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Remarks at Graceland With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Memphis, Tennessee

June 30, 2006

President Bush. It is such a joy to be here to Graceland. It's my first visit.

Prime Minister Koizumi. My first visit too.

President Bush. The Prime Minister's first visit.

Prime Minister Koizumi. It's like a dream, with President Bush and Presley's daughter.

President Bush. Thank you all for greeting us. You're awfully kind to be here.

Prime Minister Koizumi. You look like Elvis.

[*At this point, the late entertainer Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie, spoke in Japanese, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. The visit here is an indication of how well-known Elvis was around the world. A lot of people are still singing Elvis Presley songs here in the States, and there's a lot of people who love Elvis Presley in Japan, including the Prime Minister. This visit is also a way of reminding us about the close friendship between our peoples.

And, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for agreeing to come here. A lot of Americans are thrilled you're here, particularly at Graceland. It means a lot to our country that you would be that interested in one of America's icons, Elvis Presley.

Prime Minister Koizumi. My birthday is the same as Elvis's.

President Bush. You and Elvis were born on the same day?

Prime Minister Koizumi. January 8th. Even now, I often listen to Elvis CDs.

President Bush. Still listen to Elvis CDs?

Prime Minister Koizumi. Sure.

President Bush. You're a pretty good Elvis singer.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I'm not impersonator.

[*Prime Minister Koizumi sang an Elvis song.*]

President Bush. I thought you were going to do "Blue Suede Shoes." Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. at Graceland. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Tour of Graceland With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Memphis

June 30, 2006

President Bush. First of all, the Prime Minister and I would like to thank Priscilla and Lisa for their gracious hospitality. And we thank the Graceland staff as well, for arranging this unusual experience. First of all, my presence here shows it's never too late to come to Graceland. Laura and I are—we've known Elvis Presley since we were growing up. He's obviously a major part of our music history. He had an international reputation. His reputation was so strong that he attracted the attention of the now Prime Minister of Japan.

I was hoping the Prime Minister would want to come to Graceland. I knew he loved Elvis; I didn't realize how much he loved Elvis. He not only knows Elvis's history, he can sing a pretty good Elvis song. This visit here shows that not only am I personally fond of the Prime Minister but the ties between our peoples are very strong as well.

And so, again, to the Presleys, thank you all. And Mr. Prime Minister, glad you joined us. Want to say a few comments?

Prime Minister Koizumi. It's like a dream. I never expected Mr. President come with me to visit Graceland. There's Elvis song: "To Dream Impossible." [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, Prime Minister Koizumi sang an Elvis song.*]

Prime Minister Koizumi. My dream came true. So thank you very much for—[*inaudible*]—thank you. Thank you very much for treating me nice. That's an Elvis song.

[*Prime Minister Koizumi sang another Elvis song.*]

Prime Minister Koizumi. Thank you.

President Bush. We're going to go have some barbeque. Thank you.