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Sent: Sun, 1 Aug 2004 18:30:06 -0500
[POTUS.Veterans.080204.VideoScript#7.doc](#)
[Air Force Sergeants Association #6.doc](#)
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Video Taping: Remarks to Veterans Groups
Monday, August 2, 2004
Draft #7

I am honored to speak to some of America's most courageous citizens. As veterans, you have borne the costs of war to pave the way for peace. You deserve our Nation's gratitude and respect.

On September 11, 2001, the freedom that you and others fought to preserve was threatened. Our Nation was tested, but our resolve was not shaken. We took the fight to the enemy and today, around the globe, brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines defend our Nation's security in the War on Terror.

As they protect us, we must make sure they have everything they need to do their job. Last year, I requested 87 billion dollars from Congress in supplemental funding to ensure that our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq have the resources to accomplish their mission. I have increased pay for our men and women in uniform. During the first three years of my Presidency, basic pay alone has increased by more than 21 percent. I have also improved their health care and am committed to improving military housing and reducing housing expenses for military families living off base.

We also need to honor our veterans. When I came to office, the VA medical and disability systems were riddled with bureaucracy, errors, delays, and unfair denials of care and coverage. Resolving a disability claim was a long ordeal ... the system was backlogged ... and too many of our veterans were waiting for a decision on their claim. I dramatically reduced those backlogs and cut the length of time to process a claim.

Today, because of our actions, 2.5 million more veterans have been enrolled in health care services than in 2001. Over the last four years, we have increased funding for VA health care by more than 40 percent. And this year, my budget proposal requests 68 billion dollars for the VA, 20 billion dollars more than what was allocated in 2001. In total, I have increased the VA budget more in my first four years than the previous administration did in eight years.

With increased resources, the VA is providing care to more veterans in more places. Outpatient visits have increased ... the VA has opened 194 new community-based clinics ... and I am committing an unprecedented level of funding to modernize VA hospitals and clinics across America.

These accomplishments show our commitment to America's veterans, and our respect for your sacrifices. We can also show our respect by protecting the flag under which you fought. The Flag has been carried into war by American soldiers for more than two centuries. It has flown over homes, towns, and cities across the country. It has draped the coffins of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Desecration of our flag is an insult to all Americans who have fought and died to protect us. That is why I support a constitutional amendment to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

As President I have stood with America's veterans, and now I would be honored to have you stand with me.

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I have been honored to serve the American people at an historic moment for our Nation, and I have more I want to do in the years ahead to make America safer, stronger and better.

Thank you for your sacrifices. May God bless you and all who defend freedom, and may God continue to bless America.

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Video Taping: 2004 Convention of the Air Force Sergeants Association
Monday, August 2, 2004
Draft #6

I send greetings to everyone attending the 2004 Convention of the Air Force Sergeants Association. Your Association can be proud of the steadfast support you provide to our enlisted Air Force personnel and their families. Your efforts reflect the great decency and unselfish spirit of our service men and women everywhere.

In these crucial times, America is grateful for people like you who are willing to defend our country and sacrifice for our security. As your President, I have made a commitment to all our men and women in uniform and their families: Our troops will have the resources they need to fight and win the War on Terror.

Last year, at my request, Congress provided 87 billion dollars to ensure that our forces in Afghanistan and Iraq have the resources to accomplish their mission. I have increased pay for our men and women in uniform. During the first three years of my Presidency, basic pay alone has increased by more than 21 percent. I have also improved their health care and am committed to improving military housing and reducing housing expenses for military families living off base.

For those of you who are veterans, our Nation is grateful for your service and sacrifice. I have stood up for veterans. Today, because of our actions, 2.5 million more veterans have been enrolled in health care services than in 2001. Over the last four years, we have increased funding for VA health care by more than 40 percent. And this year, my budget proposal requests 68 billion dollars for the VA, 20 billion dollars more than what was allocated in 2001. In total, I have increased the VA budget more in my first four years than the previous administration did in eight years.

My Administration has given our Armed Forces the resources and respect they deserve. Our country is proud of your service, and I am proud to be your Commander in Chief and committed to keeping America strong and secure.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful convention. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

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Video Taping: Remarks to Hispanic Groups
Monday, August 2, 2004
Draft #6

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you today. As President, I have worked hard to make sure America remains a welcoming place for Hispanics and other immigrants. We are a nation of immigrants in which our aspirations matter more than our origins. And my Administration is committed to this basic principle: El sueño Americano es para todos. And all deserve a chance to achieve the American Dream.

As a former governor of Texas, and as President of the United States, I have seen the many contributions of Latinos to our economy, to our culture, and to our Nation. I am privileged to have many Hispanic-Americans serving in my Administration – people like Alberto Gonzales, my Chief Counsel... Hector Barreto, head of the Small Business Administration ... and Alex Acosta, who leads the Justice Department's Civil Rights Office.

As Commander-in-Chief, I've seen Latinos proudly serving in our Armed Forces – fine men and women like General Rick Sanchez. Some 85,000 Latinos have served in Iraq and Afghanistan – some have given their lives or been injured. America is grateful for their service and sacrifice for our security and freedom.

To help all Latinos achieve their dreams in America, I have worked to promote an opportunity society that educates every child, encourages a spirit of entrepreneurship, and treats immigrants with fairness and respect. I am proud to say we are making good progress.

Schools are improving thanks to higher standards, more funding, and strong accountability. We are already seeing positive results from the No Child Left Behind Act. A recent study examining 61 urban school districts found that more than two-thirds of grades tested showed improvement in both reading and math among Hispanic students. We will keep working so every child has a chance to realize the great promise of this country.

An opportunity society must also have a healthy and growing economy. The tax relief I signed is working. Our economy is growing stronger. An estimated two million Hispanic-owned businesses are now thriving and creating jobs all across America. They employ 1.4 million

workers and carry payroll of nearly 30 billion dollars, and their spirit of entrepreneurship is strengthening our economy and our society.

An opportunity society must also have a policy of fairness and justice toward those who have come to America to live and work. I proposed reforms to our immigration system that would offer legal status to eligible temporary workers – including undocumented workers – so they can establish legal identities and come out of the shadows. These reforms will help unite families and make America more welcoming to new immigrants.

My opponent in this election has taken positions that run counter to my vision for an opportunity society. He voted against tax relief for married couples, families with children, and small business owners. He voted for the No Child Left Behind Act, but now attacks it on the campaign trail. And in almost twenty years as a United States Senator, he has done little on the issue of immigration.

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Thank you for giving me your time. Que Dios los bendiga y que Dios bendiga a los Estados Unidos.

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Video Taping: Remarks to Sportsmen Groups
Monday, August 2, 2004
Draft #6

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you today. I share your love for the great outdoors and for the outdoor activities we all enjoy like hunting and fishing.

Some of my fondest memories are of time spent hunting and fishing with my Dad. I still love to go bird hunting with him. And I've got a little lake on my ranch in Crawford, Texas, where I enjoy dropping a line in now and then on a quiet afternoon.

The time I've spent outdoors has instilled in me a great love of the land and a commitment to preserving the natural resources we all enjoy – as well as the rights we hold dear.

I am committed to upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States of America, including the Second Amendment, which protects the individual right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. My opponent in this election refuses to defend an individual constitutional right to bear arms. He has supported restrictive gun control measures and unnecessary waiting periods. He has received an "F" rating from the National Rifle Association and a Zero percent rating with Gun Owners of America.

I will defend the right to bear arms and be equally assertive about punishing criminals who abuse that right. We must enforce the laws that are on the books and send a clear message to those who break the law: If you use a gun while committing a crime, you will go to jail. That's why my Administration has invested more than 1 billion dollars for my program to prevent and prosecute gun crimes. And our strategy is working. In the last three years, we have increased federal firearms prosecutions of criminals by 68 percent.

I am also committed to the conservation of natural resources America's sportsmen enjoy. I believe that people who own and use the land are the best stewards of the land. My Administration is working with farmers and ranchers to protect wetlands, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

The 2002 Farm Bill I signed included more than 40 billion dollars for conservation efforts. I have also set a new goal of producing a net gain of wetlands over the next five years. And through my Healthy Forests Initiative, we are protecting communities and wildlife by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

By conserving our natural resources, we will ensure that our land and waterways are available for the enjoyment of hunters and anglers for generations to come.

Our country is about to make a choice about the path we take for the future, and you'll play an important role in making that decision. I'm spending a lot of time out on the road, asking Americans for their support, and I'm asking for your vote, too.

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You respect America's great traditions, I hope you'll take time to participate in the most American tradition of all – our great experiment in freedom and democracy.

May God bless you and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

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Video Taping: Remarks to Evangelical Groups
Monday, August 2, 2004
Draft #8

Thank you for asking me to speak to you today, and thank you for strengthening America with your faith and your good works.

As President, I am committed to reaffirming our shared values by encouraging compassion for our fellow Americans, promoting and protecting the institution of marriage, and fostering a culture of life in which every child is born into a loving family and protected by law.

To rally the armies of compassion in America, I have removed barriers that prevent faith-based groups from receiving federal aid and I will continue working with Congress to permanently end discrimination against them. These charities do the vital work of helping our fellow citizens in need. We should welcome them in the public square.

I will defend the sacred bond of marriage. A few activist judges have attempted to redefine the institution of marriage by court order, forever threatening society's most enduring institution. I support a Constitutional amendment to protect the sanctity of marriage by ensuring it is always recognized as the union of a man and a woman as husband and wife.

I have nominated superb men and women for the federal courts who will strictly and fully interpret the law and not legislate from the bench.

To reaffirm the sanctity of human life, I signed a law ending the terrible practice of partial-birth abortion – and my Administration will vigorously defend that law in the courts. I signed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act so that every child born alive is considered a person under the law, including an infant who survives an abortion procedure. I also signed the Laci and Connor Peterson Law, so that if a pregnant woman is attacked, the courts recognize what we all know to be true: Not one, but two lives suffer.

I strongly support parental notification laws, because we must protect the right of parents to be involved in important decisions their young daughters may have to make. To help expectant mothers handle the responsibilities of pregnancy, I signed legislation supporting maternity

group homes. I have taken steps to promote adoptions, so that more couples can share their love with a child who needs a family.

And I firmly believe that life is a creation of God, not a commodity to be exploited by man – so I have urged Congress to ban human cloning.

Soon the American people will face a choice about whether we continue with these policies. My opponent in this election has his own views. He left the campaign trail and returned to the Senate to vote against the Laci and Connor Peterson law. He voted against the Defense of Marriage Act that had broad bipartisan support in Congress. He has consistently supported federal funding for abortions, and he opposed a ban on partial-birth abortion six different times. He has voted to block my nominees for judges – playing politics with American justice.

These votes do not represent the mainstream views of America.

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Laura and I thank you for your prayers and encouragement, and we pray always for God's guidance and strength, in our own lives and for this great Nation.

May God bless you and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

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