

come before us, and many will follow. Mine is just one of 46 portraits in this Dome, and I'll always be in good company here.

It is amazing for me to think, when I step back and think this will be hanging here forever, along with J. Pinckney Henderson. I didn't know Henderson very well. [Laughter] But I did read about Sam Houston or John Connolly and the first Texas Governor I ever knew, Allan Shivers. It's an honor to be hanging with these men. It's also amazing to think that it'll be here for a long, long time. I just hope Governor Richards doesn't mind being my neighbor for eternity. [Laughter]

I want to thank you all for coming. It's a day I've really been looking forward to for a long time. We look forward to seeing you upstairs for the little coffee we're having.

Again, I remember you; I won't forget Texas. It's a huge honor to be the President, by the way. But one of these days I'll be back, settled in, sitting on my porch in Crawford, looking for somebody to come and recount old war stories with.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. at the Texas State Capitol. In his remarks, he

referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas and his wife, Anita Thigpen Perry; Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliffe of Texas and his wife, Sally; Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney and his wife, Nelda; Janelle Bullock, widow of former Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock of Texas; artists Scott and Stuart Gentling; Texas Secretary of State Elton Bomer; Joe M. Allbaugh, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Karen Hughes, Counselor to the President; Karl Rove, Senior Adviser to the President; Alberto R. Gonzales, Assistant to the President and White House Counsel; Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Margaret Spellings and her husband, Robert; Albert Hawkins, Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Cabinet; Harriet Miers, Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary; Ashley Estes, the President's Personal Secretary; Special Assistant to the President Israel "Izzy" Hernandez; Presidential Aide Logan Walters; Commerce Department Deputy General Counsel Margaret Wilson; Deputy Assistant to the President Stuart Bowen; Vickers B. Meadows, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Patrick Henry Wood III, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas.

Remarks at a Townhall Meeting in Ontario, California January 5, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Mario, *muchas gracias por tu palabras.* Thank you all for coming.

[At this point, the President spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

Thank you for letting me come. Thank you for taking time out of your *fin de semana para hablar con el Presidente.* I'm honored that so many came out for this weekend. It gives me a great chance to share some thoughts with you as we begin

a new year that I believe is going to be a fantastic year for America. And I look forward to answering some questions you may have.

I want to thank your Governor for being here. Governor Gray Davis kindly took time out of his schedule for coming. Governor, thank you for coming. I want to thank some of the members of the mighty—and I mean, mighty—congressional delegation from the State of California. We've got Gary Miller, whose district this is. Gary,