AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

making the system fairer for creditors and debtors, we will ensure that more Americans can get access to affordable credit.

I'm pleased to be joined today by the Attorney General Al Gonzales. I want to thank the bill sponsors in the House and the Senate. Senator Chuck Grassley of the Senate—I think you told me you'd been working on this bill for 9 years. That's a long time. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner from the House for being the sponsor in the House. Thank you.

I want to thank the Speaker. Yesterday, the Speaker and I, by the way, had the honor of opening the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois. I know he'd be pleased to hear me say, "If you're looking for something to do this summer"—[*laughter*].

I thank Senator Mitch McConnell, Senator Orrin Hatch, Senator Jeff Sessions, and Senator Tom Carper. I appreciate the Members of the House who are here, Mike Oxley, Rick Boucher, Bob Goodlatte, Steve Chabot. Thank you all for coming, and thanks for working on this piece of legislation.

Our bankruptcy laws are an important part of the safety net of America. They give those who cannot pay their debts a fresh start. Yet bankruptcy should always be a last resort in our legal system. If someone does not pay his or her debts, the rest of society ends up paying them. In recent years, too many people have abused the bankruptcy laws. They've walked away from debts even when they had the ability to repay them. This has made credit less affordable and less accessible, especially for low-income workers who already face financial obstacles.

The bill I sign today helps address this problem. Under the new law, Americans who have the ability to pay will be required to pay back at least a portion of their debts. Those who fall behind their State's median income will not be required to pay back their debts. This practical reform will help ensure that debtors make a good-faith effort to repay as much as they can afford. This new law will help make credit more affordable, because when bankruptcy is less common, credit can be extended to more people at better rates.

The new law will also require credit card companies to let card holders know up front what they are expected to pay and what the penalties they will face if they are late on a payment. When people get a credit card, they should not be trapped by a provision in the fine print.

To make the system more fair, the new law will also make it more difficult for serial filers to abuse the most generous bankruptcy protections. Debtors seeking to erase all debts will now have to wait 8 years from their last bankruptcy before they can file again. The law will also allow us to clamp down on bankruptcy mills that make their money by advising abusers on how to game the system.

America is a nation of personal responsibility, where people are expected to meet their obligations. We're also a nation of fairness and compassion where those who need it most are afforded a fresh start. The act of Congress I sign today will protect those who legitimately need help, stop those who try to commit fraud, and bring greater stability and fairness to our financial system. I'm honored to join the Members of Congress to sign the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:42 p.m. in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. S. 256, approved April 20, was assigned Public Law No. 109–8.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen

April 20, 2005

Thank you. Please be seated. Welcome to the Rose Garden. It is my honor to welcome the Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy back here again. Coach Johnson told me last year—he said, "Don't worry about it, Mr. President, we'll be back." [*Laughter*] I like a man who keeps his word. [*Laughter*]

The football rivalry of our military academies is one of the great American sports traditions. Once again, the Midshipmen set a standard of excellence on the field. This team is tough; it is talented; and you knew how to win. You whipped the Air Force

Academy in the field goal in the last minute. I was there when you beat Army. [*Laughter*] And you won the Commander in Chief Trophy again.

I want to thank our guests who are here. A Member of the United States Senate is on his way who is a huge Naval Academy supporter, and that would be Senator John McCain. He will be here soon. I appreciate Mike McIntyre from North Carolina joining us. Congressman, thank you for being here. I appreciate Michael Steele, the Lieutenant Governor from Maryland. I appreciate Gordon England, who's the Secretary of the Navy, soon to be, upon Senate confirmation, the Deputy Secretary of Defense. We're glad you're here, sir. And I appreciate Vice Admiral Rod Rempt for your hospitality at the games.

Coach Johnson, welcome back. Congratulations on the award you have won. There's nothing like a good team to make you look good. [*Laughter*]

This team will be well-represented in the Navy record books. You won more games than any Navy team in 99 years. That's a long time. [*Laughter*] The last time a team of Midshipmen won 10 games, the Commander in Chief was Theodore Roosevelt, who, by the way, built the West Wing. You finished the season ranked number 24 in the polls. The last time that happened, that you were in the top 25, was 1979. None of the players on this team had been born then. You earned a trip to the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco, and you beat New Mexico for your first bowl victory in 9 years.

You also set—Senator John McCain. Thank you, sir. Thanks for coming. The thing McCain loved about the Naval Academy was he got to study all the time. [*Laughter*] He and I have both showed that if you—people with C averages can succeed. [*Laughter*] Welcome.

The interesting thing about the football game at the Emerald Bowl was this—I happened to watch it—it was the drive that lasted 14 minutes and 26 plays—like he kind of redefined the definition of ball control. The team was a source of pride for the brigade of Midshipmen and for Navy fans everywhere. The seniors on this team led one of the most dramatic improvements in college football history. Navy went 0 and 10 during your plebe year, and 10 and 2 this year.

I'd like for the record to show that your turnaround started the year I delivered the commencement. [*Laughter*] I'm not, like, taking any credit for it. But I do appreciate the invitation to come back, and I'm looking forward to giving the commencement address this year at the Naval Academy.

You've inspired fans everywhere, so much so that Josh Smith's hometown radio broadcast the Navy games. And by the way, that radio—that hometown is in Indiana.

The lessons you learned on the football field will prepare you for helping us win the war on terror. Midshipmen, you've developed leadership, teamwork, and strong character. You know the importance of setting high standards, and you know the importance of training hard to meet those standards. All these qualities will serve our Nation well as you become commissioned officers in the finest military the world has ever known.

We are still at war, and many of your former teammates are serving and sacrificing at this very hour. Marines and sailors are leading vital missions in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere. They're interdicting shipments of deadly weapons. They're maintaining America's command of the seas. You're helping to protect this country, and the citizens of America are grateful.

We've lost some of our finest men and women in the war on terror, including several former Navy football players. Our Nation will always honor their sacrifice. The American people are safer and the world will be more peaceful because of the honor and courage and commitment of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

I thank you all for volunteering to serve in a cause greater than yourself. I'm proud of what you have achieved on the football field. I am confident that your service will bring even greater achievements in the years ahead. It's an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such a fine group of people.

Congratulations again on winning the football trophy, the Commander in Chief Trophy. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:43 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Paul Johnson, head coach, and Josh Smith, safety, U.S. Naval Academy football team; and Vice Adm. Rodney P. Rempt, USN, superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy.

Proclamation 7889—National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, 2005

April 20, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Physical fitness is vital to a healthy lifestyle. During National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, we highlight the importance of integrating exercise into our daily routines and encourage all our citizens to live more active lives.

Physical fitness benefits both the body and the mind. Regular exercise, along with healthy eating habits, helps prevent serious health problems, improves productivity, and promotes better sleep and relaxation. Maintaining an active lifestyle reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and certain cancers. Americans can improve their health and well-being by dedicating a small part of each day to physical activity.

As children grow, athletic activities teach them important life lessons and help prepare them for the opportunities ahead. Sports are a way for young Americans to meet new friends, discover the value of teamwork, discipline, and patience, and learn to win and lose with respect for others. From baseball to mountain biking to swimming, sports and physical activities can be a great chance to get outdoors and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends.

Through the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, my Administration is promoting the incorporation of physical activity into daily life and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The Council's website, www.fitness.gov, provides information on steps individuals can take to live better and more productive lives. Programs like "The President's Challenge" help individuals set fitness goals and work hard to achieve them.

I urge all Americans to set aside time to improve their health through physical fitness and sports, and I encourage individuals to help motivate their family and friends to get out and exercise. By contributing to a culture of health and well-being in America, citizens help demonstrate the strength and character of our great country.

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 May 2005 as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. I call upon the people of the United States to make daily physical activity a priority in their lives and to recognize the numerous benefits of an active lifestyle. I also call on all Americans to celebrate this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, 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, 10:40 a.m., April 21, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 22.

Remarks to the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America Legislative Conference

April 21, 2005

Good morning. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's a little early for the Texas delegation. [*Laughter*] I hope you're behaving yourselves. I know you are, since Billy Gammon isn't here. [*Laughter*] I am pleased to be with the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America. Thanks.

Laura told me on the way over to give you all her best. Generally what happens when I mention her name, most people say, "Well, I wish you'd have sent her." [*Laughter*] She's doing great. She is a—really a fine person, a great mother, great wife, and a great First