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06/30/2005 - Radio Address - 4th of July [772938]

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COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

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Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

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06/30/2005 - Radio Address - 4th of July [772938]

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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**

Document Date: **6/30/2007**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RADIO ADDRESS JUN 30 07**

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6/29/07

Radio Address
Saturday, June 30, 2007
Draft #7

Good morning. Next week, Americans will gather with friends and family to celebrate the Fourth of July. I look forward to spending this Independence Day in Martinsburg, West Virginia with the men and women of the West Virginia Air National Guard.

On the Fourth of July, we celebrate the courage and convictions of America's Founders. We remember the spirit of liberty that led men from 13 different colonies to gather in Philadelphia and pen the Declaration of Independence. In that revolutionary document, they proclaimed our independence based on the belief that freedom was God's gift to all mankind. To defend that freedom, the fifty-six Signers of the Declaration pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. Their sacrifices built a new Nation and created a future of freedom for millions yet to be born.

Today, a new generation of Americans has stepped forward and volunteered to defend the ideals of our Nation's Founding. Around the world, our brave men and women in uniform are facing danger to protect their fellow citizens from harm. In Afghanistan, our military and NATO forces are hunting down the Taliban and al Qaida, and helping the Afghan people defend their young democracy. And in Iraq, American and Iraqi forces are standing with the nearly 12 million Iraqis who voted for a future of peace – and opposing ruthless enemies who want to bring down Iraq's democracy and turn that nation into a terrorist safe haven.

This week I traveled to the Naval War College in Rhode Island to give an update on the strategy we are pursuing in Iraq. This strategy is being led by a new commander, General David Petraeus – and a new ambassador, Ryan Crocker. It recognizes that our top priority must be to help the Iraqi government and its security forces protect their population – especially in Baghdad. And its goal is to help the Iraqis make progress toward reconciliation – and build a free nation that respects the rights of its people, upholds the rule of law, and is an ally in the war on terror. So America has sent reinforcements to help the Iraqis secure their population ... go after the terrorists, insurgents, and militias that are inciting sectarian violence ... and get the capital under control.

The last of these reinforcements arrived in Iraq earlier this month – and the full surge has begun. One of our top commanders in Iraq, General Ray Odierno, put it this way: “We are beyond a surge of forces, and we are now into a surge of operations.” Recently, we launched Operation Phantom Thunder – which is taking the fight to the enemy in Baghdad as well as its surrounding regions.

We are still at the beginning of this offensive, but we are seeing some hopeful signs. We are engaging the enemy and killing or capturing hundreds. Just this week, our commanders reported the killing of two senior al Qaida leaders north of Baghdad. Within Baghdad, our military reports that despite an upward trend in May, sectarian murders in the capital are significantly down from what they were in January. We are also finding arms caches at more than three times the rate of a year ago. The enemy continues to carry out sensational attacks, but the number of car bombings and suicide attacks has been down in May and June. And because of our new strategy, U.S. and Iraqi forces are living among the people they secure – with the result that many Iraqis are now coming forward with information on where the terrorists are hiding.

The fight in Iraq has been tough – and it will remain difficult. We have lost good men and women in this fight. One of those lost was a Marine Lance Corporal named Luke Yepsen. In the spring of 2005, Luke withdrew from his classes at Texas A&M to join the United States Marines. And in October 2006, he deployed to Iraq, where he manned the .50-caliber machine gun on a Humvee. Six months ago, Luke was killed by a sniper while on patrol in Anbar Province. Luke's father describes his son's sacrifice this way: "Luke died bringing freedom to an oppressed people. My urgent request is ... finish the mission. Bring freedom to the Iraqi people."

On this Fourth of July, we remember Luke Yepsen and all the men and women in uniform who have given their lives in this struggle. They have helped bring freedom to the Iraqi people, and they have helped make Americans more secure. We will not forget their sacrifice. We remember their loved ones in our prayers. And we give thanks for all those from every generation who have defended our Nation and our freedoms.

Laura and I wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July. Thank you for listening.

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Laura and I wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July. Thank you for listening.

*Drafted by: Matt Robinson, Bill McGurn, Marc Thiessen, and Chris Michel,
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