

**Statement on the Death of  
Archbishop of Athens and All Greece  
Christodoulos**

*January 28, 2008*

Laura and I offer our condolences to the people of Greece at this time of mourning for the death of the Archbishop of Athens and all Greece Christodoulos. The late Archbishop was well-known as an articulate voice of the Orthodox faith, for his engagement in interreligious dialog, and for his promotion of social programs to help the vulnerable. Our prayers are with the people of Greece and all those who followed his spiritual guidance.

**Statement on Senate Confirmation of  
Edward T. Schafer as Secretary of  
Agriculture**

*January 28, 2008*

I appreciate that the Senate today unanimously confirmed Ed Schafer to be our next Secretary of Agriculture. As a two-term Governor and business leader, Ed has distinguished himself as an executive with a proven record of results.

Ed will lead a Department that oversees our food, agriculture, natural resources, food safety, and health and nutrition programs. He will be an advocate for farmers, ranchers, and consumers as he works to open new markets for their products. And he will work with the Congress to pass a responsible farm bill that will provide a safety net for farmers and protect our lands and the environment while at the same time ensuring Federal tax dollars are spent wisely.

I look forward to seeing Ed take his seat along with the rest of my Cabinet at this evening's State of the Union.

**Statement on Signing the National  
Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
Year 2008**

*January 28, 2008*

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 4986, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The Act authorizes funding

for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, for military construction, and for national security-related energy programs.

Provisions of the Act, including sections 841, 846, 1079, and 1222, purport to impose requirements that could inhibit the President's ability to carry out his constitutional obligations to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, to protect national security, to supervise the executive branch, and to execute his authority as Commander in Chief. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
January 28, 2008.

NOTE: H.R. 4986, approved January 28, was assigned Public Law No. 110-181.

**Proclamation 8219—Sixth  
Anniversary of USA Freedom Corps,  
2008**

*January 28, 2008*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

People across this great Nation have heard the universal call to love a neighbor and are using their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of others. On the sixth anniversary of the USA Freedom Corps, we celebrate the spirit of service in America and honor the volunteers whose good work represents the generous character of our country.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, I created the USA Freedom Corps to build on the countless acts of service, sacrifice, and generosity undertaken by our citizens. The USA Freedom Corps is dedicated to expanding volunteer service and extending the goodwill of the American people across our country and around the globe. By connecting individuals with volunteer opportunities, the USA Freedom Corps has helped ensure that millions of people have a chance to make a difference in the lives of those