

Green-Jefferson, wife of Representative William J. Jefferson.

Statement on the Death of Mario Chanes de Armas

March 1, 2007

Cuban patriot Mario Chanes de Armas was a political prisoner of the Castro regime for 30 years, one of the longest sentences of any political prisoner in the world. Like so many Cubans, he sought a democratic Cuban society only to see his quest betrayed by a Castro dictatorship. Mario Chanes was one of the original *plantados*, Cuban political prisoners who were unyielding in their fervent desire for a free Cuba. His patriotism and strong sense of purpose are examples to all freedom-loving people. Laura joins me in sending our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Proclamation 8112—Amending Proclamation 8031 of June 15, 2006, To Read, “Establishment of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument”

February 28, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas Proclamation 8031 of June 15, 2006, established the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument;

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do amend Proclamation 8031 for the purpose of giving the monument a Native Hawaiian name and making the following conforming changes and corrections;

Section 1. The title of Proclamation 8031 is amended to read, “Establishment of the

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument”.

Sec. 2. The phrase Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument is amended to read Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, wherever it appears in Proclamation 8031.

Sec. 3. Under *Findings, Additional Findings for Native Hawaiian Practice Permits*, 2(e) is amended to read: *Any living monument resource harvested from the monument will be consumed or utilized in the monument.*

Sec. 4. The title of the map of the Monument accompanying Proclamation 8031 is amended to read, “Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument” and the word “Sanctuary” in the map is deleted wherever it appears and the word “Monument” is inserted in lieu thereof.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 28, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., March 5, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 2, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Remarks on Departure for New Albany, Indiana

March 2, 2007

March 1 Tornadoes in Alabama, Georgia, and Missouri

Yesterday afternoon I spoke to Governor Riley of Alabama, this morning I spoke to Governor Perdue of Georgia, expressing my personal condolences as well as the condolences of the Nation for those who lost their lives in the recent tragedies in those two States.

Tomorrow I’m going down to Georgia and Alabama. I go down with a heavy heart. I go down knowing full well that I’ll be seeing people whose lives were turned upside down by the tornadoes. I’ll do my very best to comfort them. I ask our Nation, for those who are prayerful, to give a prayer for the victims

of the storms, and ask for the blessings that can come upon people and the comfort necessary to deal with the recent tragedy. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:01 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks at Silver Street Elementary School in New Albany

March 2, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. A little bossy today, aren't I? Yes. [*Laughter*] Thrilled to be here in New Albany. Thanks for coming out to say hello. I want to talk about schools and the Federal role in schools relative to local governments—is what we're here to talk about.

I'm glad to be here in the home of the Stars, the Silver Street Stars. I brought a lot of cameras and limousines—[*laughter*]—kind of fits in with the theme, doesn't it—Silver Street Stars. I understand the school is 90 years old. You've seen a lot of decent people come here to teach, I'll bet you—a lot of people who said, "I want to put my community first," and became teachers and principals and caring citizens of the State. And so I'm real proud to be with you.

I'm here because I think it's important for a President to herald success and to talk about what's possible, particularly when it comes to schools. My only regret is that my wife hasn't joined me today. She's, by far, the best deal in our family. Just like in Mitch's family, I want you to know. I know the Danielses well, and I can certify that the person from New Albany is, by far, the best part of his family too. [*Laughter*]

I'm real proud of Mitch. I know him—he worked in my administration. I hauled him out of the private sector when I first got sworn in. I said, "Would you come and work for the country?" And he did. He was the watchdog for the people's money—it's what's called the OMB. And he did a fine job there, really, and I miss him a lot. I love his sense of humor. I knew he'd make a fine Governor. He asked me about Governor; I said, "Listen, it's the greatest job in America—next to President." But it's a great—[*laughter*]. And he's an innovative, smart, ca-

pable, honest guy, and I'm proud to be with him.

I know he cares a lot about schools too. And so when I talk about education, I can talk confidently about the schools here in Indiana, because you've got a Governor who will prioritize education. I used to say to people, public education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It ought to be the number-one priority, and I know Mitch is making it that way.

I want to thank Tony Duffy. Duffy has done a fine job of dealing with an impossibly large entourage. [*Laughter*] I really appreciate your spirit. It turns out that if you were to correlate education in a school with educational entrepreneurship at the principal level, the two go hand in hand. In other words, you have to have a good principal in order to be able to challenge failure when you find it, mediocrity when you see it, and praise excellence when it's evident. And you've got a good principal here, and I can't thank you enough, Tony.

I want to thank all the teachers, as well, who teach here. Teaching is a hard job. It's a really hard job, and it's never really appreciated enough in some circles. And I just want the teachers to understand full well that I know the community here thanks you from the bottom of their heart, and the parents thank you.

And for the parents who are here, I appreciate you paying attention to your school. It turns out, parental involvement is an essential part of having excellence in the school system. So when parents pay attention, it not only gives confidence to the teachers; it also enables the school to listen to the needs of those who matter most, and those are the parents and the children.

I appreciate very much Congressman Baron Hill joining us today. The Congressman flew down on the airplane. As you know, we're not from the same political party, but we both care about education. And it's nice of you to come. You'll meet a friend of mine who is with us, Mike and Keta—appreciate you all coming.

Now is not the time to be involved with politics when we're talking about the education of our children. This is an issue that needs to rise above politics and needs to