presented him and Vice President Dick Cheney with engraved crystal hurricane lamps and official photos of the Inaugural swearing-in ceremony, and Representative J. Dennis Hastert, committee member, presented them with flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government to discuss the upcoming elections in Iraq. He then had an intelligence briefing and met with the Homeland Security Council.

Later in the morning, the President participated in separate interviews with the FOX News and Cable News Network television

channels. Later, in the Family Theater, he participated in a speech preparation session for his January 20 Inaugural Address.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan to discuss the upcoming elections in Iraq, the recent Palestinian Presidential election, and other issues.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Renaissance Hotel, where he made remarks at a Republican National Committee reception.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, where he made remarks at the Inaugural Chairman's reception.

January 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India to discuss relief efforts following the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean and other issues. He also had a telephone conversation with President Ghazi al-Ujayl al-Yawr of the Iraqi Interim Government to discuss the upcoming elections in Iraq. He then had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the National Archives and Records Administration, where they toured the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom with Archivist of the United States John W. Carlin and Senior Curator Stacey Bredhoff. During the tour, they examined historical documents including the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, George Washington's handwritten Inaugural address, and the Bible used in the Inaugurations of George Washington and George Bush.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, where he made remarks at the Inaugural Chairman's luncheon.

Later in the afternoon, on the State Floor, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted an Inaugural luncheon for family members.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended three candlelight dinners hosted by the Inaugural Committee. They then attended an Inaugural ball.

During the day, the President participated in a speech preparation session.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jeffrey F. Kupfer as Executive Director of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform.

The President announced his recess appointments of Adolfo A. Franco and Roger Noriega as members of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President announced his recess appointments of Gregory B. Jaczko and Peter B. Lyons as members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

January 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to St. John's Episcopal Church, where they attended a prayer service.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went by motorcade along the Inaugural parade route to the White House, where they viewed the parade from the reviewing stand.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended several Inaugural balls.

January 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to the National Cathedral, where they participated in the National Prayer Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Thomas Schieffer to be Ambassador to Japan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Morrison Combs to be Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management at the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to the Inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine on January 23: Colin L. Powell (head of delegation); John E. Herbst; Paula Dobriansky; Vera M. Andryczyk; Nadia Komarnyckyj McConnell; and Myron Kuropas.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to a special session of the United Nations General Assembly

to be held on January 24 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps: Paul D. Wolfowitz (head of delegation); Anne Patterson; Henry R. Kravis; and Bryce Sandler.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and flooding beginning on January 1 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released January 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Excerpts of the President's Inaugural Address

Released January 20

Advance text of the President's Inaugural Address

Released January 21

Statement by the Press Secretary: Recognizing the Death of Jan Nowak-Jezioranski

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.