AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, excavate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any lands thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 9, 2009]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annex were published in the *Federal Register* on January 12.

Remarks During a Meeting With Former Presidents and the Incoming President

January 7, 2009

I want to thank the President-elect for joining the ex-Presidents for lunch. I am—one message that I have, and I think we all share, is that we want you to succeed. Whether we're a Democrat or Republican, we care deeply about this country. And to the extent we can, we look forward to sharing our experiences with you. All of us who have served in this office itself understand that the office transcends the individual. And we wish you all the very best, and so does the country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and William J. Clinton; and President-elect Barack Obama. The transcipt released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President-elect Obama. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring the Points of Light Institute

January 7, 2009

Thank you all. Mr. President—[*laughter*]—yes? No—[*laughter*]. Thank you all for coming. I'm told there is seven speakers. So there's now about to be six. I thank you for—I welcome you to the White House. I hope you take advantage of the reception that we have after these seven short speeches. And I want to thank you for your compassion.

The strength of America is not our military, it's not our wallet; it is—lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens, those who hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

And so, for those of you who are rallying the armies of compassion, and encouraging the armies of compassion, we thank you.

And now it is my honor to introduce my brother Neil M. Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:56 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President George H.W. Bush. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President Bush.

Remarks on the No Child Left Behind Act in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 8, 2009

The President. Thank you for the warm welcome. And Laura and I are thrilled to be here at Kearny School. We have come because this is one of the really fine schools in the city of Philadelphia. We bring greetings from the Nation's Capital, but more importantly, we bring appreciation for those who are working so hard to make sure that every child can learn.

You know, 7 years ago today, I had the honor of signing a bill that forever changed America's school systems. It was called the No Child Left Behind Act. I firmly believe that thanks to this law, more students are learning, an achievement gap is closing. And on this anniversary, I have come to talk about why we need to keep the law strong. If you find a piece of legislation that is working, it is important to make sure the underpinnings of that law remain strong.

I do want to thank Laura for joining me. She has been an awesome wife and a great First Lady. Our journey together in Washington has been fantastic, and I thank her very much for her love.