



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 19, 2005

I send greetings to those observing the centennial anniversary of the tragedy aboard the USS BENNINGTON (PG 4).

To understand and fully appreciate our country, we must know its history. A century ago, more than 100 men were killed or injured aboard the USS BENNINGTON. This anniversary is an opportunity to pay tribute to those brave patriots who gave their lives in the line of duty. On this day, we remember their service to our Nation, and we continue to draw inspiration from their heroism.

I appreciate all those participating in this event. By honoring the crew of the USS BENNINGTON, you help ensure their sacrifice will be remembered always.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, 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 large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.