

# FOIA Marker

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## Staff Secretary, White House Office of the Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

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|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|
| W      | 17   | 13     | 1      | 2     | 10464   | 23327                     | 6464         | 4003       |

Folder Title:

12/07/2004 - Remarks at Camp Pendleton, CA [770306]

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

## The George W. Bush Library

| DOCUMENT NO. | FORM   | SUBJECT/TITLE                                     | PAGES | DATE       | RESTRICTION(S)    |
|--------------|--------|---|-------|------------|-------------------|
| 001          | Speech | Remarks at Camp Pendleton, Draft 3                | 7     | 12/07/2004 | P1/b1; P5; P6/b6; |
| 002          | Speech | Remarks at Camp Pendeleton, CA                    | 54    | 12/07/2004 | P5; Transferred   |
| 003          | Speech | Remarks at Camp Pendeleton, CA - Draft 6          | 7     | 12/07/2004 | P5; P6/b6;        |
| 004          | Speech | Remarks at Camp Pendeleton, CA - Draft 9 [page 7] | 1     | 12/07/2004 | P6/b6;            |
| 005          | Card   | Kathryn....                                       | 1     | 12/07/2004 | P6/b6;            |

**COLLECTION TITLE:**

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

**SERIES:**

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

**FOLDER TITLE:**

12/07/2004 - Remarks at Camp Pendeleton, CA [770306]

**FRC ID:**

10464

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

**Deed of Gift Restrictions**

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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**VOORMAN\_D**

**770306**

SP1012

**Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **SECLOG**  
Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**  
Document Date: **12/07/2004**  
Correspondent:  
Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: REMARKS AT CAMP  
PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA DEC 07 04**

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Remarks at Camp Pendleton, California  
Tuesday, December 7, 2004  
Draft #9

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

12/7/04

Thank you all for that warm welcome. It was getting a little quiet back in the White House – so I thought I'd drop in on the "Devil Dogs" of Camp Pendleton. And it's a real pleasure to be with so many squared-away, gung-ho U.S. Marines.

I'm here to thank you for serving our country in a time when we need you. In the season when Americans stop to count their blessings, I want you to know: one of America's greatest blessings is the men and women who wear our Nation's uniform. Your fellow citizens are proud of you – and so is your Commander-in-Chief.

### **Acknowledgments**

- Secretary Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy
- Major General Tim Donovan, Camp Pendleton Commanding General (will introduce you), and wife Joan and daughter Colleen
- Brigadier General James Williams, I Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General at Camp Pendleton
- State and Local Officials
- Kathryn Gwen Ostapuk, USA Freedom Corp Greeter, and husband U.S. Marine Corporal John Sylvester

Last month, Marines across the world broke out their dress blues to celebrate the 229<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Corps. But the men and women of Camp Pendleton's First Marine Expeditionary Force marked the occasion a little differently – by fighting the enemies of freedom in Iraq. As one Pendleton Marine near the frontlines put it: "This is what we as Marines do – and it is where the American people expect us to be."

The Marines of Camp Pendleton are serving our Nation with valor and integrity. This is the home of the First Marine Division, one of America's oldest and most decorated units. In Korea, the Marines of the First Division were surrounded at the Chosin Reservoir by ten divisions of Chinese troops. When Colonel Chesty Puller heard the news, he said: "They've got us right where we want 'em. We can shoot in every direction now." He wasn't bluffing: The First Marine Division made it out –

destroying seven enemy divisions, and upholding the great tradition of the Corps.

That courage, determination and devotion to duty have made the United States Marines one of the most feared and respected fighting forces on earth. And in these dangerous times – when terrorists seek to harm our families and murder our citizens – Americans are thankful the Marines are on the front lines, taking the fight to the enemy.

Since I took office almost four years ago, I've visited our troops around the world. One of my first stops as Commander-in-Chief was here at Camp Pendleton, in the summer of 2001. I told you that day that because you are Marines, you would often be asked to perform our Nation's most difficult and dangerous missions -- and you have performed every mission with honor, courage and commitment.

In the war on terror, you have fought freedom's enemies from the caves and mountains of Afghanistan to the deserts and cities of Iraq. Marines of Camp Pendleton's 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit were the first conventional forces to fight in Operation Enduring Freedom. They deployed hundreds of miles into a land-locked country, helped seize the Kandahar airport, hunted down Taliban and al-Qaida fighters, and helped to liberate more than 28 million people from one of the world's most brutal regimes. Today, Vice President Cheney is in Kabul for the inauguration of Afghanistan's first democratically-elected President. And Afghanistan has been transformed from a haven for terrorists to a steadfast ally in the war on terror. The American people are safer because of your courage.

When America led a coalition to end the regime of Saddam Hussein, the Marines of Camp Pendleton made us proud once again. When the appointed hour came, the First Marine Division rolled across the border, pressing more than 500 miles over the Iraqi desert in less than a month. Backed by the First Force Service Support Group and the Third Marine Aircraft Wing, you helped liberate the Iraqi capital, pulled down the statues of the Iraqi dictator, and pushed North to secure his hometown of Tikrit. You drove Saddam Hussein from his palace into a spider hole – and now he's in an Iraqi prison awaiting justice.

In recent days, the First Marine Expeditionary Force has once again shown America's purpose and resolve – this time in Fallujah. Block-by-

block, building-by-building, Marines, soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces took that city back from the terrorists and insurgents. And when the smoke had cleared, we saw once again the true nature of our enemy. We found blood-stained torture chambers where hostages had been executed. We found videos of beheadings and brutal terrorist attacks. We found travel documents of foreign terrorists, and equipment for forging Iraqi passports, to make the foreign fighters appear to be Iraqi insurgents. We found more than six hundred improvised explosive devices, including an ice cream truck that had been loaded with bombs for terrorist attacks.

In the battle for Fallujah, the terrorists hid weapons in a cemetery. They hid ammunition in private homes. They hid bombs in mosques. But they could not hide from the United States Marines.

We have dealt the enemy a severe blow. The terrorist Zarqawi has lost his main sanctuary in Iraq, and the Ba'athist insurgents have lost one of their main bases of operation. We seized hundreds of tons of weapons, shut down terrorist bomb-making factories, killed more than two thousand enemy fighters, and captured thousands more. The enemies of freedom in Iraq have been wounded – but they are not yet defeated. They remain ruthless and determined. They will keep on fighting – and so will the Marine Corps.

Next month Iraqis will vote in free and democratic elections. As election day approaches, we can expect further violence from the terrorists. The terrorists understand what is at stake. They know they have no future in a free Iraq, because free people will never choose their own enslavement. They know democracy will give Iraqis a stake in the future of their country. When Iraqis choose their leaders in free elections, it will destroy the myth that the terrorists are fighting a foreign occupation, and make clear that what the terrorists are really fighting is the will of the Iraqi people. The success of democracy in Iraq also will inspire others across the Middle East to demand their freedom, and expose the terrorists for what they are: violent extremists on the fringes of society, with no agenda for the future except tyranny and death. So the terrorists will do all they can to delay or disrupt free elections in Iraq. They will fail.

As Iraqi President Al-Yawer said at the White House yesterday, the Iraqi people are “anxious to go and cast their votes, and practice, for the

first time in 45 years, their right and duty of voting." Free elections will proceed as planned.

The United States has a vital interest in the success of a free Iraq. Free nations do not export terror. Free nations listen to the hopes and aspirations of their people. Free nations are peaceful nations. And a free Iraq will make America safer, and the world more secure.

America and our Coalition have a strategy in place to aid the rise of a stable democracy in Iraq. To help the Iraqi government provide security during the election period, we will increase U.S. troop strength by about 12,000 personnel – for a total of 150,000 troops. As the election approaches, Coalition forces will continue hunting the terrorists and insurgents. We will help the people of Fallujah and other cities to rebuild and move forward. And we will continue training Iraqi security forces, so the Iraqi people can eventually take responsibility for their own security.

Some Iraqi units have performed better than others, and some Iraqis have been intimidated enough by the insurgents to leave the service. But a great many are standing firm. In Fallujah, Iraqis fought alongside our soldiers and Marines with valor and determination. One American soldier who saw them up close in combat said this: "They really excelled ... kicking in doors, clearing houses ... running out into fire to pick up wounded Marines." The Iraqi Security Forces made up about 20 percent of the forces in Fallujah – killing terrorists, blocking escape routes, and saving American lives. These brave Iraqis are fighting for their freedom, and we are proud to stand at their side.

Our Coalition is determined to help them succeed. We are working to develop a corps of well-trained senior and mid-level Iraqi officers – because Iraqi soldiers want to be led by Iraqis. NATO trainers are already in Iraq, and the Alliance will soon develop a new training center for the Iraqi Security Forces at a military academy outside of Baghdad. We will help the Iraqi government build a force that no longer needs coalition support, so they can defend their own nation – and American soldiers and Marines can come home with the honor they have earned.

Our success in Iraq will make America safer for us, and for future generations. As one Marine sergeant put it: "I never want my children to experience what we saw in New York, at the Pentagon and in

first time in 45 years, their right and duty of voting." Free elections will proceed as planned.

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Our success in Iraq will make America safer for us, and for future generations. As one Marine sergeant put it: "I never want my children to experience what we saw in New York, at the Pentagon and in

Pennsylvania,” he said. “If we can eliminate [the] threat on foreign soil, I would rather do it there than have it come [home] to us.” That is why we are on the offensive today in Fallujah, Mosul, Ramadi, and North Babil – going after the terrorists and disrupting their plans. We are holding the state sponsors of terror equally responsible for terrorist acts, and working to prevent outlaw regimes from gaining weapons of mass murder and providing them to terrorists. And we will stay at these efforts with patience and resolve -- and we will prevail.

A time of war is a time of sacrifice, especially for military families. Being left behind when a loved one goes to war is one of the hardest jobs in the military – and it is especially hard during the holidays. Families here at Camp Pendleton endure long separation. In carrying these burdens, you also serve your country – and America is grateful for your sacrifice.

Our Nation also honors the men and women who have been injured in the line of duty. I’ve met some of these Americans. Many face a hard road ahead. And they have inspired their comrades with their strength of will. General Sattler recently visited with some of those wounded in the Fallujah campaign. One Marine was pretty beat up – but when he saw the General, he lifted his hand and said: “Sir, I’ve still got my trigger finger. I can get back out there.” That is the spirit of the Corps. And America will show the same sense of duty – we will care for every American service member wounded in action.

Some of you have lost comrades and family members in the war on terror. Words can only go so far in capturing the grief and sense of loss for the families of those who died. But you can know this: they gave their lives for a cause that is just – and, as in other generations, their sacrifices have spared millions from lives of tyranny and sorrow. America will stand beside the families of the fallen – and their sacrifice will always be remembered.

In the last four years I have seen – and world has seen – the courage, skill and decency of the United States military. You are a great force for good in our world. The American people know it – and they are behind you. Your service and sacrifice has touched the hearts of our people – and inspired millions to show their gratitude.

Last month, I met a 15-year-old from California named Shauna Fleming, who has collected a million thank you letters for our military personnel.

In Washington, D.C., Vietnam vet Steve Cobb and his wife Tanya [TAHN-ya] have been coming out regularly to Andrews Air Force Base to meet wounded service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan. They welcome them home, and offer whatever help they can provide. Steve earned four Purple Hearts and a Silver Star in Vietnam, but he says "when I came home there was nobody but demonstrators to meet the troops. I never wanted to see another generation of troops come home without being welcomed [and] appreciated."

In Massachusetts, a contractor named John Gonsalves [GONE-salves] heard about a soldier who had lost both legs in an RPG attack in Iraq. So he started "Homes for our Troops" – a non-profit dedicated to building and adapting homes for disabled veterans with special needs. John says, "The war on terror is something the American people should all be a part of – not just the people on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq." He says, "We have a responsibility to do more for our veterans who are out there fighting every day and putting their lives on the line."

Here at Camp Pendleton, a nurse named Karen Guenther [GUN-ther] saw the financial strain on the families of injured sailors and Marines. Many spent weeks, even months, away from home, standing by their loved ones recovering at military hospitals – and struggled with the costs of food, lodging, travel and lost income. So she and other Marine Corps spouses started the "Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund" to raise money for these struggling military families. Since its founding here six months ago, it has grown into a national organization that has helped over three hundred military families across the U.S. with more than four hundred thousand dollars in grants. As the wife of a wounded Marine recently put it: "There was no red tape – they just helped. Had it not been for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, I would not have been able to pay my bills for the last three months or stay at my husband's bedside." You are showing the generous heart of the community here at Camp Pendleton – and making America proud.

Across our country, Americans are coming together to surround our deployed forces and wounded warriors with love and support. And we

should be doing more. So I want to speak to our fellow citizens who might be listening today around the country. I urge every American to find some way to thank our military, and help out the military family down the street. The Department of Defense has set up a website – AmericaSupportsYou.mil. You can go there to learn about private efforts in your own community. In this season of giving, let's stand with the men and women who stand up for America.

Every man and woman who serves at Camp Pendleton, and all who wear the Marine Corps uniform, are part of a great history. Sixty-three years ago today, our Nation was attacked at Pearl Harbor – and soon, the United States Marines were storming beaches and engaging the enemy in distant lands. In places like Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima, your fathers and grandfathers struggled and sacrificed to defend freedom. And today, in places like Fallujah and North Babil, this generation of Marines is fighting to extend freedom.

Today's war on terror will not end with a surrender ceremony on the deck of a battleship – but it will end in victory. Just as we defeated the threats of fascism and imperial communism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we will defeat the threat of global terrorism. And we will help the people of liberated countries to rebuild, and to secure a future of freedom and peace.

I have confidence in our country and faith in our cause. There is still important work ahead, yet the outcome is assured. History moves toward freedom, because the desire for freedom is written in every heart. And the cause of freedom is in the best of hands – because you are on duty for America. The United States Marines will fight, in the words of the Rifleman's Creed, "until victory is America's and there is no enemy."

Thank you, and God bless you all. Semper Fi.

*Drafted by: Marc Thiessen, Office of Speechwriting  
Office: 202/456-2170*

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**Records Not Subject to FOIA**

**Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.**