

not based on color or creed, not based on faith or station, but based on a commitment to serve together, to bleed together, and to succeed together as one people, as Americans.

Make no mistake, this fight matters to us. It matters to us, it matters to our allies, it matters to the Afghan people. Al Qaida and the violent extremists who you're fighting against want to destroy. But all of you want to build, and that is something essential about America. They've got no respect for human life. You see dignity in every human being. That's part of what we value as Americans. They want to drive races and regions and religions apart. You want to bring people together and see the world move forward together. They offer fear, in other words, and you offer hope.

And that's why it is so important that you know that the entire country stands behind you. That's why you put on that uniform, because in an uncertain world, the United States of America will always stand up for the security of nations and the dignity of human beings. That's who we are. That is what we do.

Much has happened to our country and to the world since 9/11. But I'm confident that so long as brave men and women like you—Americans who are willing to serve selflessly half a world away on behalf of their fellow citizens and the dreams of people they've never met—so long as there are folks like you, then I'm confident that our Nation will endure and hope will overcome fear. And I am confident that better days lie ahead.

So thank you very much, everybody. God bless you, God bless the United States Armed Forces, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 p.m. in the Clamshell. In his remarks, he referred to Sgt. Maj. Eric Johnson, USA, director of operations, Combined Joint Task Force-82; Maj. Gen. Curtis M. "Mike" Scaparrotti, USA, NATO International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan, Regional Commander East, and commander, 82d Airborne Division; and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Moscow, Russia

March 29, 2010

I send my deepest condolences to the people of Russia after the terrible loss of life and injuries resulting from the bombings on the Moscow Metro. The American people stand united with the people of Russia in opposition to violent extremism and heinous terrorist attacks that demonstrate such disregard for human life, and we condemn these outrageous acts. My

thoughts and prayers go out to those who lost loved ones, and I wish all who sustained injuries a successful recovery.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Remarks on Signing the Health Care and Reconciliation Act of 2010 in Alexandria, Virginia

March 30, 2010

Thank you, Alexandria. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody. Please have a seat.

Thank you, Dr. Biden, for that outstanding introduction and for putting up with Joe. [Laughter] I want to also thank Dr. Biden for being one of the thousands of instructors all across the country who make such a difference

in the lives of students each and every day. So we are very proud of you for that.

I want to thank President Templin and the entire NOVA Community College family for hosting us here today—[applause]—you can applaud for that.

On stage, we've got a couple of my outstanding Cabinet members, Secretary Sebelius and