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as wealth spreads out through the neighborhood, it will help create a vibrant middle class, and that's important. That's important. It will mean somebody is more likely to find a job close to home than trying to sneak into the United States of America to find a job. CAFTA is important foreign policy. It will help stabilize democracies, and it will help our friends grown and prosper, and that's good. That's in our interests that we do just that.

And so I'm calling on the Congress to pass CAFTA. It's a pro-jobs bill. It's a pro-growth bill. It's a pro-democracy bill. We cannot turn our backs on our friends. We cannot say to them, "For pure political reasons, we're not going to support a treaty that will not only help our own businesses, but that will help stabilize young democracies."

And so I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and visit with you about an important piece of legislation. I can't tell you what an honor it is to come down to North Carolina, and it's a huge honor to be the President of the United States of America.

May God bless you, and may God bless our people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:01 p.m. at Gaston College. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Stowe III, chairman, D. Harding Stowe, president and chief executive officer, and Richmond H. Stowe, secretary and treasurer, R.L. Stowe Mills, Inc.; Robert L. Johnson, owner and governor, National Basketball Association's Charlotte Bobcats; and President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador.

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.

July 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 10

In the morning, on the South Lawn, the President met with members of the Soldier Ride 2005 National Tour Team.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Dennis beginning on July 10 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Dennis beginning on July 10 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Dennis beginning on July 10 and continuing.

July 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he and Vice President Dick Cheney met with Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Quantico, VA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Zamira Sydykova of the Kyrgyz Republic, Dennis James Richardson of Australia, and Carlos Gianelli of Uruguay. Later, he participated in a photo opportunity with White House summer interns.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Caldwell Cason to be Ambassador to Paraguay.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rebecca F. Dye to be a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Keith A. Nelson to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Administration).

The President announced his intention to appoint Gordon Charles Brenner as a member of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy

and Negotiations: Craig Radford Barrett; Jose Behar; Michael E. Campbell; Stephanie Harkness; and Maria Guadalupe Taxman.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the American Battle Monuments Commission: Leslie Gromis Baker; Chester L. Berryhill, Jr.; Donald T. Bollinger; James Culbertson; Brig. Gen. Jerry L. Laws, USA, (Ret.); Rear Adm. Thomas E. Morris, USN, (Ret.); Gen. Carol Ann Mutter, USMC, (Ret.); and James Reynolds.

July 12

In the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with bipartisan Members of the Senate to discuss the upcoming Supreme Court nomination. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with the National Infrastructure Advisory Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with the chairs and ranking members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Committee on Ways and Means to discuss energy legislation.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia and his wife, Lina Moreno de Uribe, to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on August 4.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia Louise Herbold to be Ambassador to Singapore.

July 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the National Endowment for Democracy's 2005 Democracy Award recipients.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with Republican Members of the House of Representatives to discuss the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stewart A. Baker to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Policy).

The President announced his intention to nominate Tracy A. Henke to be Executive Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to designate James Lambright as Acting President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

July 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Indianapolis, IN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Vernice Williams.

In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany of Hungary for a meeting at the White House on October 3.

July 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Belmont, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Janice Bozardt. Later, he toured the R.L. Stowe Mills, Inc., Helms Plant.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce Cole to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to nominate H. Dale Hall to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (Legislation).

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 12

James Caldwell Cason,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Paraguay.

Rebecca F. Dye,
of North Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2010 (reappointment).

Patricia Louise Herbold,
of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

Keith A. Nelson,
of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Vickers B. Meadows.

Submitted July 14

Stewart A. Baker,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (new position).

Tracy A. Henke,
of Missouri, to be Executive Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security, vice C. Suzanne Mencer, resigned.

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 July 10

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Florida

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Released July 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 714

Released July 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Uribe of Colombia To Visit President Bush in Crawford

Statement by the Press Secretary: A Call for the Unconditional Release of Akbar Ganji in Iran

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 120, H.R. 289, H.R. 324, H.R. 504, H.R. 627, H.R. 1027, H.R. 1082, H.R. 1236, H.R. 1460, H.R. 1524, H.R. 1542, H.R. 2326, and S. 1282

Fact sheet: President Bush's Budget: Cutting the Deficit, Growing the Economy

Released July 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Joshua B. Bolten on the Mid-Session Review

Released July 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany

Fact sheet: Ensuring the Promise of America Reaches All Americans