

May 5 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2008

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:51 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana.

The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing a Bill To Award the Congressional Gold Medal to Aung San Suu Kyi

May 6, 2008

I just signed a bill passed by the leaders of the Senate and the House, who have joined me, to honor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the—with the Congressional Gold Medal.

This is a fitting tribute to a courageous woman who speaks for freedom for all the people of Burma and who speaks in such a way that she's a powerful voice in contrast to the junta that currently rules the country.

Burma's been hit by a terrible natural disaster. Laura and I and Members of the Senate and the House here express our heartfelt sympathy to the people of Burma. The United States has made an initial aid contribution, but we want to do a lot more. We're prepared to move U.S. Navy assets to help find those who've lost their lives, to help find the missing, and to help stabilize the situation. But in order to do so,

the military junta must allow our disaster assessment teams into the country.

So our message is to the military rulers: Let the United States come and help you help the people. Our hearts go out to the people of Burma. We want to help them deal with this terrible disaster. And at the same time, of course, we want them to live in a free society.

I want to thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your determination to send a message that America stands with this courageous woman. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:49 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. H.R. 4286, approved May 6, was assigned Public Law No. 110–209.

Remarks on Military Spouse Day

May 6, 2008

Thank you very much, Phil. I appreciate you and your band members being here today. Thanks for entertaining us here on the South Lawn of the White House. And we are so glad you have come.

We're honoring six recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Awards. And as we do so, we celebrate the contributions and achievements of our military spouses all across the country.

Laura sends her very best. She's heading down to Texas for—[*applause*]. She left behind a DVD—[*laughter*]—with Steve Martin; said, you might want to watch this before you head down there yourself. [*Laughter*] But she sends her love. And I'm very fortunate to have married such a kind and decent, compassionate woman.

I appreciate the Secretary of Defense. Secretary Bob Gates is with us. I'm proud