

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:52 p.m. on March 18 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Janet Norwood, mother of Sgt. Byron Norwood, USMC. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on Signing Legislation for the Relief of the Parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo

March 21, 2005

Today I signed into law a bill that will allow Federal courts to hear a claim by or on behalf of Terri Schiavo for violation of her rights relating to the withholding or withdrawal of food, fluids, or medical treatment necessary to sustain her life. In cases like this one, where there are serious questions and substantial doubts, our society, our laws, and our courts should have a presumption in favor of life. This presumption is especially critical for those like Terri Schiavo who live at the mercy of others. I appreciate the bipartisan action by the Members of Congress to pass this bill. I will continue to stand on the side of those defending life for all Americans, including those with disabilities.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 686, which was assigned Public Law No. 109-3.

Remarks to Seniors in Tucson, Arizona

March 21, 2005

[*The President's remarks are joined in progress.*]

The President. —now it's our turn to sacrifice for future generations, and we are. This world is becoming more peaceful, and it's because we're free. And that's a lesson we've learned from previous generations, that free societies are peaceful societies. You know, I have this great faith in the capacity of freedom to make the world a better place, so I just want to give you a quick foreign policy report and tell you that this world of

ours is getting better as more people become free.

I'm also talking, of course, a lot about Social Security. I think this is a generational issue, and it's a generational issue because your generation has nothing to worry about in terms of getting the promise Government has made. There's just no doubt about it. I know there are some contradictory statements being made; it's just not true. The promise Government has made to those who are retired or near retirement will be kept.

But because the math has changed, because there's a lot of baby boomers like me are getting ready to retire, and we're living longer, and we're getting bigger benefits than the previous generation, and there are fewer workers, we need to worry about not this generation but the next generations.

And that's really what I'm here to tell people in Tucson, is that if you're getting your check, you're fine. If you've got a grandkid, you'd better ask the political people what they intend to do about making sure Social Security, the safety net of Social Security, is available for them. And you know, I'm interested in all ideas. I think that this isn't a Republican issue or a Democrat issue; this is a national issue that requires a national dialog.

So I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come back to the Udall Center. The mayor was telling me what a unique place it is, and he wasn't exaggerating.

Audience member. Yes, it's great.

The President. It is great—well, I hope so.

Are you playing a little cards over there? I've got a little time for some cards. [*Laughter*] Anyway, thanks for letting me come by. I'm looking forward to meeting you all. Thank you. It's a beautiful city you've got here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:51 a.m. at the Morris K. Udall Recreation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Bob Walkup of Tucson, AZ. The press release issued by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of the President. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.