

to the Supreme Court prove that this confirmation can be done in a timely manner.

So I have full confidence that the Senate will rise to the occasion and act promptly on this nomination. It is important that the newest Justice be on the bench when the Supreme Court reconvenes in October. I believe that Democrats and Republicans alike will see the strong qualifications of this fine judge, as they did when they confirmed him by unanimous consent to the judicial seat he now holds.

I look forward to the Senate voting to confirm Judge John Roberts as the 109th Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Roberts, thank you for agreeing to serve, and congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:02 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Judge Roberts. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Meeting With Associate Justice-Designate Roberts

July 20, 2005

Good morning, how are you? I just had a cup of coffee with the nominee and told him I thought things were off to a very good start for his nomination. I'm not surprised; he's highly qualified for the job. He's the kind of person that will bring great dignity to the Court. Judge Roberts is off to the Senate this morning to begin his consultations. I'm confident the Senators will come to realize what I've come to realize: We're lucky to have a man of such wisdom and intellectual strength willing to serve our country.

I'm also confident that the process will move forward in a dignified, civil way. In my conversations with Senators last night, we discussed how important it is that Judge Roberts get a fair hearing, a timely hearing, and a hearing that will bring great credit to our Nation and to the United States Senate. And so I told Judge Roberts over coffee that we'll provide all the support that's necessary for the Senators to be able to make up their minds, that we will push the process forward,

because he and I both agree that it's important that he be sworn in prior to the Court reconvening in October, and that I wished him all the best.

So I appreciate you coming by for coffee this morning.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the Baylor University 2005 NCAA Women's Basketball Champions

July 20, 2005

The President. Congratulations. Welcome. I thought I'd have my picture with you, and then we'll go into the Oval Office.

It is my honor to welcome some highly successful women from the neighborhood. [Laughter] First, I want to congratulate the coach. She's—obviously knows what she's doing. But I love her spirit. I love her can-do spirit that says, "We're going to win, and we're proud to win."

And I appreciate the women who are here too. The Lady Bears were really great. And I know I'm supposed to be working hard, but I watched you. [Laughter] And I was really impressed. And I want to thank you for being such great athletes and such wonderful role models. And I appreciate you representing Baylor University, which is a great university, so well, with such class.

I'm here to welcome you to the Rose Garden and congratulate you for a job well done and wish one of you a happy birthday. [Laughter]

All right, have at it. [Laughter]

[At this point, team members presented the President with gifts.]

The President. Ten, two, and four. [Laughter] Congratulations. All right, anybody want to see the Oval Office? Let's go look at it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:28 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kim Mulkey-Robertson, head coach, Baylor University women's basketball team.

**Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in
Baltimore, Maryland**

July 20, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's good to be back in Baltimore, home of the mighty Orioles and my friend Rafael Palmiero. I had the honor of calling—I call him Raffy—the other day to congratulate him on his 500 home run, 3,000 hit club membership. And I know you're proud of him here. He's a—as you can tell, I'm a baseball guy. And one of the things about Baltimore is you're great baseball fans, and I think we're all thrilled that our friend Rafael Palmiero is such a great player.

It's also an honor to be here at the Port of Baltimore. It's an impressive place to chopper over. There is a lot of action here in Baltimore. And I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by to talk about how to secure this port, other ports, the borders, and our country. That's the task at hand. And for those of you involved with protecting our homeland, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your hard work.

I want to thank the Governor for welcoming me, and I appreciate the first lady coming as well. The Governor asked how my mountain bike is going. It's not going well when you fall. *[Laughter]* It seems like it's happening quite often these days. Congratulations on a billion-dollar surplus.

I want to thank the Attorney General, Al Gonzales, for joining me. Al has been a long-time friend of mine. He is a superb lawyer. He's been my counselor, as Governor of Texas and in the White House. He is now the Attorney General of the United States of America, and I'm proud of the job he's doing for our country.

And I appreciate my friend Mike Chertoff for agreeing to become the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. He has got a mighty task, to make sure that old ways are abandoned for new ways, that we work closely together, that the kind of giant bureaucracy that has been created out of other bureaucracies functions smoothly. And he's doing a very good job of leading this important agency in the right direction. Mike, thanks for serving; thanks for your leader-

ship; thanks for your clear vision about the job that you need to do.

I want to thank Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger for being here. Dutch, it's good to see you. I appreciate you coming. You're a good man to take time out of your schedule to be here.

I want to thank the mayor for joining us. Mr. Mayor, proud you're here. Thanks for taking time out of your schedule to come by to say hello.

I want to thank Brooks Royster, the executive director, for hosting this event. It is not easy to host a President. It turns out the entourages are quite large these days. But I want to thank you for making this an important event. I want to thank all of you who are here. Once again, I want to thank those who wear the uniform for joining us.

Last night I announced my nomination of a good and highly qualified man to the Supreme Court, Judge John Roberts. He's somebody Americans will be proud to have seated on that bench. He has the qualities that our country expects in a judge, experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility. He has profound respect for the rule of law. He has respect for the liberties guaranteed to every single citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws. He will not legislate from the bench. I urge the Senate to rise to the occasion, to provide a fair and civil process, and to have Judge Roberts in place before the next Court session begins on October the 3d.

I not only have the duty to nominate good people to the bench, I have the duty to work with you all to protect this country. That's our most solemn duty.

I'm going to talk about securing the homeland. But I want you to remember, as we work to secure the homeland, we have to be right 100 percent of the time, and the enemy only has to be right one time. And so, therefore, the best way to protect the homeland is to go on the offense, is to find these people in foreign lands and bring them to justice before they come here to hurt us.

And that's exactly what we're doing. We're pursuing a two-pronged strategy. We're sharing intelligence with our allies. We're working with people around the world. We're on the hunt, and we will stay on the hunt. If