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GEORGE W. BUSH

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Vice President's Remarks on the 90th National Convention of the American Legion

Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, Arizona

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 [Photos](#)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, friends and fellow citizens. It's good to see all of you this morning. I notice I always get a warm welcome when I come to Arizona in August. (Laughter.) But wherever you and I have met -- whether it was in Indianapolis last fall, or in other venues over the years -- I've always received a warm welcome from the American Legion. And I appreciate it, and I'm honored to be with you once again.

Let me thank your national commander, Marty Conatser, for the invitation to join all of you today. And I also want to thank Robert Spanogle, national adjutant; Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, national president of the Auxiliary; Pam Gilley, national secretary of the Auxiliary. I also want to thank national and department officers and delegates, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion, and guests who have come to Phoenix from all over the world. Your commitment to the Legion has made this 90th National Convention a huge success. It's great to be part of it, and I bring respect and good wishes to all of you from the President of the United States, George W. Bush. (Applause.)



This hall is filled with distinguished Americans. You answered the nation's call -- and when you returned from duty, you kept up the habit of service by joining the American Legion. The Legion serves America by leading on important issues, from health care and education, to employment opportunities for veterans, to homeland security, to a better quality of life for our military families. You proudly wear an emblem that "stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of man." You speak up for liberty and democracy, because you know what those ideals mean -- and because you know the price that's been paid for our freedoms. Members of the American Legion stand firm for protecting our country's flag, and for defending the right of every American to pledge allegiance to one nation under God. (Applause.)

We also count on the American Legion to be an advocate for the nation's veterans. Our administration