

men and women in uniform is now clear to all. It's clear to your fellow Americans, and it's clear to those who try to hide in caves.

We have liberated a nation from oppression, and we've saved many people from starvation. I like to remind my fellow Americans there is nothing more joyous to my heart than to see our military liberate women who have lived under the most oppressive regime in the history of mankind. This cause is noble, and this cause is just. And we will stay on this cause until we have achieved our objective. You're delivering justice—not revenge but justice—to agents of terror. And you're making this Nation proud.

America recently has been reminded that in our quest to defend freedom—and really in our quest to save civilization—there are enormous sacrifices, and no more greater sacrifice than loss of life. And like the Secretary, I extend my prayers and sympathies to the moms and dads and the wives and sons and daughters of those who have lost their life. But as I told the young lady the other day when I called her, whose husband had died, I said, "Please tell your children that he died for a just cause." Sacrifices are made willingly by volunteers. And having traveled our Nation a little bit, I can assure you, you're in the midst of a grateful people.

In our global campaign against global terror, our military must have every resource, every tool, every weapon, and every advantage you need for the missions to come. The bill I'm about to sign makes a downpayment on an essential commitment: We will give our forces everything they need to defeat global terror. Overall, this year's defense bill provides nearly 30 billion more than the amount enacted for the fiscal year 2001. The emergency supplemental measure provides another 3.5 billion on top of that.

Yet, even more important than these numbers are the priorities they represent. First of all, the bill contains funding for

pay increases of up to 15 percent for service members, with an average increase of 6.9 percent. The bill reduces out-of-pocket housing costs from 15 percent to 11 percent and puts us on a track towards eliminating this burden altogether by the year 2005. In addition, the bill also fully funds the health care of active duty members and their families and provides 3.9 billion for health care benefits for military retirees over 65 and their families.

We can never pay our men and women in uniform on a scale that matches the magnitude of their sacrifice. But this bill reflects our respect for your selfless service.

Today, more than ever, we also owe those in uniform the resources they need to maintain a very high state of readiness. Our enemies rely upon surprise and deception. They used to rely upon the fact that they thought we were soft. I don't think they think that way anymore.

Our forces must be ready to deploy to any point on the globe on short notice. This bill increases operation and maintenance by over \$8 billion. This Nation must have and will have ready forces that can bring victory to our country and safety to our people.

The world's best soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines also deserve the world's best weaponry. To ensure that, our Nation must invest in procurement accounts. This defense bill contains about \$61 billion for procurement. This Nation must give our military the weapons it needs to meet the threats of our future. If the war against terror means that we must find terror wherever it exists and pull it out by its roots and bring people to justice, our military must have the means to achieve the objective.

This bill is just the beginning to make sure that that happens. Our Nation must also look even farther into the future, so that the next generations of weaponry take advantage of our Nation's decisive technological edge. That's why I'm pleased to see that this year's defense bill contains almost