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build their democracy, we will deliver a devastating blow to Al Qaida, we will help provide new hope for millions of people throughout the Middle East, we will gain a friend and ally in the war on terror, and we will make the American people safer.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:20 a.m. on August 24 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Resignation of Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales in Waco, Texas

August 27, 2007

This morning Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced that he will leave the Department of Justice after 2½ years of service to the Department. Al Gonzales is a man of integrity, decency, and principle. And I have reluctantly accepted his resignation, with great appreciation for the service that he has provided for our country.

As Attorney General and before that as White House Counsel, Al Gonzales has played a critical role in shaping our policies in the war on terror and has worked tirelessly to make this country safer. The PATRIOT Act, the Military Commissions Act, and other important laws bear his imprint. Under his leadership, the Justice Department has made a priority of protecting children from Internet predators and made enforcement of civil rights laws a top priority. He aggressively and successfully pursued public corruption and effectively combated gang violence.

As Attorney General, he played an important role in helping to confirm two fine jurists in Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. He did an outstanding job as White House Counsel, identifying and recommending the best nominees to fill critically important Federal court vacancies.

Alberto Gonzales's tenure as Attorney General and White House Counsel is only part of a long history of distinguished public service that began as a young man when, after high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. When I became Governor of Texas in 1995, I recruited him from one of Texas's most prestigious law firms to be my general counsel. He went on to become Texas's 100th secretary of state and to serve on our State's supreme court. In the long course of our work together, this trusted adviser became a close friend.

These various positions have required sacrifice from Al, his wife, Becky, their sons, Jared, Graham, and Gabriel. And I thank them for their service to the country.

After months of unfair treatment that has created a harmful distraction at the Justice Department, Judge Gonzales decided to resign his position, and I accept his decision. It's sad that we live in a time when a talented and honorable person like Alberto Gonzales is impeded from doing important work because his good name was dragged through the mud for political reasons.

I've asked Solicitor General Paul Clement to serve as Acting Attorney General upon Alberto Gonzales's departure and until a nominee has been confirmed by the Senate. He's agreed to do so. Paul is one of the finest lawyers in America. As Solicitor General, Paul has developed a reputation for excellence and fairness and earned the respect and confidence of the entire Justice Department.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. at the Texas State Technical College Airport. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Congratulating Iraqi Leaders at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico

August 27, 2007

I congratulate Iraq's leaders on the agreement reached yesterday in Baghdad. I've been briefed on the agreement, and this

morning I spoke to Iraq's elected leaders. These leaders represent all the Iraqi communities. These leaders—Prime Minister Maliki, President Talabani, Vice President Hashimi, Vice President Abd Al-Mahdi, President Barzani—recognize the true and meaningful reconciliation that needs to take place, and they recognize this is a process. Yesterday's agreement reflects their commitment to work together for the benefit of all Iraqis to further the process.

The agreement begins to establish new power-sharing agreements, commits to supporting bottom-up security and political initiatives, and advances agreement among Iraq's leadership on several key legislative benchmarks.

While yesterday's agreement is an important step, I reminded them, and they understand, much more needs to be done. The Iraqi Parliament will convene again in early September, and it will need to act to codify this political progress.

It's in our interests that we help the Iraqi people succeed. Success in Iraq will be a major blow to the extremists and radicals who would like to attack America again. And that's why the United States will continue to support Iraq's leaders and all the Iraqi people in their efforts to overcome the forces of terror that seek to overthrow a nascent democracy.

In this regard, I welcome and accept the expressed desire of the Iraqi leadership to develop a long-term relationship with the United States based on common interests. The United States is committed to developing this relationship and to strengthening diplomatic, economic, and security ties with the Iraqi Government and its people.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, President Jalal Talabani, and Vice Presidents Tariq al-Hashimi and Adil Abd Al-Mahdi of Iraq; and Masoud Barzani, president, Kurdistan region in Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate David G. Reichert and the Washington State Republican Party in Bellevue, Washington

August 27, 2007

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I appreciate it. Thanks for coming. How's your elbow, Dave? [*Laughter*] First of all, I thank you all for supporting an honest, decent, hard-working, fine American in Dave Reichert. You call him "the sheriff." I look at him as a sheriff. He's tough when he has to be; he's compassionate when he needs to be; and he's an independent thinker. He's the kind of person who has done a fabulous job in the United States House of Representatives, and he deserves to be reelected. And I thank you for supporting him. I particularly want to thank Julie for standing with Dave—and the family.

I know something about families and politics. Like Dave, I married above my head. [*Laughter*] And Laura sends her very best to the Reichert family. She's a—I left her on the ranch this morning. We're working our way back to Washington, DC. I'm going to Australia to represent the United States of America at what they call APEC. By the way, there's no greater honor than to represent the United States of America overseas. It is a fantastic experience. We're such a fabulous country of decent, honorable people.

I want to thank my friend, the former Senator of the State, Slade Gorton, and Sally, for joining us today. Senator, thank you for being here. Luke, I want to thank you for being here. Thanks for being the chairman. Use this—[*applause*]—yes. You need to put this money to good use and turn out the vote, get people to the polls.

We run for reasons. We've got a philosophy that works. We believe in strong defense. We need to protect this country. We believe in human rights and human dignity, and we believe in keeping your taxes low. That's what we believe.

I want to thank Matt Hasselbeck and Mack Strong. These are champs. These men are champs on the field, and they're champs off the field. And they set such a fine example for people who look at the Seattle Seahawks,