THE WHITE HOUSE

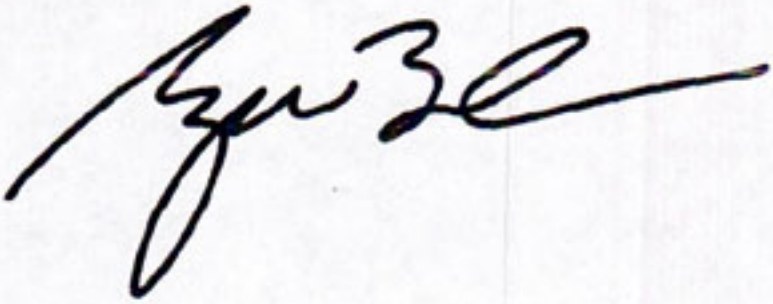
WASHINGTON

June 2, 2006

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 231st birthday of the United States Army.

America is strong because of the brave men and women who have made great sacrifices to defend our liberty. Since 1775, the members of the United States Army have answered the call to protect our country and preserve the ideals that define our Nation. Faithful to their legacy of honor and courage, soldiers have worked to help ensure America remains a country where citizens can prosper and live in freedom.

Today, the United States Army is serving on the front lines of freedom in the war on terror. Our troops have helped liberate tens of millions from oppression in Afghanistan and Iraq and have defended the American people from danger. They have served brilliantly and courageously, and I am proud to be their Commander in Chief.

I appreciate members of the United States Army, Army veterans, Army families, and all those who help protect our Nation and our way of life. You give us an example of idealism and character that makes every American proud.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God continue to bless America.