

## *Foreword*

The papers in this volume cover events from the second half of 2001—a period of history that saw America come under terrible attack and undertake a global war against terrorism.

In the summer of 2001, our Government was moving forward on many important issues. Based on my proposals, the Congress considered historic reforms in public education, which they passed late in the year. Americans were beginning to reap the benefits of major tax relief. My Administration set clear standards on a question of profound moral consequence. I barred the use of Federal funds for stem cell research to prevent any further destruction of human embryos while allowing funding of potentially life-saving research on embryos where the life and death decision had already been made. On a trip to Europe, I affirmed America's commitment to wider trade and an expanded NATO Alliance. And in the presence of troops stationed in Kosovo, I signed legislation to increase the pay and benefits of our men and women in uniform.

Then, on the morning of September 11th, enemies of our country brought violence and grief to the people of the United States. The ruthlessness of the attacks stirred our Nation to anger and resolute action, while the heroism of victims and rescuers inspired deep respect and pride in our fellow citizens.

On that day we entered a new kind of war. No longer could we rely on two great oceans for protection. Our Government took unprecedented steps to safeguard the American homeland from further attack, and to prepare for any that might come.

I ordered the Armed Forces into battle in Afghanistan to root out the terrorists, destroy their camps, and remove the regime that had made that country a terrorist haven. I committed our Nation to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people by providing educational and medical assistance, and by working with international institutions to help rebuild Afghanistan. And Laura, while serving as a calming voice of reassurance here at home, led efforts to ensure that women in Afghanistan could achieve independence and receive the benefits of full participation in society and government.

Americans celebrated the Holidays in a time of testing, with losses to mourn and great tasks to complete. Yet we bowed our heads in humble appreciation for the remarkable fortitude of our people, the resilience of the American spirit, and the unique heritage of faith and patriotism in the face of adversity that is ours as citizens of the United States of America.