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Remarks on the Resignation of Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser Karl Rove

August 13, 2007

Karl Rove is moving on down the road. I've been talking to Karl for a while about his desire to spend more time with Darby and Andrew. This is a family that has made enormous sacrifices, not only for our beloved State of Texas but for a country we both love.

Now, we've been friends for a long time, and we're still going to be friends. I would call Karl Rove a dear friend. We've known each other as youngsters interested in serving our State. We worked together so we could be in a position to serve this country. And so I thank my friend. I'll be on the road behind you here in a little bit. I thank Darby and I thank Karl for making a tremendous sacrifice, and I wish you all the very best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:31 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Karl Rove's wife, Darby Rove, and son, Andrew Rove. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Deputy Chief of Staff Rove.

Statement on the Death of Mervyn E. Griffin, Jr.

August 13, 2007

For over half a century, Merv Griffin entertained America. He was a man of innovation and energy who greeted challenges with laughter and determination. By following his passions and trusting his instincts, Merv became one of our Nation's best-known and most respected entertainers. He introduced Americans to a generation of talent on his talk show, created two of the most successful game shows in history, and led a thriving hospitality business. Merv was also a generous leader who gave back to his community, donating millions of dollars to provide abused children with safe haven and brighter futures.

Laura and I are saddened by his death. His family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Executive Order 13442—Amending the Order of Succession in the Department of Homeland Security

August 13, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345, *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 88 of Executive Order 13286 of February 28, 2003 ("Amendment of Executive Orders, and Other Actions, in Connection With the Transfer of Certain Functions to the Secretary of Homeland Security"), is amended by striking the text of such section in its entirety and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 88. Order of Succession.

Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the officers named in subsection (a) of this section, in the order listed, shall act as, and perform the functions and duties of the office of, the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq*. (Vacancies Act), during any period in which the Secretary has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

"(a) Order of Succession.

(i) Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security;
(ii) Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs;
(iii) Under Secretary for Management;
(iv) Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Policy);
(v) Under Secretary for Science and Technology;
(vi) General Counsel;
(vii) Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration);
(viii) Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(ix) Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;
(x) Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement);