



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 4, 2002

I send greetings to those gathered for the 109th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

We know that heroism is found in a moment, or sometimes a lifetime, of serving something larger than ourselves. Our experiences since September 11, 2001, have clearly demonstrated that law enforcement officials are among America's greatest heroes. As you selflessly risk your lives to protect our citizens and our communities, you help to secure our homeland. During these extraordinary times, Americans have drawn great strength from your example of courage, sacrifice, and honor.

I commend police chiefs for your leadership and willingness to serve your communities and our great Nation. Your pride and dedication reflect the true character of America. I also applaud the efforts of IACP to support these brave men and women in their work to protect the safety of our Nations' communities.

I particularly commend IACP's contributions in the development of the new Volunteers in Police Service program, in partnership with the Department of Justice. As part of the USA Freedom Corps, this important initiative has doubled in size since it was launched earlier this year, and it will help law enforcement officials to ensure the safety of all Americans.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a successful conference. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.