

us with a duty that goes on through the generations, to honor them in our thoughts and our words and in our lives.

We have been given that opportunity this morning. On your way to Arlington National Cemetery you will pass The Mall, where our Nation raised up memorials to Washington, Lincoln, and those lost in Vietnam. That same Mall will soon be the site of the World War II Memorial.

The generation of World War II defeated history's greatest tyranny, leaving graves and freedom from Europe to Asia. Our Nation must always remember their heroism and humility and terrible suffering. And that memory must be and will be preserved on the Washington Mall.

The World War II Memorial has been in the works for a long time. The Congress of the United States has acted to remove the obstacles and begin the project. What is required now is a signature, and I am glad to give it. In the 60th year after Pearl Harbor, it is my huge honor to set my name on this bill, ordering construction of a monument that will stand for the ages. Not only will I sign the bill, I will make sure the monument gets built.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, who introduced the President; Kitty Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Joyce Martinez, wife of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel R. Martinez; Jeni Cook, Director of Chaplain Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; former Senator Bob Dole, national chairman, and Frederick W. Smith, cochairman, World War II Memorial Campaign; and Elizabeth Dole, former Secretary of Transportation. Following his remarks, the President signed H.R. 1696, to expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, assigned Public Law No. 107-11.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Expedite the Construction of the World War II Memorial

May 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1696, a bill to expedite the construction of the

World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. It is indeed fitting that this measure becomes law on Memorial Day.

This legislation will allow the Nation to express the appreciation due the World War II generation for their selfless sacrifices that preserved the freedoms we all enjoy. I commend the Congress for a truly bipartisan effort to expedite construction of the memorial.

Now that debate over the site and basic design is concluded, the time has come for all concerned with the creation of the memorial to act with the same determination and sense of common purpose so wonderfully displayed by those we honor. We must get the job done, so that those who served are able to see the Nation's permanent expression of remembrance and thanks.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1696, approved May 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107-11.

Executive Order 13214—President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans

May 28, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to provide prompt and efficient access to consistently high quality health care for veterans who have served the Nation, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans (Task Force).

Sec. 2. Membership. The Task Force shall be comprised of 15 members appointed by the President. Two of the 15 members shall serve as co-chairs of the Task Force. The Task Force membership shall include health care experts, officials familiar with Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense health care systems, and representatives from veteran and military service organizations.

Sec. 3. Mission. The mission of the Task Force shall be to:

- (a) identify ways to improve benefits and services for Department of Veterans Affairs beneficiaries and Department of Defense military retirees who are also eligible for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs through better coordination of the activities of the two departments;
- (b) review barriers and challenges that impede Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense coordination, including budgeting processes, timely billing, cost accounting, information technology, and reimbursement. Identify opportunities to improve such business practices to ensure high quality and cost effective health care; and
- (c) identify opportunities for improved resource utilization through partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to maximize the use of resources and infrastructure, including: buildings, information technology and data sharing systems, procurement of supplies, equipment and services, and delivery of care.

Sec. 4. Administration.

- (a) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide administrative support and funding for the Task Force.
- (b) Members of the Task Force shall serve without any compensation for their work on the Task Force. Members appointed from among private citizens of the United States, however, while engaged in the work of the Task Force, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.
- (c) The co-chairs of the Task Force shall appoint an Executive Director to coordinate administration of the Task Force. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support,

and additional staff support for the Commission shall be provided by executive branch departments and agencies as directed by the President.

- (d) The heads of the executive branch departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Task Force with information as requested by the co-chairs.
- (e) At the call of the co-chairs, the Task Force shall meet as necessary to accomplish its mission.
- (f) The functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except for those in section 6 of that Act, that are applicable to the Task Force, shall be performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 5. Reports. The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of Defense. The Task Force shall issue an interim report in 9 months from the date of the first meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force shall issue a final report prior to the end of the second year of operation.

Sec. 6. Termination. The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, but no later than 2 years from the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 30, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 31.

**Remarks at a Memorial Day
Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia
May 28, 2001**

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for those kind remarks. Secretary Principi, General Shelton, and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jackson, members