

And together, we've also renewed our commitment to passing a comprehensive energy and climate bill that will safeguard our planet and spur innovation and help us to compete in the 21st century.

So looking out into the Rose Garden today, we see a lot of people who will help us achieve these goals: the business owners who know that protecting our environment is good for business, the Members of Congress who are helping to carry us along in the House and the Senate, the members of my "green" Cabinet who are helping to shape the policies that we're fighting for, and the environmental leaders who are on the ground fighting each and every day because they understand what's at stake.

So together, you represent what I believe is most inspiring about Earth Day, and that is the belief that each of us individually, from different backgrounds and different walks of

life, have the capacity to make an enormous difference.

I think we all understand that the task ahead is daunting, that the work ahead will not be easy and it's not going to happen overnight. It's going to take your leadership. It's going to take all of your ideas. And it will take all of us coming together in the spirit of Earth Day, not only on Earth Day, but every day, to make the dream of a clean energy economy and a clean world a reality. I'm confident, though, that we can do it. And I want to thank all of you for your support, your counsel, your occasional grumbling—[laughter]—and your dedication, because without you, we couldn't accomplish everything that needs to be accomplished.

So thank you very much, everybody. Enjoy the Rose Garden. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Denis Hayes, president and chief executive officer, Bullitt Foundation.

Statement on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day *April 22, 2010*

In 1970, a Senator from Wisconsin named Gaylord Nelson raised his voice and called on every American to take action on behalf of the environment. In the four decades since, millions of Americans have heeded that call and joined together to protect the planet we share.

Since that first Earth Day 40 years ago, we have made immense progress, from the landmark legislation of the 1970s, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, to the conservation of America's precious landscapes.

And since taking office, my administration has worked to build on this progress. We have made a historic investment in clean energy that will not only create the jobs of tomorrow but will also lay the foundation for long-term economic growth. And we have also renewed our commitment to passing comprehensive

energy and climate legislation that will safeguard our planet, spur innovation, and allow us to compete and win in the 21st-century economy.

Earth Day has always been about people from different backgrounds and different walks of life coming together on behalf of a cause bigger than ourselves. And with that spirit of community, we must continue the hard work to make the dream of a clean energy economy a reality and pass this world on to our children cleaner and safer than we found it.

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

Remarks at a Naturalization Ceremony for Active Duty Servicemembers April 23, 2010

The President. Good morning, everybody. Thank you, Secretary Napolitano, for being here to administer the oath, for making it official. Thank you also for leading our efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform so that America keeps faith with our heritage as both a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.

To Director Mayorkas and all the dedicated folks at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, thank you for your help to these men and women and so many of our troops to realize their dreams of citizenship.

We are joined by Congresswoman Susan Davis, Deputy Secretary of Defense Bill Lynn, and the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jim “Hoss” Cartwright.

Most of all, to America’s newest citizens: It is a great honor to serve as your Commander in Chief, and it is my greatest pleasure to be among the first to greet you as a fellow American. To you and your families, welcome to the White House.

Today is your day, a celebration of 24 inspiring men and women and the remarkable journeys that have brought you together on this beautiful spring morning to our Nation’s Capital. The paths that led you here began in more than a dozen countries, from Peru to Poland, from Kenya to the Philippines.

Some of you came to America as children, holding tight to your parents’ hands as you arrived in a new world. Some of you came as adults, leaving everything you knew behind in pursuit of a new life. And while your stories are your own, today we celebrate the common spirit that lives within each of you, a spirit that has renewed and strengthened America for more than two centuries.

We celebrate the love of family, your moms and dads who were willing to say good-bye to their own families, their own countries, so they could have an opportunity to give you the opportunity you never had. Like generations of immigrants before them, they worked hard, they scrimped, and they saved. They deferred their own dreams so that you could realize

yours. So today is a tribute to their sacrifices as well. And I would ask that you join me in honoring your moms and dads and the families that helped bring you to this day.

We celebrate the spirit of possibility, an ethic that says if you’re willing to put your shoulder to the wheel and apply your God-given talents, if you believe in yourself and you play by the rules, then there is a place for you in the United States of America, no matter where you come from and no matter what you look like.

It’s the spirit that brought a young woman from the People’s Republic of China and inspired her to enlist in the United States Air Force, where she excels as a material management specialist. So today we congratulate our fellow citizen, Yu Yuan.

It’s the spirit that brought a refugee from Ethiopia and led him to enlist in the U.S. Army because, he said, he wanted to give back to the country that “has given me the opportunity to be all that I can be.” And today we congratulate Berhan Teferi.

We celebrate the true meaning of patriotism, the love of a country that’s so strong that these men and women were willing to risk their lives to defend our country even before they could call it their own.

It’s a patriotism of a daughter of Mexico who came to America in those first terrible days after 9/11, joined the U.S. Navy, and says, “I take pride in our flag and the history that forged this great Nation and the history we write day by day.” So today we congratulate Perla Ramos.

And it’s the patriotism of a young man from Papua New Guinea, who joined the United States Marine Corps and deployed to Iraq not once, not twice, but three times. Asked why he would choose to become an American citizen, he said simply, “I might as well. I love this country already.” And so we congratulate Granger Michael.

The four of you can sit down. You represent not only the branch of the armed services that you are a part of, but also the other members who are your fellow citizens here today, and we thank you very much. We’re grateful to you.