

Detroit River, and he said this: God found him and inspired him to set his life straight. With the help of the Almighty, he overcame his addictions and he rediscovered his passion for music. In 2001, he used a credit card to finance the production of an independent CD he called “Kemistry.” Get it—Kem Owens? [Laughter] Kemistry? [Laughter]

The disc sold 10,000 copies in 5 months. It caught the attention of music executives in New York who signed KEM to a major label deal. He has gone on to become one of America’s most popular R&B singers. But he knows the audience he’s truly playing for. He says, quote, “I want my life to be one that God will be pleased with. I’m by no means a saint.” I know what you’re saying, KEM. [Laughter] But he went on to say, “My eye is on the prize. He’s not done with me yet.” We’re proud to welcome such a man to the White House today.

And finally, Tourie and Damien Escobar discovered their love for the violin in the third grade and soon found themselves studying classical music at New York’s finest conservatories. But they grew up in a tough neighborhood, and soon Tourie and Damien had dropped their music, dropped out of school, and fallen in with a bad crowd. Yet their mother and aunt never gave up hope. And with their encouragement and prayers, these two brothers returned to the music they loved.

They formed a group called “Nuttin’ But Stringz,” performing a new music fusion that bridges classical, R&B, and rap. I’m looking forward to it. [Laughter] They started by playing on subways and went on to win amateur music contests at the Apollo Theater. And last month, they released their first album. Here’s what Tourie says: “The passion for music and the violin saved my life.” And today that passion has brought these talented musicians right here to the White House.

All these artists represent the best of our country. They represent hope and hard work. We’re looking forward to hearing them perform. They’re going to be in a long list of performers who have come here to be able to entertain the country, to lend their musical talents to this, the people’s house.

I appreciate them coming to help us celebrate Black Music Month. I appreciate you all joining to help celebrate Black Music Month. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:04 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Miss USA 2007 Rachel Smith; civil rights leader Dorothy I. Height; and Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman, The RLJ Companies.

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.

June 16

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 17

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

June 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, President Jalal Talabani, and Vice Presidents Adil Abd Al-Mahdi and Tariq al-Hashimi of Iraq.

In the afternoon, at the historic Evermay house, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a signing ceremony for H.R. 1676, the Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will host a White House Conference on the Americas on July 9.

The President announced that he has nominated Paul R. Brubaker to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced that he has nominated Nancy Goodman Brinker to be Chief of Protocol at the Department of State, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

The President announced that he has nominated David W. James to be Assistant Secretary of Labor (Public Affairs).

The President announced that he has nominated Steven H. Murdock to be Director of the Census at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced that he has nominated Eunice S. Reddick to be Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe.

June 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel.

The President announced his intention to nominate James A. Nussle to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Kansas by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures as a result of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that struck the State on May 4–18.

June 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he went to the State Department where he participated in a photo opportunity and met with Caribbean heads of government.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald K. McMullen to be Ambassador to Eritrea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah Taylor Tate to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Young, Jr., to be Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint LaSalle Doheny Leffall, Jr., as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced his intention to designate Horace A. Thompson as Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

June 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Huntsville, AL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Don Clark. He then traveled to Athens, AL, arriving in the afternoon, where he toured the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Mobile, AL, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Debbie Gardner.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clarence H. "Bud" Albright to be Under Secretary of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Clarke Brown to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science: Susan Davis Allen; Ching-Wu Chu; Darleane Christian Hoffman; Linda P. B. Katehi; and Rodney J. Brown.

The President announced that he has named John G. Emling as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

June 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam.

**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 June 18

Nancy Goodman Brinker, of Florida, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, vice Donald Burnham Ensenat, resigned.

Paul R. Brubaker, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Ashok G. Kaveeshwar, resigned.

David W. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Randolph James Clerihue.

Steven H. Murdock, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, vice Louis Kincannon.

Eunice S. Reddick, of New York, 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 Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Submitted June 21

Clarence H. Albright, of South Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Energy, vice David Garman, resigned.

Robert Clarke Brown, of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring November 22, 2011 (reappointment).

Ronald K. McMullen, of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Eritrea.

Deborah Taylor Tate, of Tennessee, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of 5 years from July 1, 2007 (reappointment).

John J. Young, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, vice Kenneth J. Krieg.

**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 June 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President and Mrs. Bush To Host White House Conference on the Americas

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1676

Released June 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow