

100 Things Americans May Not Know About the Bush Administration Record



THE ADMINISTRATION OF
PRESIDENT

George W. Bush

2001 - 2009

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Americans May Not Know
About the Bush Administration Record**

100 THINGS AMERICANS MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION RECORD

KEPT AMERICA SAFE

- ✦ For more than seven years after September 11, 2001, prevented another attack on our homeland.

Waged the Global War on Terror

- ✦ Removed threatening regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, which freed 50 million people.
- ✦ Weakened the al-Qaeda network and its affiliates.
- ✦ Disrupted terrorist plots and built a coalition of more than 90 nations to fight terrorism.

Transformed Our Approach to Combating Terrorism After the 9/11 Attacks

- ✦ Transformed the United States military and retooled the Department of Defense to meet 21st century challenges.
- ✦ Established the Director of National Intelligence, the National Counterterrorism Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Homeland Security Council. Shifted the FBI's focus from investigating terrorist attacks to preventing them.
- ✦ Advocated for and signed the Patriot Act, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, and a modernization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Protected the United States Homeland

- ✦ Arrested and convicted terrorists in the United States and captured and isolated key financiers and facilitators of terrorism.
- ✦ Expanded the Border Patrol and improved border security.
- ✦ Created the Transportation Security Administration, built a consolidated watchlist program, and strengthened programs for screening individuals entering the United States.
- ✦ Provided approximately \$27 billion in homeland security grants, increased national preparedness, protected key infrastructure, and strengthened the capabilities of all levels of government.

- ✦ Improved cargo screening and security at U.S. ports and increased containerized cargo screening overseas.
- ✦ Invested more than \$38 billion in public health and medical systems, created a biothreat air monitoring system, and developed a national strategy and international partnership on avian and pandemic flu.

Advanced Missile Defense and Counterproliferation Efforts, and Prevented our Enemies from Threatening America and our Allies with Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

- ✦ Secured a commitment from North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program.
- ✦ Persuaded Libya to disclose and dismantle all aspects of its WMD and advanced missile programs and renounce terrorism.
- ✦ Withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and operationalized missile defense.
- ✦ Dismantled the A.Q. Khan nuclear proliferation network.
- ✦ Established the Proliferation Security Initiative and multilateral coalitions to stop WMD proliferation and strengthen our ability to locate and secure nuclear and radiological materials around the world.
- ✦ Halved the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile five years ahead of schedule.

PROMOTED LIBERTY ABROAD

Removed Totalitarian Regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq and Helped Transform Both Nations into Emerging Democracies and Allies in the War on Terror

- ✦ Helped establish an emerging democratic Afghan government and helped improve the lives of the Afghan people, especially women and children.
- ✦ Helped establish an emerging democratic Iraqi government and the Iraqi Army, and ordered the surge of U.S. forces, which dramatically reduced violence and created the conditions for political and economic progress.
- ✦ Established innovative programs, such as Provincial Reconstruction Teams, to help create the conditions for peace and security in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Created Institutions to Propel the Spread of Democracy Worldwide, Helped Oppressed People Secure their Freedom, and Strengthened Support for Dissidents and Democracy Activists

- ✦ Created international organizations to promote the spread of freedom abroad and more than doubled funding to promote democracy worldwide.

- ✦ Generated international pressure to end the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and helped restore democracy and civilian rule in Pakistan.
- ✦ Supported the development of democracy in Ukraine and Georgia and helped establish Kosovo as an independent, multi-ethnic democracy.
- ✦ Focused international attention and applied tough sanctions on oppressive regimes in Burma, Belarus, Zimbabwe, and other nations, and bolstered civil society activists in countries such as Cuba and Venezuela.

Confronted Threats and Helped Defuse Regional Conflicts

- ✦ Worked with our international partners to confront Iran's destructive policies and to pressure Iran to suspend nuclear enrichment.
- ✦ Laid the foundation for a future Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement and a democratic Palestinian state by launching direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) at the Annapolis Conference and working with the PA to build accountable institutions.
- ✦ Led the international response to the genocide in Darfur and worked to end major conflicts in Africa.

HELPED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH A NEW APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

- ✦ Doubled foreign assistance worldwide and transformed our foreign assistance programs to increase transparency and hold governments accountable for making democratic and economic reforms.
- ✦ Helped save millions of lives through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the President's Malaria Initiative.
- ✦ Committed \$350 million over five years to treat more than 300 million people suffering from seven neglected tropical diseases and became the first, and largest, contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.
- ✦ Created the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which holds recipient countries of foreign aid accountable to make political and economic reforms, expanded the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and provided debt relief to impoverished nations.
- ✦ Created programs that will help educate more than 65 million children in the developing world.
- ✦ Provided more than \$16 billion for global food aid and more than \$10 billion for disaster relief and other humanitarian efforts worldwide since 2001.

STRENGTHENED AMERICA'S INTERESTS AND ALLIANCES ABROAD

- Transformed the State Department and our approach to diplomacy to help spread democracy worldwide and combat the conditions that breed terrorism.
- Transformed the NATO Alliance by inviting new members, launching operations around the globe, and developing 21st century capabilities.
- Improved our relationship with China, while encouraging democratic change, transformed our alliances with democracies in East Asia, and strengthened our partnership with the European Union to advance freedom around the world.
- Signed an historic civil nuclear agreement with India, worked with Brazil to develop and promote alternative fuels, and developed broad strategic partnerships with both countries.
- Worked with Mexico and Central American nations to combat drug cartels and gangs and helped Colombia fight narco-terrorism and restore democratic governance.

LOWERED TAXES, INSTITUTED PRO-GROWTH POLICIES, AND ADDRESSED ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- Provided tax relief to every American who pays income taxes, which helped fuel more than six years of uninterrupted economic growth and 52 consecutive months of job growth.
- Helped businesses grow and add workers by reducing the tax burden.
- Led the response to the 2008 financial crisis.

REDUCED WASTEFUL SPENDING AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Reduced the growth of non-security discretionary spending from a rate of 16 percent to below the rate of inflation.
- Saved taxpayers nearly \$40 billion over five years through sensible entitlement reform and by terminating and reducing ineffective Federal programs.
- Delivered transparency to the earmark process.
- Increased the accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of the Federal Government, which improved the Government's performance and helped save billions of dollars.

IMPROVED EDUCATION FOR EVERY AMERICAN CHILD

- Held public schools accountable, through the No Child Left Behind Act, for producing results for all students and required highly-qualified teachers in every classroom.
- Raised reading and math scores and narrowed the achievement gap between white and minority students.
- Provided parents with more information about school performance and choices for students stuck in low-performing schools, and created the first Federal school-choice program.
- Increased the size of college Pell Grants to an all-time high and nearly doubled support for the Pell Grant program.
- Established the Helping America's Youth Initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, to help adults connect with at-risk children.

REFORMED MEDICARE AND ADDED A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

- Provided more than 40 million Americans with better access to prescription drugs through the market-based Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.
- Added preventive screening programs to Medicare.
- Increased competition and choices by stabilizing and expanding Private Plan Options through the Medicare Advantage program, and increased enrollment to nearly 10 million Americans.

STRENGTHENED AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

- Empowered Americans to take charge of their health care decision-making by establishing tax-free Health Savings Accounts.
- Infused transparency about price and quality into the health care system and launched an initiative to make electronic health records available to most Americans within 10 years.
- Helped provide treatment to nearly 17 million people by establishing or expanding 1,200 community health centers focused in high-poverty areas.
- Bolstered funding for medical research, which contributed to medical breakthroughs and new discoveries, including the HPV cancer vaccine.

IMPROVED LIVES BY ENGAGING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM

- ✦ Helped millions in need by expanding partnerships with nonprofits and leveling the playing field for faith-based and community organizations.
- ✦ Created USA Freedom Corps following 9/11 to help Americans volunteer to serve causes greater than themselves.

PROVIDED UNPRECEDENTED RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

- ✦ Increased total funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs more than 98 percent since 2001 and helped millions of veterans receive expedited and improved care.
- ✦ Instituted reforms for the care of wounded warriors, many of which were based on the recommendations of the Dole-Shalala Commission, and dramatically expanded resources for mental health services.
- ✦ Expanded education benefits for service members and veterans, increased placement and career counseling for returning veterans, and significantly reduced the processing time for disability claims.
- ✦ Reduced the number of homeless veterans by nearly 40 percent from 2001 to 2007.

SUPPORTED AMERICAN WORKERS BY INCREASING TRADE, JOB TRAINING, AND COMPETITIVENESS

Expanded and Enforced Trade Agreements to Open New Markets for American Products

- ✦ Levelled the playing field for American workers by increasing the number of countries partnered with the U.S. on free trade agreements from three to 14.
- ✦ Negotiated and signed a trade agreement that helped increase U.S. exports to Central America by nearly \$8 billion from 2005 to 2008.

Helped American Workers and Businesses Remain Competitive

- ✦ Created the American Competitiveness Initiative to help Americans compete in the global economy and increased research and development funding.
- ✦ Invested nearly \$1 billion in new job training initiatives to prepare workers for 21st century jobs and ensured fair pay for American workers.

- ✦ Helped make broadband access available in 99 percent of America's zip codes.
- ✦ Created a new National Space Policy to ensure the continued free access and use of space for peaceful purposes and to help advance America's economic competitiveness.

SET A BRIGHT COURSE FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

Took Unparalleled Action to Advance Cooperative Conservation and Protect the Environment

- ✦ Created the world's largest fully protected marine area and protected our oceans by taking action to end overfishing and conserve habitats.
- ✦ Improved and protected the health of more than 27 million acres of Federal forest and grasslands and protected, restored, and improved more than three million acres of wetlands.
- ✦ Instituted policies that helped reduce air pollution by 12 percent from 2001 to 2007 and adopted new policies that will produce even deeper reductions.
- ✦ Provided more than \$6.5 billion to repair and improve our national parks, launched the National Parks Centennial Initiative, and established the Preserve America Initiative with First Lady Laura Bush to protect our cultural and natural heritage.

Advanced America's Energy Security and Took Steps to Develop Cleaner, More Efficient Sources of Energy

- ✦ Called for and signed legislation to reduce U.S. gasoline consumption by tens of billions of gallons of fuel and significantly improve energy efficiency.
- ✦ Instituted policies that helped quadruple ethanol production to more than six billion gallons.
- ✦ Removed the executive prohibition on offshore exploration for oil and gas.
- ✦ Provided nearly \$18 billion to research, develop, and promote alternative and more efficient energy technologies such as biofuels, solar, wind, clean coal, nuclear, and hydrogen.
- ✦ Encouraged the deployment of new nuclear reactors in the United States, which resulted in the first license applications to construct and operate new nuclear power plants in 30 years.

Reduced Crime, Lowered Teen Drug Use, Protected Vulnerable Children, and Helped Make America a More Equitable Country

- Launched innovative strategies that contributed to the lowest overall incidence of reported crime in three decades.
- Convicted nearly 1,300 individuals of corporate fraud and corruption.
- Reduced drug use among teens by 25 percent.
- Rescued more than 575 children from sexual exploitation, arrested and convicted thousands of suspects, and helped recover nearly 400 missing children since 2002 by strengthening the AMBER Alert program.
- Protected the right to vote for generations to come by reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act and advanced civil rights.

Reduced Homelessness and Aided Struggling Homeowners

- Reduced the number of chronically homeless people by approximately 30 percent between 2005 and 2007.
- Helped more than two million individuals and families keep their homes by launching FHA Secure and helping to facilitate the HOPE NOW Alliance.

Improved Transportation and Import Safety and Protected American Consumers

- Implemented congestion relief and safety measures that have made our highways and airways safer and more efficient.
- Increased import safety for American consumers.
- Enacted the Do Not Call List, which 145 million Americans have utilized to reduce unwanted telemarketing calls.

STOOD ON PRINCIPLE, REFUSED TO PUT OFF TOUGH DECISIONS, AND SHOWED THE WAY AHEAD

Advanced a Culture of Life

- Outlawed partial birth abortion, ensured that every infant born alive is protected, established consequences for violence toward unborn children, and took steps to protect the rights of health care providers to act according to their conscience.
- Provided government funding for stem cell research while refusing to sanction the destruction of human life.
- Prohibited foreign nongovernmental organizations that receive U.S. tax dollars for family planning from performing or actively promoting abortion.

Appointed Judges Committed to Ruling by the Letter of the Law

- Appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, and more than one-third of all active Federal judges, who will not legislate from the bench.

Confronted Climate Change through Innovation and without Harming our Economy

- Set the country on course to stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions below projected levels by 2025 and invested more than \$44 billion in climate change-related programs.
- Worked to build international consensus on practical actions to address climate change as a global issue.

Demonstrated Leadership on Reforming Entitlement Programs, the Immigration System, and Government Sponsored Enterprises

- Proposed initiatives to fix Social Security and address the greatest threat to America's fiscal future—the uncontrolled growth of Federal entitlements.
- Laid out a comprehensive plan to reform and fix our broken immigration system.
- Warned of the risk that government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac posed to America's financial security beginning in 2001.

Directed Unprecedented Preparations for a Smooth Presidential Transition

- Led the most comprehensive and forward-leaning effort in modern history to facilitate a smooth and effective transition.

100 THINGS AMERICANS MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION RECORD

KEPT AMERICA SAFE

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001 – recognizing that terrorism represented an ongoing threat to our Nation – President Bush took the fight to the enemy to defeat the terrorists and protect America. The President deployed all elements of national power to combat terrorism, which had previously been considered primarily a “law enforcement” issue, and established the principle that the use of violence against civilians cannot be justified by any cause. He transformed our military and strengthened our national security institutions to wage the War on Terror and secure our homeland. The President also made missile defense operational and advanced counterproliferation efforts to help prevent our enemies from threatening us, and our allies, with weapons of mass destruction. There have been no attacks on American soil since 9/11, and because of the actions taken by President Bush, America is safer and more secure.

- ✦ **Prevented another attack on our homeland for more than seven years.** Protected our Nation and prevented another attack on U.S. soil for more than seven years, modernized our national security institutions and tools of war, and bolstered our homeland security.

Waged the Global War on Terror

- ✦ **Removed threatening regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, which freed 50 million people.** Removed the Taliban from power and brought freedom to the people of Afghanistan. Freed Iraqis from the rule of Saddam Hussein, a dictator who murdered his own people, invaded his neighbors, and repeatedly defied United Nations resolutions.
- ✦ **Weakened the al-Qaeda network and its affiliates.** Captured or killed hundreds of al-Qaeda leaders and operatives in more than two dozen countries with the help of partner nations. September 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is in U.S. custody and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the former leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, was killed in 2006. Removed al-Qaeda’s safe-haven in Afghanistan and crippled al-Qaeda in Iraq, including defeating al-Qaeda in its former stronghold of Anbar Province.

- ✦ **Disrupted terrorist plots and built a coalition of more than 90 nations to fight terrorism.** Partnered with nations in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America on intelligence sharing and law enforcement coordination to break up terrorist networks and bring terrorists to justice. Successfully disrupted terrorist plots such as the 2006 plan to blow up airplanes flying from the United Kingdom to the United States and Canada.

Transformed Our Approach to Combating Terrorism After the 9/11 Attacks

- ✦ **Transformed the United States military and retooled the Department of Defense to meet 21st century challenges.** Provided our military with the tools, equipment, and resources to combat terrorism and other emerging threats and started moving American forces from Cold War garrisons in Europe and Asia so they can deploy more quickly to any region of the world. Increased the size of our ground forces and number of unmanned aerial vehicles and strengthened special operations forces by increasing resources, manpower, and capabilities. Modernized and transformed the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. Reshaped our military command structure by establishing Northern Command and Africa Command, creating a new strategic command responsible for protecting America against long-range attacks, and doubling funding for Special Operations Command, which is now the lead command for the War on Terror. Increased the Defense Department's base budget more than 70 percent since 2001, including increased funding for military pay and benefits and research and development.
- ✦ **Established the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the Department of Homeland Security, and the Homeland Security Council (HSC).** Shifted the FBI's focus from investigating terrorist attacks to preventing them. Established a unified, collaborative intelligence community, led by the DNI, to ensure information is shared among all intelligence and law enforcement professionals so they have the information they need to protect the American people. Established the NCTC to break down barriers that restricted the sharing of information between the law enforcement and intelligence communities. Created an additional 66 fusion centers to help Federal, State, and local authorities coordinate and collaborate more effectively in combating terrorism. Consolidated 22 agencies and 180,000 employees under one agency, the Department of Homeland Security, to foster a comprehensive, coordinated approach to protecting our country. Established the HSC at the White House to ensure the

effective coordination and implementation of all homeland security-related activities among executive departments and agencies. Combined the counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and intelligence elements of the FBI under the leadership of a senior FBI official. Created the Terrorist Screening Center and a National Security Division at the Department of Justice.

- ✦ **Advocated for and signed the Patriot Act, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, and a modernization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).** Updated FISA to adapt to new advances in technology and give our law enforcement professionals and future administrations the tools they need to monitor what the terrorists are planning, while respecting the liberties of the American people. Enacted vital legislation such as the Patriot Act and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act to close dangerous gaps between our law enforcement and intelligence communities and enable them to work closely and collaboratively to identify and disrupt terrorist plots and protect American lives.

Protected the United States Homeland

- ✦ **Arrested and convicted terrorists in the United States and captured and isolated key financiers and facilitators of terrorism.** Arrested and convicted more than two dozen terrorists and their supporters in America since 9/11. Froze the financial assets in the United States of hundreds of individuals and entities linked to terrorism.
- ✦ **Expanded the Border Patrol and improved border security.** Doubled the Border Patrol to more than 18,000 agents, equipped the Border Patrol with better technology and new infrastructure, and effectively ended the process of catch and release at the border. Increased border security and immigration enforcement funding by more than 160 percent and constructed hundreds of miles of fencing and vehicle barriers.
- ✦ **Created the Transportation Security Administration, built a consolidated watchlist program, and strengthened programs for screening individuals entering the United States.** Instituted a process to screen every commercial air passenger in the country, launched credentialing initiatives to better identify passengers, and expanded the Federal air marshal program. Replaced the multiple watchlists that were in place prior to 9/11 with a single, consolidated watchlist, and incorporated biometrics in screening and identifying individuals entering our country. Created US-VISIT to screen foreign travelers and prevent terrorists from entering America. Required secure identification at our ports of entry to better monitor individuals entering the United States.

- ✦ **Provided approximately \$27 billion in homeland security grants, increased national preparedness, protected key infrastructure, and strengthened the capabilities of all levels of government.** Developed a comprehensive plan that clearly defines roles and responsibilities for protecting critical infrastructure, such as chemical facilities, dams, and nuclear plants for all levels of government, private industry, non-governmental agencies, and tribal partners. Forged a new, comprehensive cybersecurity policy to improve the security of government and military computer systems and made protecting these systems a national priority. Developed the National Response Framework and the National Strategy for Homeland Security, which strengthened homeland security efforts across all levels of government.
- ✦ **Improved cargo screening and security at U.S. ports and increased containerized cargo screening overseas.** Increased scanning of cargo containers for potential radiological and nuclear threats to more than 98 percent of all containers entering the supply chain via U.S. seaports. Created the Transportation Workers Identification Credential, a Federal ID for port employees to ensure that workers who have access to our ports do not pose a threat to our Nation. Implemented the National Strategy for Maritime Security, a coordinated Federal response to threats, and worked with Federal, State, local, and industry partners to secure our ports. Worked with international partners to employ the Container Security Initiative in 58 foreign seaports, which resulted in 86 percent of all U.S.-destined containerized cargo being screened overseas before entering the U.S. supply chain.
- ✦ **Invested more than \$38 billion in public health and medical systems, created a biothreat air monitoring system, and developed a national strategy and international partnership on avian and pandemic flu.** Built programs to ensure early warning and rapid response to a biological attack or any event that threatens the health and safety of Americans. Increased the Strategic National Stockpile of vaccines, antibiotics, and antidotes to prepare for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents or attacks, including enough smallpox vaccine for every American and 60 million courses of antibiotics for anthrax. Implemented a groundbreaking air monitoring system in 30 cities that could help save lives in the event of a biological attack. Developed mitigation strategies and guidelines for controlling influenza outbreaks in communities, and made significant investments in vaccines, antiviral medications, and research to respond to a potential outbreak of avian or pandemic flu. Better protected our agriculture and food sectors through increased education,

training, surveillance systems, and inspection capabilities. Worked with international partners such as Australia, Canada, the European Union, and Japan to ensure a coordinated response to a possible outbreak.

Advanced Missile Defense and Counterproliferation Efforts, and Prevented our Enemies from Threatening America and Our Allies with Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

- ✦ **Secured a commitment from North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program.** Created a multi-lateral framework, the Six-Party Talks, which secured a commitment from North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs.
- ✦ **Persuaded Libya to disclose and dismantle all aspects of its WMD and advanced missile programs and renounce terrorism.** Worked with the United Kingdom to persuade Libya to verifiably dismantle its chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, and Missile Technology Control Regime-class missile programs. Removed 1.8 metric tons of uranium hexafluoride and more than 500 metric tons of centrifuge components and related materials. Persuaded Libya to renounce terrorism and accept responsibility for prior acts of terror, and normalized our relations with Libya as a result of its actions.
- ✦ **Withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and operationalized missile defense.** Signed agreements for missile defense sites in the Czech Republic and Poland to help protect America and its allies from the threat of WMD delivered by ballistic missiles. Obtained NATO endorsement of plans to deploy missile defense assets in Europe.
- ✦ **Dismantled the A.Q. Khan nuclear proliferation network.** Dismantled and prevented the reconstitution of this extensive, international network that had spread sensitive nuclear technology and capability to Iran and North Korea.
- ✦ **Established the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and multilateral coalitions to stop WMD proliferation and strengthen our ability to locate and secure nuclear and radiological materials around the world.** United more than 90 nations under the PSI to take cooperative action to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials. Established the 22-country G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the 75-member Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism to reduce the threat of a nuclear terrorist attack. Secured the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, which required all United Nations

members to take and enforce actions against the proliferation of WMD and related materials. Created the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and the Nuclear Materials Information Program, which have bolstered our ability to detect the illicit movement of nuclear and radiological materials and identify their sources.

- ✦ **Halved the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile five years ahead of schedule.** Set a new goal of an additional 15 percent reduction by 2012.

PROMOTED LIBERTY ABROAD

President Bush has promoted the spread of freedom as the great alternative to the terrorists' ideology of hatred, because expanding liberty and democracy is the best way to defeat the extremists and protect the American people. President Bush also acted quickly and decisively to help end international crises that arose during his term in office and to confront regimes that threatened our Nation and world security. By working to spread liberty in these volatile regions, the President has helped make the American people safer by combating the conditions that breed extremism.

Removed Totalitarian Regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq and Helped Transform Both Nations into Emerging Democracies and Allies in the War on Terror

- ✦ **Helped establish an emerging democratic Afghan government and helped improve the lives of the Afghan people, especially women and children.** Supported the creation of an Afghan government that is elected by its people, respects the rule of law, and guarantees women the right to vote. Helped stand up the Afghan National Army and police force. Provided humanitarian, development, and security assistance to help Afghanistan rebuild its economy, civil society, and vital institutions such as hospitals and schools. More than six million children, approximately two million of whom are girls, are now in Afghan schools, compared to fewer than one million in 2001. Created the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council to promote public-private partnerships between U.S. and Afghan institutions and to mobilize private sector resources to support Afghan women.
- ✦ **Helped establish an emerging democratic Iraqi government and the Iraqi Army, and ordered the surge of U.S. forces, which dramatically reduced violence and created the conditions for political and economic progress.** Supported the creation of a democratic Iraqi government that is operating under one of the most progressive constitutions in the Arab

world, and helped train and equip more than half a million Iraqi Army and police forces. Helped Iraq's young democracy build its civil society and economy, including efforts to build a functional judicial system and implement economic reforms that led to a dramatic reduction in inflation and an increase in economic growth and business registrations. Ordered the surge in Iraq and helped create the conditions that allowed Iraq's leaders to pass vital legislation, work towards national unity, and implement economic reforms. Since the surge was implemented, total security incidents and ethno-sectarian violence have been drastically reduced, Iraqi security forces are now responsible for security in 13 of 18 provinces, including al-Qaeda in Iraq's former stronghold of Anbar Province, budgets and numerous legislative measures - including a Provincial Election Law - have been passed and reconciliation is moving forward. Successfully negotiated a Strategic Framework Agreement and a Security Agreement with Iraq, which will further strengthen the relationship between our nations, provide the United States with vital protections and authorities to continue our mission to help stabilize Iraq, and establish a path for U.S. forces to reduce their presence in Iraq and return home on success.

- ✦ **Established innovative programs, such as Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), to help create the conditions for peace and security in Iraq and Afghanistan.** Deployed PRTs comprised of military and civilian experts to ensure security gains are followed by real improvements in daily life. Helped local communities strengthen their economies and create jobs, deliver basic services, improve governance and fight corruption, and build or repair key infrastructure such as roads, bridges, hospitals, and schools. Supported grassroots efforts, such as the Sons of Iraq movement, to help the Iraqi people improve security and drive extremists from their communities. Created Agricultural Development Teams in Afghanistan to help farmers feed their people and become more self-sufficient.

Created Institutions to Propel the Spread of Democracy Worldwide, Helped Oppressed People Secure their Freedom, and Strengthened Support for Dissidents and Democracy Activists

- ✦ **Created international organizations to promote the spread of freedom abroad and more than doubled funding to promote democracy worldwide.** Proposed and initiated the U.N. Democracy Fund, which consists of nearly \$100 million in contributions from more than 30 member nations, to finance projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all

groups in democratic processes. Created the Asia-Pacific Democracy Partnership, which has begun to provide election observation in the Asia-Pacific region. Secured approval of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which obligates governments to promote and defend democracy among and in the 34 members of the Organization of American States. Set up the Middle East Partnership Initiative, which has provided nearly \$500 million to advance women's rights, educational reform, economic opportunity, and democratic governance. Increased the budget for the National Endowment for Democracy by more than 150 percent since 2001. Doubled democracy funding from Fiscal Year 2001 to Fiscal Year 2008 to promote the spread of liberty abroad and protect the American people by addressing the conditions that breed terrorism.

- ✦ **Generated international pressure to end the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and helped restore democracy and civilian rule in Pakistan.** Strengthened our relationship with and support to a democratic Lebanon. Called for and supported parliamentary elections in Pakistan that reflected the will of the people and ended more than eight years of military rule.
- ✦ **Supported the development of democracy in Ukraine and Georgia and helped establish Kosovo as an independent, multi-ethnic democracy.** Supported civil society and democratic activists during the successful Orange Revolution in Ukraine and Rose Revolution in Georgia, and fostered the development of civil societies in both countries. Supported Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and economic recovery in the wake of Russia's August 2008 invasion, including a \$1 billion economic and humanitarian support package. Recognized Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state in February 2008.
- ✦ **Focused international attention and applied tough sanctions on oppressive regimes in Burma, Belarus, Zimbabwe, and other nations, and bolstered civil society activists in countries such as Cuba and Venezuela.** Met with activists from more than 35 countries and helped unify democracy advocates and boost the international standing of the opposition in countries run by totalitarian and oppressive regimes. Imposed travel and financial sanctions on repressive regimes, select individuals, and those who provide them with material support. First Lady Laura Bush hosted an event at the United Nations headquarters to draw international attention to human rights abuses in Burma, and has been a leading advocate for human rights in Burma. Established the Commission for Assistance

to a Free Cuba to reassure the Cuban people that the United States stands ready to help them transition toward democracy and provided \$400 million to promote democratic change in Cuba. Supported pro-democracy forces in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Nicaragua, and supported election observation missions in Guatemala, Bolivia, Honduras, Venezuela, and Haiti.

Confronted Threats and Helped Defuse Regional Conflicts

- ✦ **Worked with our international partners to confront Iran's destructive policies and to pressure Iran to suspend nuclear enrichment.** Worked with European partners to limit Iran's ability to procure weapons and finance terrorism, and initiated targeted sanctions against Iran's Quds Force. Gathered support for and won passage of three United Nations Security Council resolutions that impose sanctions on Iran and require Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment and other proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities.
- ✦ **Laid the foundation for a future Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement and a democratic Palestinian state by launching direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) at the Annapolis Conference and working with the PA to build accountable institutions.** Became the first U.S. Administration to call for a two-state solution, worked to secure Israeli, Palestinian, and international support, and committed the United States to help create the conditions where two democratic states can live side by side in peace and security.
- ✦ **Led the international response to the genocide in Darfur and worked to end major conflicts in Africa.** Issued sanctions against the Bashir regime, provided funding and support for peacekeepers, including \$1.5 billion in new funding since 2004 for African peacekeepers destined for Darfur, and led the humanitarian response to the crisis through more than \$2 billion in food and medical assistance. Helped end conflicts in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, as well as Sudan's north-south civil war, by using diplomacy and providing historic levels of resources. Led the international effort to maintain peace and secure a National Unity Government in Kenya following the political crisis and disputed election in December 2007.

HELPED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH A NEW APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

President Bush established a new paradigm for development assistance that treats recipient nations as full partners while insisting that our joint efforts achieve measurable results. The key to this success is partner countries that govern justly, invest in the health and education of their people, and use the power of free trade and free markets to lift people out of poverty. The President believes that every human life has matchless value, that to whom much is given, much is required, and that it is the responsibility of America to help people in need across the world. In addition to improving the lives of millions around the globe, these programs also help combat the conditions that enable terrorists and extremists to recruit new members.

- ✦ **Doubled foreign assistance worldwide and transformed our foreign assistance programs to increase transparency and hold governments accountable for making democratic and economic reforms.** Doubled foreign assistance worldwide from 2000 to 2007 through new programs that are centered on the principles of country ownership, good governance and the rule of law, accountability, and economic reform. Doubled foreign assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa and put the United States on track to double assistance again by 2010, and doubled bilateral assistance to Latin America.
- ✦ **Helped save millions of lives through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).** Supported life-saving treatment for more than 2.1 million people and care for more than 10 million people (including more than four million orphans and vulnerable children) around the world through PEPFAR. More than 237,000 babies have been born HIV-free due to PEPFAR's programs to prevent mothers from passing the virus to their children. Reauthorized PEPFAR, which will support treatment for a total of at least three million people, help prevent 12 million new infections, provide care for 12 million people (including five million orphans and vulnerable children), and commit billions of dollars to fight malaria and tuberculosis. Committed \$1.2 billion in funding through the PMI over a five-year period, which is on track to help reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in 15 targeted countries in Sub-

Saharan Africa. The President and First Lady Laura Bush hosted the 2006 White House Summit on Malaria to establish a united effort to combat the disease, and in 2007, more than six million insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed through PMI affiliates.

- ✦ **Committed \$350 million over five years to treat more than 300 million people suffering from seven neglected tropical diseases and became the first, and largest, contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.** Pledged \$350 million over five years to target seven major neglected tropical diseases and provide treatment for more than 300 million people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Contributed more than \$3.3 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.
- ✦ **Created the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which holds recipient countries of foreign aid accountable to make political and economic reforms, expanded the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and provided debt relief to impoverished nations.** Established a new paradigm for foreign assistance through the MCC by investing in countries that govern justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. The MCC has signed agreements, which seek transformational change in the development of recipient countries, for \$6.7 billion in grant funding for 35 countries. Expanded AGOA to provide trade assistance and benefits to nations that have instituted economic reforms to help their people. Helped nations in Sub-Saharan Africa develop their economies and farming capabilities and created new markets for U.S. goods and services. Secured debt cancellation agreements for impoverished nations by working with the IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Expanded the use of microloans to spur investment and improve the lives of people in the developing world and to fight the conditions that breed extremism and terrorism.
- ✦ **Created programs that will help educate more than 65 million children in the developing world.** Launched the Africa Education Initiative, which committed \$600 million over eight years to increase access to education opportunities for tens of millions of children in Africa. In 2007, the President and First Lady announced the Initiative for Expanding Education, which committed an additional \$525 million to provide greater access to quality education. Established the Partnership for Latin American Youth, a three year, \$75 million initiative to help disadvantaged youth learn English and improve their ability to find jobs.

- ✦ **Provided more than \$16 billion for global food aid and more than \$10 billion for disaster relief and other humanitarian efforts worldwide since 2001.** Led the world in providing food aid to alleviate worldwide hunger and food assistance to people in oppressed nations. Led the relief effort in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and provided critical support to the relief effort for Cyclone Nargis that devastated Burma and for earthquake relief in Pakistan. Provided vital resources to respond to tropical storms in the Caribbean and Central America, among others. Worked with 24 other nations to create an operational global tsunami warning system that provides warnings in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Carried out hospital ship missions to provide medical care and treatment to people in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Asia-Pacific region.

STRENGTHENED AMERICA'S INTERESTS AND ALLIANCES ABROAD

President Bush used diplomacy to strengthen our relationships with other nations and bolster our standing in the world community. Through his work to invigorate international alliances and partnerships, the President has made America and the world safer and more secure.

- ✦ **Transformed the State Department and our approach to diplomacy to help spread democracy worldwide and combat the conditions that breed terrorism.** Focused U.S. diplomatic efforts to promote democratic, well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people, reduce poverty, and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system. Repositioned Department staff to higher priority locations and transformational missions, constructed new overseas diplomatic facilities, created an active response corps to deploy quickly to respond to crises, and improved our ability to operate in post-conflict areas. Increased the base budget for the Department of State and international programs by more than 70 percent since 2001.
- ✦ **Transformed the NATO Alliance by inviting new members, launching operations around the globe, and developing 21st century capabilities.** Helped secure several new democracies with the expansion of NATO to include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, and Albania. Led the push for NATO to undertake out-of-area

security missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Darfur. Helped improve NATO's military capacity by establishing a NATO Response Force. Expanded NATO's political dialogue and partnerships with non-member states.

- ✦ **Improved our relationship with China, while encouraging democratic change, transformed our alliances with democracies in East Asia, and strengthened our partnership with the European Union to advance freedom around the world.** Expanded economic cooperation with China by establishing regular, high-level economic engagement between U.S. and Chinese officials. Called on China to adopt democratic changes and become a responsible international stakeholder, and worked to improve relations between China and Taiwan. Strengthened alliances with countries such as Japan and South Korea through a major force realignment and relocation program and by strengthening multilateral, regional institutions such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summits. Signed a new Strategic Defense Trade Treaty with Australia and a new Strategic Framework Agreement with Singapore. Collaborated with our European allies on issues of common interest such as combating terrorism, Middle East peace, Afghanistan and Iraq reconstruction, HIV/AIDS and global health issues, the economy, and energy security.
- ✦ **Signed an historic civil nuclear agreement with India, worked with Brazil to develop and promote alternative fuels, and developed broad strategic partnerships with both countries.** Completed the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative and worked to expand cooperation with India on a broad range of issues including defense, science, technology, and the promotion of democracy. Increased cooperation with Brazil in the research and development of ethanol and other biofuels and supported the expansion of the international market for biofuels. Established the Brazil-United States CEO Forum to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between Brazil and the United States.
- ✦ **Worked with Mexico and Central American nations to combat drug cartels and gangs and helped Colombia fight narco-terrorism and restore democratic governance.** Established the Merida Initiative with Mexico and Central American nations to break the power and impunity of drug cartels and criminal gangs. Provided resources and assistance to help Colombia combat narco-terrorist organizations. Kidnappings, terrorist attacks, and murders have dropped significantly in Colombia since 2002.

LOWERED TAXES, INSTITUTED PRO-GROWTH POLICIES, AND ADDRESSED ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

President Bush provided the largest tax relief in a generation and reduced the tax rate for every American who pays income taxes. Americans would have paid an additional \$1.3 trillion in taxes by the end of 2007 had it not been for the President's tax relief packages, which fueled more than six years of uninterrupted economic growth and 52 consecutive months of job growth. This unprecedented growth was ended by the turbulence in the housing and credit markets, which the President responded to with bold action.

- ✦ **Provided tax relief to every American who pays income taxes, which helped fuel more than six years of uninterrupted economic growth and 52 consecutive months of job growth.** Reduced individual income tax rates, doubled the child tax credit, created a new 10 percent bracket rate, provided marriage penalty relief, eliminated income taxes for 13 million American taxpayers, and began a phase-out of the estate tax.
- ✦ **Helped businesses grow and add workers by reducing the tax burden.** Reduced tax rates on dividends and long-term capital gains, which helped lead to an increase in capital gains realizations of approximately 150 percent and an increase in dividend income growth from an average annual rate of approximately 8.5 percent in the 20 years before the tax cut to an average rate of more than 14 percent after the tax cut. Provided increased expensing for small businesses, which made it cheaper for them to invest in new equipment.
- ✦ **Led the response to the 2008 financial crisis.** Addressed the weakness in the economy early in 2008 by leading the bipartisan passage of an economic growth package that boosted consumer spending and encouraged businesses to expand. Responded with bold action when the financial crisis intensified by leading the passage and implementation of a rescue plan that helped address the root of the financial crisis, protected the deposits of individuals and small businesses, and helped ensure credit would remain available to individuals and families. Convened a summit with the leaders of the G-20 nations to discuss efforts to strengthen economic growth, deal with the financial crisis, reaffirm a commitment to free market principles, and lay the foundation for reform to help ensure that a similar crisis does not happen again.

REDUCED WASTEFUL SPENDING AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

President Bush instituted policies that reduced wasteful Federal spending, saved taxpayers billions of dollars, and brought greater accountability and effectiveness to the Federal Government. The President reduced the growth of non-security discretionary spending to levels below the rate of inflation, issued an Executive Order making it an official policy of the Federal Government “to spend taxpayer dollars effectively, and more effectively each year,” enacted sensible entitlement reform, and cut and reduced unnecessary government programs. The President also brought greater transparency to the earmark process and government regulations, and held Federal agencies and employees accountable by creating sound management practices.

- ✦ **Reduced the growth of non-security discretionary spending from a rate of 16 percent to below the rate of inflation.** Inherited non-security discretionary spending at a rate of 16 percent growth and brought it down to under three percent growth, which is below the rate of inflation.
- ✦ **Saved taxpayers nearly \$40 billion over five years through sensible entitlement reform and by terminating and reducing ineffective Federal programs.** Enacted the Deficit Reduction Act, which reduced the annual growth of mandatory spending and will save approximately \$300 per taxpayer.
- ✦ **Delivered transparency to the earmark process.** Set up an online public database at earmarks.omb.gov that exposed thousands of earmark projects that totaled tens of billions of dollars. Called for and signed legislation requiring the disclosure of earmarks and their sponsors to achieve greater accountability. Issued an Executive Order that directed agencies to ignore earmarks that were not subject to an up-or-down vote by Congress.
- ✦ **Increased the accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of the Federal Government, which improved the Government’s performance and helped save billions of dollars.** Required all Federal programs to have clear, quantifiable outcome and efficiency goals, and ensured agency performance ratings and Federal earmarks, contracts, grants, and loans are readily transparent to the general public. Required all employees to be rated on their performance relative to their goals, and required that salary increases for all Senior Executives and approximately 20 percent of all Federal employees be based on performance. Since 2004, reduced improper payments by \$8 billion, reduced underutilized real property by \$8 billion,

and projected to reduce the cost of commercial services more than \$1 billion per year. Generated average annual net benefits from new regulations: the quantified value of the environmental, public health, and welfare improvements from regulations issued during this Administration average approximately \$26 billion per year, compared to approximately \$6.5 billion per year during the previous Administration. Improved access to a wide range of Federal services by launching citizen-centered websites, including sites that help people file tax returns, apply for Federal jobs, grants, and loans, and plan vacations at national parks.

IMPROVED EDUCATION FOR EVERY AMERICAN CHILD

President Bush transformed the Federal Government's approach to education through No Child Left Behind, which brought greater accountability to schools, options to parents of children in underperforming schools, and results to students. Since No Child Left Behind took effect, test scores have risen, accountability has increased, and we have begun to close the achievement gap between white and minority students. President Bush also increased funding for the Pell Grant program to help make college affordable for more American students.

- **Held public schools accountable, through the No Child Left Behind Act, for producing results for all students and required highly-qualified teachers in every classroom.** Ensured that States set standards that required students to be able to read and do math at grade level, and held schools accountable if they did not help their students meet these standards. Increased the percentage of highly-qualified teachers in classrooms from 87 percent in the 2003-04 school year to 94 percent in the 2006-07 school year. Created the \$100 million Teacher Incentive Fund, which rewards teachers who improve student achievement in high-need school districts.
- **Raised reading and math scores and narrowed the achievement gap between white and minority students.** Instituted policies that helped fourth-grade students achieve their highest reading and math scores on record and eighth-grade students achieve their highest math scores on record. Increased the percentage of first-grade students reading at grade level in 44 of 50 States. Helped African-American and Hispanic students post all-time highs in several categories on national assessments.

- ✦ **Provided parents with more information about school performance and choices for students stuck in low-performing schools, and created the first Federal school-choice program.** Gave parents the opportunity to choose a better public school, a public charter school, or a tutor if their child's school doesn't improve. Provided funding to more than half of all public charter schools in the country to expand alternatives for students in struggling schools. Since 2000, the number of charter schools in the United States has more than doubled. Established the D.C. Opportunity Scholarships program, the first Federal school-choice program, which provided more than 2,600 students with scholarships to attend the private or religious school of their choice.
- ✦ **Increased the size of college Pell Grants to an all-time high and nearly doubled support for the Pell Grant program.** Increased the maximum Pell Grant award to more than \$4,700, the largest amount ever, and increased funding for the Pell Grant program from \$8.8 to \$16.2 billion. Expected to help more than 5.5 million Americans attend college in the 2008-09 school year - 1.2 million more than in the 2001-02 school year.
- ✦ **Established the Helping America's Youth Initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, to help adults connect with at-risk children.** Created the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs through an Executive Order, which has further advanced efforts to improve the lives of at-risk children.

REFORMED MEDICARE AND ADDED A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

President Bush instituted the most significant reforms to Medicare in nearly 40 years, most notably through a prescription drug benefit, which has provided more than 40 million Americans with better access to prescription drugs. The President also added preventive screening programs to Medicare to help diagnose illnesses earlier, and increased competition and choices available to Medicare beneficiaries.

- ✦ **Provided more than 40 million Americans with better access to prescription drugs through the market-based Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.** Established competition among private drug plans, which contributed to a 40 percent decline in the actual average 2008 premiums for Medicare drug coverage compared to original estimates. Projected overall program spending between 2004 and 2013 is approximately \$240 billion lower, nearly 38 percent, than originally estimated.

- ✦ **Added preventive screening programs to Medicare.** Improved the quality of health care for Medicare beneficiaries by adding preventive screening programs to help diagnose illnesses earlier.
- ✦ **Increased competition and choices by stabilizing and expanding Private Plan Options through the Medicare Advantage program, and increased enrollment to nearly 10 million Americans.** Increased private plan enrollment from 4.7 million in 2003 to nearly 10 million in 2008 (more than 20 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries). Ensured nearly every county in America has a private plan choice, many with zero dollar premiums and supplemental benefits.

STRENGTHENED AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

President Bush enacted policies to help Americans receive the care they need at a price they can afford and also infused transparency and innovation into the health care system. The President created tax-free Health Savings Accounts to help Americans take charge of their health care decision-making, and increased funding for medical research, which contributed to medical breakthroughs such as the development of the HPV cancer vaccine.

- ✦ **Empowered Americans to take charge of their health care decision-making by establishing tax-free Health Savings Accounts (HSAs).** Enabled more than six million Americans who have enrolled in HSA-eligible plans to save money tax-free for current and future medical expenses.
- ✦ **Infused transparency about price and quality into the health care system and launched an initiative to make electronic health records available to most Americans within 10 years.** Directed Federal agencies to inform beneficiaries of the prices paid to doctors and hospitals and empowered Americans to find better value and better care, largely through increased competition. Ordered Federal agencies to use improved health IT systems to facilitate the rapid exchange of electronic health information to improve the quality of care for Americans.
- ✦ **Helped provide treatment to nearly 17 million people by establishing or expanding 1,200 community health centers focused in high-poverty areas.** Increased the number of patients treated at health centers by more than 60 percent, to nearly 17 million people, since 2001.

- ✦ **Bolstered funding for medical research, which contributed to medical breakthroughs and new discoveries, including the HPV cancer vaccine.** Increased funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the primary Federal agency for medical research, by more than 44 percent since 2001, and fulfilled the commitment to double the NIH budget over the five year period from 1998 to 2003. This contributed to breakthroughs such as the development of the HPV cancer vaccine, advances in cell reprogramming, the development of the Cancer Genome Atlas, and the completion of the Human Genome Project.

IMPROVED LIVES BY ENGAGING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM

President Bush launched the Faith-Based and Community Initiative and USA Freedom Corps to strengthen the nonprofit sector and mobilize volunteers to help those in need across the country and around the globe. These initiatives have mobilized America's armies of compassion in a determined attack on need and have demonstrated remarkable results in the lives of countless individuals and communities.

- ✦ **Helped millions in need by expanding partnerships with nonprofits and leveling the playing field for faith-based and community organizations.** Developed grassroots partnerships, set clear, Constitutional guidelines for the use of public funds by faith-based organizations, and established faith-based and community-service offices at 11 Federal agencies. These partnerships helped provide care for more than ten million people affected by HIV/AIDS, supported the recovery of more than 200,000 addicts, and matched mentors with approximately 100,000 children of prisoners.
- ✦ **Created USA Freedom Corps following 9/11 to help Americans volunteer to serve causes greater than themselves.** Helped match Americans with service opportunities by creating Citizen Corps and Volunteers for Prosperity and by strengthening programs such as AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps. Between 2002 and 2007, Americans donated more than 49 billion hours of service.

PROVIDED UNPRECEDENTED RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

President Bush nearly doubled funding for veterans, providing the highest level of support for veterans in American history. The President also increased the benefits available to those who have served our Nation and transformed the veterans health care system to better serve those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

- ✦ **Increased total funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) more than 98 percent since 2001 and helped millions of veterans receive expedited and improved care.** Increased funding for veterans' medical care by more than 115 percent since 2001. Committed more than \$6 billion to modernize and expand VA medical facilities, ensuring more veterans could receive quality care close to home. Provided more than a billion dollars to VA since 2007 to support traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder treatment and research. Created the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and expanded VA's polytrauma system of care to 22 network sites and clinic support teams to provide state-of-the-art treatment to injured veterans at facilities closer to their homes. Expanded VA's use of electronic health records to improve the quality of medical care for veterans.
- ✦ **Instituted reforms for the care of wounded warriors, many of which were based on the recommendations of the Dole-Shalala Commission, and dramatically expanded resources for mental health services.** Created a joint Department of Defense/VA Recovery Coordinator Program for seriously-injured service members. Initiated a pilot program to replace the cumbersome system of two separate disability examinations with a single, comprehensive medical exam. Expanded training, screening, and staff resources to help service members and veterans suffering from mental health disorders. Signed legislation and issued regulations amending the Family Medical Leave Act to permit family members of injured service members to take additional time away from their jobs to care for their loved one.
- ✦ **Expanded education benefits for service members and veterans, increased placement and career counseling for returning veterans, and significantly reduced the processing time for disability claims.** Increased education benefit amounts for veterans and reservists and lengthened the time period in which service members can use those benefits. Made it easier for service members to transfer their unused education benefits to their spouses or children. Increased placement and career counseling services

for returning veterans, particularly those wounded in combat. Reduced the average length of time to process a veteran's disability claim from a high of 230 days to under 180 days.

- ✦ **Reduced the number of homeless veterans by nearly 40 percent from 2001 to 2007.** Established VA homeless-specific programs, which constitute one of the largest integrated networks of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

SUPPORTED AMERICAN WORKERS BY INCREASING TRADE, JOB TRAINING, AND COMPETITIVENESS

President Bush took a stand against isolationism and opened export markets and increased opportunities for our farmers, workers, and businesses. As a result, America remains the world's largest exporter of goods and services. Trade has become a driving force of our Nation's economy, has helped create American jobs, and now accounts for a larger percentage of our GDP than at any time in history. Trade advances our national security by helping to expand democracy, strengthen the rule of law, and lift people out of poverty worldwide. President Bush also instituted policies and launched new initiatives to ensure American workers and businesses remain competitive in the 21st century economy.

Expanded and Enforced Trade Agreements to Open New Markets for American Products

- ✦ **Levelled the playing field for American workers by increasing the number of countries partnered with the U.S. on free trade agreements (FTAs) from three to 14.** Three additional agreements have been approved by Congress but are not yet in force and agreements with three countries are awaiting Congressional approval. Increased overall goods and services exports by more than 50 percent between 2000 and 2007 to a level that accounts for more than 13 percent of our GDP, greater than any time in history. Exports to the 11 trade partners with FTAs that went into effect between 2001 and 2007 grew more than 70 percent faster on average than U.S. exports to the rest of the world. Opened new markets for American farmers and ranchers, which helped create a record level of U.S. agricultural exports of \$92.4 billion in 2007, up more than 70 percent since 2000. Ensured other countries abided by trade rules and won or settled 24 trade disputes brought by the United States to the World Trade Organization since 2001.

- ✦ **Negotiated and signed a trade agreement that helped increase U.S. exports to Central America by nearly \$8 billion from 2005 to 2008.** Dramatically increased U.S. exports to Central America following initial entry into force of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). CAFTA countries increased their annual goods exports to the U.S. from \$14.7 billion in 2005 to an annualized \$15.6 billion in 2008, an increase of 6.5 percent, which has supported jobs in the region.

Helped American Workers and Businesses Remain Competitive

- ✦ **Created the American Competitiveness Initiative to help Americans compete in the global economy and increased research and development funding.** Increased overall Federal research and development investment to a record \$143 billion, a 57 percent increase since 2001, and made a commitment to double critical basic research in the physical sciences over 10 years. Authorized the Math Now and Advanced Placement Incentive Programs and basic research programs through the America COMPETES Act. Created the National Mathematics Advisory Panel to review the best available scientific evidence on the teaching and learning of math.
- ✦ **Invested nearly \$1 billion in new job training initiatives to prepare workers for 21st century jobs and ensured fair pay for American workers.** Launched the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development, which invested \$326 million in job training and workforce development. Invested more than \$325 million to help more than 200 community colleges train workers and launched the High Growth Job Training Initiative, which has provided \$288 million to more than 150 partnerships between community colleges, workforce agencies, and employers. Expanded the Trade Adjustment Assistance program to cover more trade-impacted workers and added a tax credit to help displaced workers afford health insurance. Strengthened overtime protection for millions of workers, including the first-ever explicitly guaranteed rights for police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, and other first responders. Achieved record recoveries of more than \$1.25 billion for nearly two million workers and increased the amount of back wages collected in 2007 by nearly 70 percent compared to 2001.

- ✦ **Helped make broadband access available in 99 percent of America's zip codes.** Instituted policies that helped make broadband internet accessible to 99 percent of the country's zip codes, by making new radio spectrum available, increasing competition and investment, and preserving the Internet tax moratorium. As a result, the number of broadband lines in the United States has increased by nearly 1,000 percent since 2001.
- ✦ **Created a new National Space Policy to ensure the continued free access and use of space for peaceful purposes and to help advance America's economic competitiveness.** Protected our national interests in space, governed the conduct of U.S. space activities, and enhanced the domestic space technology market.

SET A BRIGHT COURSE FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

During his time in office, President Bush worked to improve our environment, energy security, and the quality of life for Americans. Because of the President's efforts to encourage cooperative conservation, innovation, and new technologies, America's air is cleaner, our water is purer, and our natural resources are better protected. President Bush strengthened America's energy security by advancing clean energy technologies, renewable energy, and energy efficiency to reduce our dependence on oil. Under the President's leadership, crime in our Nation has been reduced to historic lows, children in America are safer, teen drug use has declined, fewer Americans are homeless, American consumers have been better protected, and we have helped make the United States a more equitable country.

Took Unparalleled Action to Advance Cooperative Conservation and Protect the Environment

- ✦ **Created the world's largest fully protected marine area and protected our oceans by taking action to end overfishing and conserve habitats.** Designated nearly 140,000 square miles of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which contains more than 7,000 species, as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument - our Nation's highest form of marine environmental protection. Reduced marine debris, protected America's fisheries and reduced over-fishing, and conserved popular recreational fish.

- ✦ **Improved and protected the health of more than 27 million acres of Federal forest and grasslands and protected, restored, and improved more than three million acres of wetlands.** Cleared dry brush, dead trees, and overstocked forests on 27 million acres of forest and range lands through the Healthy Forest Initiative. Cleaned up three million acres of wetlands and created important wildlife habitats, including 15 new National Wildlife Refuges, largely through farm bill conservation programs, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other cooperative conservation efforts.
- ✦ **Instituted policies that helped reduce air pollution by 12 percent from 2001 to 2007 and adopted new policies that will produce even deeper reductions.** Established stringent air quality standards and adopted rules that will cut hazardous industrial emissions and will cut diesel engine emissions by more than 90 percent.
- ✦ **Provided more than \$6.5 billion to repair and improve our national parks, launched the National Parks Centennial Initiative, and established the Preserve America Initiative with First Lady Laura Bush to protect our cultural and natural heritage.** Created the National Parks Centennial Initiative with First Lady Laura Bush to hire more park rangers, repair buildings, improve natural landscapes, and engage more children as junior rangers. Created seven new units of the National Park System. Awarded more than 220 Preserve America grants and numerous recognitions totaling \$17 million in more than 650 communities in all 50 States to advance community efforts to protect our cultural and natural heritage.

Advanced America's Energy Security and Took Steps to Develop Cleaner, More Efficient Sources of Energy

- ✦ **Called for and signed legislation to reduce U.S. gasoline consumption by tens of billions of gallons of fuel and significantly improve energy efficiency.** Signed the Energy Independence and Security Act, which, though less ambitious than the President's goal of reducing consumption by 20 percent in 10 years, mandated that fuel producers use at least 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel by 2022 (a nearly five-fold increase over previously required levels). Required a national fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020 to increase fuel economy by 40 percent and save billions of gallons of fuel. Signed legislation that mandated new energy efficiency standards for appliances and lighting.

- ✦ **Instituted policies that helped quadruple ethanol production to more than six billion gallons.** Supported policies and incentives that contributed to an increase in ethanol production from 1.6 billion gallons in 2000 to an estimated 6.5 billion gallons in 2007. Dedicated more than \$1 billion to advance cellulosic ethanol made from switchgrass, wood chips, and other non-food sources.
- ✦ **Removed the executive prohibition on offshore exploration for oil and gas.** Successfully pressured Congress to remove its ban on offshore exploration and took steps to increase domestic oil exploration to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
- ✦ **Provided nearly \$18 billion to research, develop, and promote alternative and more efficient energy technologies such as biofuels, solar, wind, clean coal, nuclear, and hydrogen.** Dedicated more than \$3.5 billion to research, develop, and demonstrate clean coal technologies and fulfilled the President's \$2 billion commitment to the Coal Research Initiative three years early. Invested approximately \$1.2 billion in hydrogen and fuel cell vehicle research and development. Supported tax incentives that helped industry to increase wind energy production by more than 400 percent since 2001, double the United States' solar energy capacity between 2000 and 2007, and grow solar installations by more than 32 percent in 2007 alone.
- ✦ **Encouraged the deployment of new nuclear reactors in the United States, which resulted in the first license applications to construct and operate new nuclear power plants in 30 years.** Launched the Nuclear Power 2010 Program and other significant efforts that helped encourage industry to submit 17 applications for 26 new nuclear reactors in the United States. Invested more than \$300 million in research and development of nuclear technologies in 2007 alone, and in 2003, joined the international research project to harness the energy of fusion. Signed legislation giving the Department of Energy the authority to provide up to \$18.5 billion in loan guarantees for nuclear power facilities and up to \$2 billion in loan guarantees for advanced facilities that process nuclear fuel.

Reduced Crime, Lowered Teen Drug Use, Protected Vulnerable Children, and Helped Make America a More Equitable Country

- **Launched innovative strategies that contributed to the lowest overall incidence of reported crime in three decades.** Reduced the rate of reported crime in 2007 by 9.6 percent compared to 2000. Created Project Safe Neighborhoods, vigorously enforced Federal firearms laws, and filed more than 68,000 firearms cases against more than 83,000 defendants from Fiscal Year 2001 through Fiscal Year 2007 – more than double the number of Federal prosecutions filed in the previous seven-year period.
- **Convicted nearly 1,300 individuals of corporate fraud and corruption.** Convicted more than 200 CEOs and corporate presidents, more than 120 corporate vice presidents, and more than 50 chief financial officers.
- **Reduced drug use among teens by 25 percent.** Created a national drug control strategy, which helped reduce the number of American teens using drugs by approximately 900,000. Helped break-up more than 5,000 drug trafficking organizations. Increased parental awareness of youth prescription drug abuse.
- **Rescued more than 575 children from sexual exploitation, arrested and convicted thousands of suspects, and helped recover nearly 400 missing children since 2002 by strengthening the AMBER Alert program.** Launched the Innocence Lost Initiative, a joint Federal and State effort to prevent child prostitution, which has led to the recovery of more than 575 children and the convictions of more than 300 defendants. Posted a nearly 28 percent increase in Federal prosecutions of child predators in Fiscal Year 2007. Apprehended more than 2,350 suspects through the Internet Crimes Against Children program in Fiscal Year 2007. Created a national network of 59 Department of Justice-funded regional task forces that investigate computer-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Launched Project Safe Childhood to further protect children from exploitation over the Internet. Developed a national network of AMBER Alert systems, appointed the first National Coordinator in 2002, and assured the National Coordinator's continuity and authority by signing the PROTECT Act in 2003. Helped increase successful recoveries of missing children sought through AMBER Alerts approximately ninefold, with nearly 400 children recovered since 2002.

- ✦ **Protected the right to vote for generations to come by reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act and advanced civil rights.** Signed the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 to ensure Americans enjoy the full promise of freedom by prohibiting the use of tests or devices to deny Americans the right to vote. Launched the Post-9/11 Discriminatory Backlash Initiative to investigate bias-motivated crimes and unlawful discrimination against individuals in the United States after the 9/11 attacks, resulting in more than 800 criminal investigations. Worked to root out discrimination on college campuses, and investigated and resolved more than 1,100 Title IX complaints from 2002 to 2006.

Reduced Homelessness and Aided Struggling Homeowners

- ✦ **Reduced the number of chronically homeless people by approximately 30 percent between 2005 and 2007.** Awarded approximately \$10 billion to support local housing and service programs since 2001. Lowered the number of chronically homeless Americans by approximately 50,000 people between 2005 and 2007 thanks in part to increased funding to address homelessness. In 2005, the Administration became the first to estimate the total homeless population based on data from virtually all communities.
- ✦ **Helped more than two million individuals and families keep their homes by launching FHA Secure and helping to facilitate the HOPE NOW Alliance.** Launched FHA Secure, which expanded the ability of individuals and families to refinance into FHA-insured mortgages. Facilitated the formation of the innovative, private-sector HOPE NOW Alliance to help individuals and families keep their homes.

Improved Transportation and Import Safety and Protected American Consumers

- ✦ **Implemented congestion relief and safety measures that have made our highways and airways safer and more efficient.** Created new safety measures that contributed to the largest reduction in vehicle fatalities in 15 years and the lowest-ever rate of highway deaths. Improved aviation safety oversight, which has led to the safest six-year period in the history of commercial aviation. Instituted a new national rail safety plan that has contributed to a 25 percent decline in the number of rail crashes since 2005. Launched new strategies that include increasing flight capacity at America's busiest airports and freeing up airspace during peak travel times to curb transportation congestion and reduce delays. Provided increased protection

for consumers, including measures requiring airlines to provide greater compensation for lost bags and imposing tougher penalties when airlines fail to notify travelers of hidden fees.

- ✦ **Increased import safety for American consumers.** Instituted an Import Safety Action Plan to better protect American consumers and took strong enforcement action against manufacturers of tainted imports. Established unprecedented import safety coordination with China by stationing FDA inspectors in China and signed agreements that enhanced the safety of products traded between our nations to protect consumers and the environment.
- ✦ **Enacted the Do Not Call List, which 145 million Americans have utilized to reduce unwanted telemarketing calls.** Instituted the Do-Not-Call Registry, which prohibits commercial telemarketers from calling Americans who have added their phone numbers to the Registry.

STOOD ON PRINCIPLE, REFUSED TO PUT OFF TOUGH DECISIONS, AND SHOWED THE WAY AHEAD

President Bush made decisions based upon principles, not polls. His character, vision, leadership, and refusal to compromise his core beliefs have allowed him to tackle tough issues and do what is right for America.

Advanced a Culture of Life

- ✦ **Outlawed partial birth abortion, ensured that every infant born alive is protected, established consequences for violence toward unborn children, and took steps to protect the rights of health care providers to act according to their conscience.** Called for and signed the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 to outlaw partial birth abortion and successfully defended this law before the Supreme Court. Required Federal law to recognize any infant born alive as an individual, including the survivors of abortion procedures, by signing the Born Alive Infants Protection Act. Created a separate criminal offense for any person who causes the death or injury of a child in the womb by signing the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004. Advanced a regulation to ensure health care providers are not forced to choose between practicing medicine and following their moral and ethical convictions.

- ✦ **Provided government funding for stem cell research while refusing to sanction the destruction of human life.** Supported research on existing embryonic stem cell lines within moral boundaries, which extended the frontiers of medicine without destroying human life as demonstrated by the discovery that reprogramming technologies can be used to make adult cells function like other cells, including embryonic stem cells.
- ✦ **Prohibited foreign nongovernmental organizations that receive U.S. tax dollars for family planning from performing or actively promoting abortion.** Restored the Mexico City Policy to ensure our international family planning programs are not indirectly subsidizing abortion or the promotion of abortion.

Appointed Judges Committed to Ruling by the Letter of the Law

- ✦ **Appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, and more than one-third of all active Federal judges, who will not legislate from the bench.** Ensured two justices seated on our Nation's highest court will decide cases based on the Constitution and laws as written, not policy preferences. Appointed more than 300 Federal judges, including 61 Circuit Court judges, who will not impose an activist agenda on the courts.

Confronted Climate Change through Innovation and without Harming our Economy

- ✦ **Set the country on course to stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions below projected levels by 2025 and invested more than \$44 billion in climate change-related programs.** Set an initial national goal to reduce greenhouse gas intensity 18 percent by 2012, which the United States is on track to meet or exceed. Supported new Federal and State mandates and incentives that are projected to take at least five billion tons of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions out of the air. Invested more than \$44 billion to advance climate related science, technology, observation, and incentives. Signed laws giving the Department of Energy the authority to provide more than \$67 billion in loans and guarantees to help support innovative energy projects to reduce greenhouse gas or air pollutant emissions and to retool auto plants to produce more efficient vehicles.

- ✦ **Worked to build international consensus on practical actions to address climate change as a global issue.** Convened the leaders of the world's major economies, both developed and developing, to work on ways to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy security without harming our economies or giving any nation a free ride. Led a global agreement that will dramatically cut emissions of a potent greenhouse gas by more than what the Kyoto Protocol might achieve. Launched the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate to address climate change and help develop and accelerate the deployment of cleaner and more efficient energy technologies.

Demonstrated Leadership on Reforming Entitlement Programs, the Immigration System, and Government Sponsored Enterprises

- ✦ **Proposed initiatives to fix Social Security and address the greatest threat to America's fiscal future – the uncontrolled growth of Federal entitlements.** Entitlement programs are projected to grow faster than the economy, faster than the population, and faster than the rate of inflation, with Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid on course to consume 60 percent of the entire Federal budget by 2030. President Bush proposed reforms to the Social Security program and embraced policies that would have solved most of the projected Social Security shortfall, including giving individual Americans the option to put part of their payroll taxes in voluntary personal retirement accounts, but Congress failed to act. Additionally, in his Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, President Bush proposed \$178 billion in five-year Medicare savings that would have slowed the average annual rate of growth in Medicare from 7.2 percent to 5 percent. The President also proposed regulatory actions to strengthen Medicaid program integrity that would have saved more than \$14 billion over five years and slowed the average annual growth rate from 7.6 percent to 7.4 percent over the same period.
- ✦ **Laid out a comprehensive plan to reform and fix our broken immigration system.** President Bush proposed a plan that placed border security first, created a temporary worker program, held employers accountable for the workers they hired, addressed the situation of immigrants already living in the United States, and honored the American tradition of the melting pot. Although Congress failed to address this difficult challenge, President Bush's bold solution has helped shape the future debate on fixing our broken immigration system.

- ✦ **Warned of the risk that government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac posed to America's financial security beginning in 2001.** In 2001, President Bush's first budget warned that "financial trouble of a large GSE could cause strong repercussions in financial markets." In 2003, the Administration began calling for a new GSE regulator. Despite resistance from Congress, President Bush continued to call for GSE reform until Congress finally acted in 2008 to provide the additional oversight the President requested five years earlier. Unfortunately, the reform came too late to prevent systemic consequences.

Directed Unprecedented Preparations for a Smooth Presidential Transition

- ✦ **Led the most comprehensive and forward-leaning effort in modern history to facilitate a smooth and effective transition.** In 2007, some Federal agencies began identifying and preparing career executives to assume leadership roles and to start developing briefing materials for the new Administration. By the summer of 2008, briefings began with the major party presidential candidates and their transition teams and the Department of Justice and the FBI began work to provide security clearances for transition personnel. In the fall of 2008, national intelligence officials began providing intelligence briefings to the candidates and immediately after the election, daily briefings for the President-elect began. President Bush has acted vigorously on his commitment to honor a hallmark of American democracy, the peaceful transfer of power, and has worked to ensure that the American people are kept safe during these consequential times.