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for other countries in the region that share the same desires as the Iraqi citizen—that is the desire to live in a free world and a free society.

I'm so pleased to hear the stories from his Al Anbar Province, where his grandfather was—lived. And he was telling me about the stories from the village where he was from, about how there's no phone service because the terrorists blew up the capacity for people to make phone calls. But they forgot to shut off the Internet, and people were then describing for this good man what it was like to participate in the democratic process.

It was a remarkable day yesterday in the history of mankind and in the history of freedom.

And so, Mr. Ambassador, I'm glad you're here. Thank you so much for serving with such dignity. Welcome. It's been great talking to you.

Ambassador Sumaida'ie. Thank you, Mr. President. I believe that yesterday was a great day for Iraq; it was a great day for freedom. I think it was the turning point and the beginning of the end of terrorism in Iraq.

Iraqis have written, with their blood, a chapter of their history which will be remembered for decades, with the help of the American troops, with your help, Mr. President, and the help of the American people, which we will remember and appreciate for generations.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. And I believe that we should keep our eye on the ball and make sure that the mission is accomplished and we build an Iraq which is stable, at peace with itself and with its neighbor, and forever, I hope, a reliable ally of the United States.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Proclamation 7969—Wright Brothers Day, 2005

December 16, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On December 17, 1903, a wooden aircraft lifted from the sands of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, remaining airborne for 12 seconds and covering a distance of 40 yards. That first powered flight was a heroic moment in our Nation's history and in the story of mankind. On Wright Brothers Day, we celebrate the journey that began at Kitty Hawk and commemorate the imagination, ingenuity, and determination of Orville and Wilbur Wright.

The American experience in air and space is an epic of endurance and discovery. The past 102 years have brought supersonic flight, space travel, and the exploration of the Moon and Mars. Charles Lindbergh's solo, nonstop passage across the Atlantic Ocean and the record-breaking flights of Amelia Earhart captured the public's imagination and encouraged the growth of aviation. Americans such as Chuck Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier, and Alan Shepard, the first American in space, and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, the first men on the Moon, led our Nation on a voyage of discovery. These pioneers explored the unknown and brought the bold dream of the Wright Brothers into the future. Their dedication and skill and that of countless others reflect the finest values of our country and have helped ensure that the United States continues to lead the world in flight.

Americans will always be risk-takers for the sake of exploration. As we remember the achievements of the Wright Brothers, we look forward to challenging the frontiers of knowledge in a new century.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143) as amended, has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 17, 2005, as Wright Brothers Day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 20, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

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.

December 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Manuel Zelaya of Honduras to congratulate him on his election victory. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Oval Office, he participated in an interview with Brian Williams for NBC's Nightly News.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an additional interview with Brian Williams for NBC's The Today Show.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a third interview with Brian Williams. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, at the State Department, the President attended a holiday reception for the diplomatic corps.

December 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Republican Senators to discuss the war on terror. He then traveled to Springfield, VA.

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

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a luncheon for Rep. John Dingell to celebrate his 50th anniversary of becoming a Member of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michell C. Clark to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gary A. Grappo to be Ambassador to Oman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond L. Orbach to be Under Secretary of Energy for Science.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne-Imelda Radice to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jim Davis and Frank D. Ferris as members of the Federal Salary Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joan Stevens Eller and John Leachman Oliver III as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

December 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Jay P. Lefkowitz, Special Envoy on Human Rights in North Korea. Then, in the Roosevelt Room, he participated in a briefing with Democratic Members of Congress on the war on terror in Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the private study, he participated in an interview with Brit Hume of FOX News.

In the evening, the President hosted a holiday reception.

December 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office,