

From: "Liptock, Elizabeth "
To: "Kavanaugh, Brett M."
Subject: Final AS PREPARED for today
Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2004 07:58:10 -0500
[9-10-04 Victory 04 Rally - Manchester, NH - PREPARED.doc](#)
[9-10-04 - W Stands for Women - Lewiston Maine - PREPARED.doc](#)

For Mrs. Bush. Thank you.

Remarks for Mrs. Laura Bush
Victory '04 – Manchester, New Hampshire
Friday, September 10, 2004

AS PREPARED

Thank you, Jenna, for that very sweet introduction. One of the great things about having our girls on the campaign trail with us is getting to hear them talk about how much they love me – and in public, no less. Thank you all for being here. I'm so happy that the President's good friends, Congressman Charlie Bass and Congressman Jeb Bradley could join us. Thanks to Governor Benson and to your first lady, Denise Benson for welcoming us to your great state. I appreciate Ray Wieczorek [WEH-ZOOR-ICK] and Tom Rath being here. And we all appreciate Gerry Duncan's support of the National Guard Families in New Hampshire. Thanks also to the many volunteers who are working so hard to ensure that President Bush leads this country for four more years!

b(6)

b(6)

The President and I first traveled together on the campaign trail when he was running for Congress in Midland in 1978. Newly married, we spent all of our time in the car driving up and down the panhandle of West Texas. Believe me you learn a lot about your husband when you spend that much time in a car with him. By the end of the campaign he had even convinced me to vote for him!

This time I don't need any convincing. I've watched my husband lead this country with strength and conviction through some of our generation's greatest struggles. I've watched him take decisive action to lead us out of recession with the largest tax relief in a generation. Thanks to my husband's commitment to tax relief, we've added 1.7 million jobs since last August – that's more than Germany, Japan, England, Canada, and France combined. The unemployment rate has fallen to 5.4 percent, nationally, and to less than 4 percent here in New Hampshire. And today, more families than ever before, especially minority families, own their own homes. I've watched as our schools have improved with higher standards of accountability and with increased funding, so that every child in every neighborhood has a chance to succeed.

And I've watched my husband make the tough decisions that have helped to safeguard our children from terror and liberate people from tyranny. We've been through historic times together in the last four years. And these are also times of change that require new ideas to move America forward. Last week in New York, President Bush outlined his agenda for a new term. We know that families face new challenges, and that government should respond to these changing times.

To put this change in perspective, think back a few decades ago to our parents' generation. In most families, fathers were the primary bread winners. People worked in the same job with the same company for thirty or forty years. And those companies provided health care and retirement security. Today, more and more families have two parents in the workforce, while single parents do double duty alone. And two-thirds of all moms now work outside the home. Our way of life has changed dramatically. Yet many of the systems that we rely on, like health care, retirement plans, and workforce training have not. My husband believes that government should help people improve their lives, not try to run them. President Bush wants us all to have more opportunities for ownership. He wants more Americans to go to college, to get a better job, to own their own business, and their own health care and retirement.

All opportunity starts with education. We all want our children to receive the best education. And we want our students in high school to be well prepared to go on to college or to join the work force. President Bush wants to strengthen math and science education and broaden Internet learning so that young people can compete in our technology-driven world. And for workers who want to go back to school to learn new skills, the President will work with community colleges to make career training more available. And because higher education is the dream of so many, he will make Pell grants more available so more Americans can get their college diploma.

Our graduates and workers need an economy with abundant opportunity – one in which businesses are growing and creating jobs. This requires making America the best place in the world to do business. And President Bush knows that starts with making tax relief permanent! To help small businesses, which are the engines of our economy, the President wants to enable smaller companies to pool together to purchase affordable health care for their employees.

And my husband wants to help American workers keep more of something they never have enough of, and that's time – time to play with their kids, to take care of their parents, or to volunteer in their communities. President Bush will work with Congress to make flex-time and comp time available so more Americans can better manage the demands of work and family.

And because now so many people change jobs several times during the course of their careers, workers need health care and retirement accounts that they can take with them. The President is making health care more accessible with new ideas like health savings accounts. These plans enable people to save tax-free for their health care in accounts that they own, they manage, and they keep. And because frivolous lawsuits raise the costs of health care and drive good doctors out of their practices, we need to reform the medical liability system and reduce junk lawsuits. The President also wants to strengthen Social Security by giving younger workers the opportunity to save part of their Social Security taxes in personal accounts. Workers can then pass this nest egg on to their children and grandchildren.

All of these issues are important to the strength of our nation. But as we grieve for the families in Russia, and as we approach the third anniversary of September 11th – I believe what's most important is my husband's work to protect our country and to defeat terror around the world. The terrible acts of September 11th showed us the threat we face, but they also called us to the great work of promoting freedom and democracy in the far corners of the world. President Bush and I want all of our men and women in uniform and their families to know how much we appreciate their sacrifice. We appreciate the dedication of courageous Americans like Lieutenant Colonel Howard Sanborn who is serving in Afghanistan, and his three sons who all serve in the military. Howard's wife, Carol Ann, is with us today. Carol Ann, your husband, your sons, and all of our troops and their families are in our prayers. Your family and their comrades can be proud, that as we do the hard work of confronting terror, fifty million more men, women and children live in freedom thanks to the United States of America and our allies.

After years of being treated as virtual prisoners in their homes by the Taliban, the women of Afghanistan are going back to work. After being denied an education, even the chance to learn to read, the little girls in Afghanistan are now in school. More than 10 million Afghan citizens have registered to vote in this fall's presidential election, and more than 40 percent are women.

Because we acted, the people of Iraq are now free from the tyranny of a brutal dictator. The Iraqi interim government is preparing for national elections in January. We still face many challenges in Iraq everyday. But we know that the defeat of terror in Iraq is vital to the defeat of terror around the world. And we have pledged to stand with the Iraqi people during this historic and hopeful time for their nation.

As we watch the people of Iraq and Afghanistan take the first steps to build free countries, we must remember that building a democracy takes time. Think of how long it took us in our country, even though we were given such a perfect document by our founders. It took almost 100 years after our founders declared that all men are created equal to abolish slavery – and not until 84 years ago did American women get the right to vote. Our nation has not always lived up to its ideals, yet those ideals have never ceased to guide us. We are the beneficiaries of the works of the generations before us, and it's our responsibility to continue that work. My husband believes that there's more to do to make our country safer, stronger, and more hopeful. And he will continue the great and privileged work of leading America forward while holding true to our timeless ideals.

b(6)

These are times of change for our nation – and these are also years of promise. We have great confidence in our ability to overcome challenges. We've gained a new appreciation for the many blessings of America, and we've been reminded of our responsibilities to the country we love. George and I grew up in West Texas, where the sky seems endless, and so do the possibilities. He brings that optimism, that sense of purpose, that certainty that a better day is before us, to his job every day. [b(6)] Thank you all, may God bless you and may God bless America.

###

Remarks by Mrs. Bush
W Stands for Women – Lewiston, Maine
Friday, September 10, 2004

AS PREPARED

Thank you, Jenna, for that very sweet introduction. One of the great things about having our girls on the campaign trail with us is getting to hear them talk about how much they love me – and in public, no less. Thank you all for your warm welcome. And thank you for the privilege you’ve given my husband and me of serving this great country.

b(6)

b(6)

I’m so happy to be surrounded by strong women who are shaping the political process in America and making a difference in their communities. Two such women are also two of Maine’s highest leaders. Special thanks to Senator Olympia Snowe and Senator Susan Collins for being here. Thanks also to Congressional candidate Brian Hamel for joining us, and to Carolyn Cianchette [Chin-KET] and her husband, Peter for leading the campaign’s efforts here in Maine. President Bush and I also appreciate the hard work of Kathy Watson and Karen Raye – and the many volunteers who are getting out the word about the President’s accomplishments and his vision to move America forward.

b(6)

b(6)

This is a beautiful state, one with its own distinct character – and the people who live here are unique characters as well. I *happen* to be related to a few of them!

The Bush family has made neighboring Kennebunkport their home for generations. President Bush has enjoyed spending summers and holidays here since he was a boy. We’re all kids again in Maine – even President Bush. Two summers ago, we visited George’s parents here to celebrate the Fourth of July. George woke up at 6 A.M. as usual and padded downstairs for a cup of coffee. He sat down on the sofa with his parents and put his feet up. All of a sudden Barbara Bush hollered, “*Put* your feet down.” George’s dad replied, “For Goodness sake, Barbara, he’s the President of the United States.” And Bar replied, “I don’t care, I don’t want his feet on my coffee table.” So you see – even President’s have to listen to their mothers.

But President Bush doesn't just listen to his mother. My husband knows that empowered women are vital to democracy. And he has three strong women at home who don't let him forget it. I'm proud that in my husband's administration, there are more women in senior positions than in any other administration in history. Dr. Condoleezza Rice advises the President on foreign policy and Margaret Spellings is in charge of domestic policy. That means that in the White House, women are in charge of everything abroad and everything at home. And that sounds just about right to me.

And it's not just that way in the White House. Across America, millions of women are raising families, working full time, going to college, starting their own businesses, and caring for their parents. And some women are doing all of this at the same time. Women's roles have changed dramatically from just a few decades ago. There are more single moms doing double duty. There are more women in college and more women entrepreneurs. More single women are independently leading their lives. Women are also living longer and we have more opportunity than ever before. My husband wants to extend this opportunity to every corner of America, so that all women have a chance to participate in an ownership society. Last week in New York, President Bush outlined his agenda for a new term. Helping women and families face the challenges of our changing world is at the heart of the President's plan.

Opportunity starts with education – and all women deserve to go to college if they choose, and to learn good job skills so that they compete in our evolving workforce. Many full-time moms find that after the last one leaves the nest they want to start a new career. For some women, this means going back to school to learn new skills. The President will work with community colleges to make career training more accessible for women. And because higher education is a lifelong dream for so many, we'll make more Pell grants available so more Americans can get their diploma.

And when these graduates enter the workforce, many of them will go to work for a woman. Ten million women own their own business in America, and this sisterhood just keeps growing. Women are opening businesses at twice the rate of men, and they employ more than 19 million Americans.

Last month, I met business owner Nancy Garberson of Cedar Rapids. Several years ago, Nancy left a fast-paced marketing agency in Chicago to be a full-time mom. She enjoyed taking her children to school and tucking her daughters into bed. But she still missed working. So with her husband's support, she started an advertising business in her spare bedroom. Today, she manages an agency with a full-service public relations department and 15 employees. And Nancy credits our growing economy for enabling her to open a new office in Miami.

Small business owners like Nancy are some of the hardest working people in America, and my husband wants to enable all women to share in their success. This starts with making tax relief permanent! Because of tax cuts, 25 million small business owners have each saved an average of \$3,000 this year alone. Women are investing this extra money, expanding their operations, and inspiring other women who want to own their own business. My husband also wants to help working mothers keep more of something they never have enough of, and that's time – time to play with their kids or to take care of their parents. Working mothers shouldn't have to use vacation time to take their children to the doctor. And President Bush will work with Congress to make flex-time and comp time available so more Americans can better manage the demands of work and family.

Another important issue for women is affordable and accessible healthcare. It's estimated that women make up to seventy percent of their families' financial and health care decisions. It can be tough to make those decisions when you're not in control of your health coverage, or when you can't choose your own doctor. The President is making health care more accessible with new ideas like health savings accounts. These plans enable people to save tax-free for routine expenses like eyeglasses and doctor visits. Women can even take these accounts with them if they start a new job or if they leave work to have a child. This is health care that we own, we manage, and we keep.

Another growing crisis that is of particular concern to women is medical liability reform. When I traveled to Philadelphia a few weeks ago, I met Erin Zezzo who learned about junk lawsuits the hard way. Erin had a trusting relationship with her OB-GYN, who delivered her first two children.

Shortly into her third pregnancy, Erin's doctor had to stop delivering babies because he couldn't afford his malpractice insurance. A few weeks later, he closed his practice. Erin was forced to find a new doctor while she was six months pregnant. Frivolous lawsuits raise the costs of health care and drive good doctors out of practice. To help our doctors and women like Erin, President Bush will reform the medical liability system and reduce junk lawsuits.

Women are also living longer today, and it's more important than ever that we own and manage our own retirement plans. Today, full time moms who may not contribute to Social Security will receive few benefits if anything ever happens to their husband. President Bush wants to enable workers to create personal retirement accounts in Social Security that they can manage and pass along to their spouse or children. If anything were to happen to your husband, you would inherit that money, not the government.

All of these issues are important to women, to our families, and to the strength of our nation. But as we grieve for the families in Russia, and as we approach the third anniversary of September 11th – I believe what's most important is my husband's work to protect our country and to defeat terror around the world. The terrible acts of September 11th showed us the threat we face, but they also called us to the great work of promoting freedom in the far corners of the world. President Bush and I want all of our men and women in uniform and their families to know how much we appreciate their sacrifice. We appreciate the dedication of courageous Americans like Army Reserve Sergeant Tim Martin who is serving in Iraq. His wife Krystie is with us today. Krystie, your husband and all of our troops and their families are in our prayers. Sergeant Martin and his comrades can be proud, that as we do the hard work of confronting terror, fifty million more men, women and children live in freedom thanks to the United States of America and our allies.

After years of being treated as virtual prisoners in their homes by the Taliban, the women of Afghanistan are going back to work. After being denied an education, even the chance to learn to read, the little girls in Afghanistan are now in school. More than 10 million Afghan citizens have registered to vote in this fall's presidential election, and more than 40 percent are women.

Because we acted, the people of Iraq are now free from the tyranny of a brutal dictator. The Iraqi interim government is preparing for national elections in January. And we have pledged to stand with the Iraqi people during this historic and hopeful time for their nation. We must remember that building a democracy takes time. Think of how long it took us in our country, even though we were given such a perfect document by our founders. It took almost 100 years after our founders declared that all men are created equal to abolish slavery – and not until 84 years ago did American women get the right to vote. Our nation has not always lived up to its ideals, yet those ideals have never ceased to guide us. We are the beneficiaries of the works of the generations before us, and it's our responsibility to continue that work. My husband believes that there's more to do to make our country safer, stronger, and more hopeful. And he will continue the great and privileged work of leading America forward while holding true to our timeless ideals.

b(6)

b(6)

These are times of change for our nation – and these are also years of promise. We have great confidence in our ability to overcome challenges. We've gained a new appreciation for the many blessings of America, and we've been reminded of our responsibilities to the country we love.

George and I grew up in the same small town, in Midland, Texas where the sky seems endless, and so do the possibilities. Little did I know that I would literally marry the boy next door! But after twenty seven years of marriage, I can tell you that my husband brings that optimism, that sense of purpose, that certainty that a better day is before us, to his job every day. b(6)

b(6)

Thank you all, may God bless you and may God bless America.

###