

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:46 a.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran; former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa; former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan; Parliament Member Antoine Ghanem of Lebanon, who was assassinated in Lebanon on September 19; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. A reporter referred to Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Bernard Kouchner of France.

### **Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5768**

*September 20, 2007*

*For it is a Day of Atonement, on which expiation is made on your behalf before the LORD your God.*

#### **Leviticus 23:28**

On Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, the faithful leave behind their daily concerns and gather together to draw near to God. This day is a time when Jews everywhere reflect on their lives, seek forgiveness, and find solace in God's merciful nature.

The Shofar's call signals our recommitment to our Creator and to each other. In the year ahead, may we all be reminded of the Almighty's steadfast love for His children and achieve the peace we all seek.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a blessed Yom Kippur.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

### **Proclamation 8177—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2007**

*September 20, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

America has been blessed by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who

have answered the call to defend our country and protect liberty around the world. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor a special group of patriots: those who have been prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. We remain forever in their debt, and we renew our commitment to them and to their families never to rest until we have accounted for every missing service member.

To commemorate this day, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is flown over the White House, the Capitol, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and other locations across our country. This flag is an enduring symbol that reflects our solemn commitment to our courageous service members who have been imprisoned while serving in conflicts around the world and to those who remain missing. America will always remember these heroes, and we underscore our pledge to achieve the fullest possible accounting for every missing member of our Armed Forces.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 21, 2007, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 25, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 26.