



GEORGE W. BUSH

March 31, 2011

Laura and I send our greetings to all those gathered for the 2011 Tom Ridge Homeland Security Awards, hosted by the Federal Enforcement Homeland Security Foundation. We join you in congratulating tonight's honorees for their commitment to the security of our country and the safety of our fellow citizens. We are proud to congratulate Governor Tom Ridge as he is honored with the Homeland Security Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tom Ridge has dedicated his life to the service of our country, including as a decorated Army soldier, a United States Congressman, and Governor of Pennsylvania. When I established the White House Office of Homeland Security after September 11, I knew that Tom Ridge was the right man to build the new organization and head it up. He did such a fine job, I later appointed him as the first Secretary of Homeland Security. I was glad he answered the call to serve again. He oversaw the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since World War II, and he worked tirelessly to help prevent another attack on our shores. Thanks to his leadership, America is more secure and our government is better prepared to protect our people.

I appreciate the Federal Enforcement Homeland Security Foundation for recognizing such fine Americans tonight. May God bless you all, and May God continue to bless America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.