

can call 1-877-USA-CORPS and find out ways that you can help. If you are interested in being a part of feeding those who hunger, this is a great place to come to.

But you can find out on the Web page other ways to help. People oftentimes say, "Well, I want to help. I don't know how." Well, we're trying to help you find out how. I hope people around this country realize that agencies such as this food bank need money. They need our contributions. Contributions are down. They shouldn't be down in a time of need. We shouldn't let the enemy affect us to the point where we become less generous. Our spirit should never be diminished by what happened on September the 11th, 2001.

Quite the contrary, we must stand squarely in the face of evil by doing some good. And part of doing good is not only dedicating your time and talent to help but to reach into your wallet so that those of us who hurt among us have a chance to heal and to be a part of the American experience.

Those who are poor, those who suffer, those who have last hope are not strangers in our midst. They're our fellow citizens. And in this time of joy, in the time of blessing, we've got to remember that. To make the season complete and the season whole, we must help those who are in need.

One of the things you've got to—I hope you'll recognize about me is sometimes I get a little wordy; I admit that. But I hope you view me as a man of action as well. We've got over 29 Federal agencies, people within the agencies who have been called upon to help. And they are helping. And I want to thank the Federal employees who have heard the call to love their neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself.

We all have a responsibility in high positions or low positions to follow through with our—with words and deeds. And this administration is committed to fulfilling the great promise of the American experience.

Again, I want to thank you all for coming. You know, we live in a blessed land. We live in a fantastic, fantastic country. The goals for this country are peace in the world, and the goals for this country are a compassionate American for every single citizen. That com-

passion is found in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

My call to the American people is, patriotism is more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot in America is serving something greater than yourself, is serving the greatest country on the face of the Earth by helping a neighbor in need.

May God bless this institution. May God bless the volunteers and donors and people who have made Capital Food Bank thrive. May God continue to encourage the spirit of giving and love. And may God bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:11 a.m. in the warehouse. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Statement on Signing the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002**

*December 19, 2002*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4664, the "National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002." The Act authorizes appropriations for the National Science Foundation and modifies statutory authorities of the Foundation.

Section 5(f) of the Act purports to condition authorizations of certain appropriations on a subsequent determination by the Congress of the existence of successful progress by the executive branch toward specified goals. The executive branch shall construe the purported condition as advisory, since any other construction would be inconsistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*. Also, the executive branch shall construe and implement sections 8(10)(A), 9(a)(5), 11(b)(3), and 24 in a manner consistent with the equal protection requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Several provisions of the Act, including sections 14(a), 14(b) (amending section 201(a)(1) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998), and 18(d) call for

the submission by the executive branch of specified information or recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, to protect the deliberative processes of the Executive, and to submit to the Congress such recommendations as the President judges necessary and expedient.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
December 19, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4664, approved December 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107-368.

**Statement on Signing Legislation To Reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 and For Other Purposes**

*December 19, 2002*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4883, an Act to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The executive branch shall construe sections 221(a)(4), 223(b), and 241(a)(2) of the Act as providing statutory bases for revocation of commissions or removal from service that are separate from, in addition to, and not in derogation of the President's constitutional authority to remove officers of the United States. The executive branch also shall construe sections 222 and 224 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to nominate and appoint candidates who are not the subject of recommendations under those sections.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
December 19, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4883, approved December 19, was assigned Public Law No. 107-372.

**Executive Order 13281—Half-Day Closing of Executive Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government on Tuesday, December 24, 2002**

*December 19, 2002*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1.** All executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty for the last half of the scheduled workday on Tuesday, December 24, 2002, the day before Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below.

**Sec. 2.** The heads of executive branch departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty for the full scheduled workday on December 24, 2002, for reasons of national security or defense or other public reasons.

**Sec. 3.** Tuesday, December 24, 2002, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
December 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., December 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 23.

**Remarks Following Discussions With the Quartet Principals and an Exchange With Reporters**

*December 20, 2002*

**President Bush.** The Vice President and I are honored to welcome the Quartet Principals to the Oval Office. I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate so very much