

who call the Gulf home. They are doing everything in their power to mitigate this disaster, prevent damage to our environment, and help our fellow citizens.

And during this visit, I am hoping to have the opportunity to speak with some of the individuals who are directly affected by the disaster. I've heard already that people are, understandably, frustrated and frightened, especially because the people of this region have been through worse disasters than anybody should have to bear. But every American affected by this spill should know this: Your Government will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to stop this crisis.

This is one of the richest and most beautiful ecosystems on the planet, and for centuries, its residents have enjoyed and made a living off the

fish that swim in these waters and the wildlife that inhabit these shores. This is also the heartbeat of the region's economic life. And we're going to do everything in our power to protect our natural resources, compensate those who have been harmed, rebuild what has been damaged, and help this region persevere like it has done so many times before. That's a commitment I'm making as President of the United States, and I know that everybody who works for the Federal Government feels the exact same way.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. at Coast Guard Station Venice. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City.

## Statement on Polish Constitution Day May 2, 2010

On behalf of the American people, I send my warmest congratulations to all who celebrate Polish Constitution Day, both in Poland and here in America. In the 209 years since Poland adopted its Constitution, that document has served as an inspiration to many around the world as a beacon of equality and democratic freedoms. Here at home, Polish Americans are an important part of our national character, serving as leaders in a variety of industries and having helped shape our Nation. The United States and Poland remain close allies and essential partners, and we are bound to each other through our NATO obligations to our collective

security. As we continue to confront global challenges together, I am confident that our partnership will only further strengthen and deepen.

As we mark this day of celebration, I want to again express the deep condolences of the American people on the tragic loss of President Lech Kaczynski, First Lady Maria Kaczynska, and the many distinguished military and civilian leaders who were traveling with them. The resilience of the Polish people in the face of this tragedy serves as a model of courage and inspiration to us all.

## Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen May 3, 2010

*The President.* All right. Hello, everybody. Please have a seat. Welcome to the White House, and congratulations on winning your seventh straight Commander in Chief's Trophy. Does this ever get old? No.

Now, I do have to warn you, I consulted with the White House counsel, and according to the 22d Amendment, you're only allowed to come

back here one more time—[laughter]—before it's somebody else's turn. But we are honored to have all of you here today.

I want to start by acknowledging a few people who are with us. Of course, I want to thank your Superintendent, Vice Admiral Jeffrey Fowler, for being here and the outstanding work that he does. I also want to recognize the

Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, who is with us and is doing an outstanding job as Secretary of the Navy.

I want to welcome Lieutenant Commander Wesley Brown, class of 1949, back to the White House. Here he is, right here. Wesley was the Academy's first African American graduate. So we are extremely honored to have you here today, sir. Thank you.

Finally, I obviously want to congratulate Coach Ken—a fellow Hawaiian, I should point out—on winning another—having another great season, a winning season in Annapolis.

Now, I know it's an understatement to say that this program has been pretty successful over the years. You've been to a bowl game every year since 2003. You've pulled off seven straight wins against Air Force, eight against Navy.

*Audience members.* Army.

*The President.* Or against Army, excuse me. [Laughter] Excuse me. It would be hard for Navy to beat Navy. [Laughter]

That's even more impressive, Coach Ken says, because the Army-Navy game isn't just one of the biggest rivalries in college football; it's one of the biggest rivalries in sports, period.

But last season was special from the very beginning. In your first game, you gave the Buckeyes a run for their money in front of 105,000 fans. You beat Notre Dame for the second time in 3 years, proving once again that even though your linemen are going up against guys who are 40 or 50 pounds heavier than they are, the Midshipmen can still run with the big dogs.

Speaking of running, I want to congratulate Ricky Dobbs for setting the NCAA rushing record for touchdowns by a quarterback this season with 27. Where's Ricky? Where is he? The previous record was held by a guy named Tebow, so that's not an easy feat. [Laughter]

Now, I also understand Ricky has announced for the Presidency—[laughter]—in the year 2040. I know people are announcing early these days—[laughter]—but, Ricky,

that's a bit much. [Laughter] But it does mean that when Navy comes back for the Commander in Chief's Trophy 30 years from now, you might hear a speech from this guy. [Laughter]

This team wouldn't be the same without your captains, Osei Asante and Ross Pospisil. And so—where are those guys? Osei, Ross, where are you? Congratulations. Beside their leadership on the field, I was incredibly proud to hear about the toy drive that Ross organized last year. The team raised \$1,700 and bought, wrapped, and delivered toys to four needy families, and you guys did it in the middle of a blizzard. So we are very proud of you for that. And I want to thank all of you guys for your compassion and your generosity.

In the end, it's the willingness to put others above yourselves that sets this team and all the service academies apart. Your days are packed with morning inspections and a full load of classes, football practice, and military duties. And oftentimes, you're lucky if you can get a few minutes to yourselves before studying into the night.

But you do it because each of you has a higher calling: to serve your country in a time of war. As Ross says: "We are always going to be remembered for what we have done on the football field. That's all well and good. But we want to make a difference outside Bancroft Hall and outside the Academy walls." And that, I think, is the kind of ethic that makes us all so proud.

In a few short weeks, 32 of you will have that chance when you become officers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Last year, I was honored to attend the Academy commencement and see firsthand the incredible spirit that drives every midshipman at Annapolis—in addition to getting two chest bumps. [Laughter] It's true.

Wherever you go, you'll remember the brothers standing with you today. And you'll remember the lessons that you learned at the Academy and as a member of this team. And

you'll know what it takes to go through fire and emerge a better man and a better leader.

So I want you to know that I have no greater honor and no greater responsibility than serving as your Commander in Chief. And I promise you that this country will stand with you, from the moment you put on the uniform to the moment you take it off, as you devote your lives to freedom's cause.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much, Coach.

## Statement on World Press Freedom Day May 3, 2010

World Press Freedom Day is observed every year on May 3 to remind us of the critical importance of this core freedom. It is a day in which we celebrate the invaluable role played by the media in challenging abuses of power, identifying corruption, and informing all citizens about the important issues that shape our world. It is also a day for us to sound the alarm about restrictions on the media, as well as the threats, violence, or imprisonment of many of its members and their families because of their work.

Last year was a bad one for the freedom of the press worldwide. While people gained greater access than ever before to information through the Internet, cell phones, and other forms of connective technologies, Governments like China, Ethiopia, Iran, and Venezuela curtailed freedom of expression by limiting full access to and use of these technologies.

Moreover, more media workers were killed for their work last year than any year in recent history. The high toll was driven in large part by the election-related killings of more than 30 journalists in the Philippine Province of Maguindanao, the deadliest single event for the press in history, along with murders of journalists in Russia, Somalia, Mexico, and Honduras. In this year, like in other years, nearly three out of four of the journalists killed were local news gatherers who were murdered in their own nations.

Chauncey Bailey was one such local journalist. A tireless reporter who covered his own city of Oakland, California, Bailey was widely re-

*[At this point, Ken Niumatalolo, head coach of the U.S. Naval Academy football team, delivered brief remarks, after which the President was presented with a team jersey and commemorative ring.]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Tim Tebow, former quarterback, University of Florida Gators. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Coach Niumatalolo.

spected for his many exposes of abuse and corruption. He was gunned down 3 years ago near his office while taking a homeless man to breakfast. A trial of the alleged perpetrator is scheduled to begin this summer. Such accountability is critical to deterring further attacks. I note with concern that the murderers of journalists succeed in avoiding responsibility for their crimes in nearly 9 out of 10 cases and urge fellow governments to address this problem.

Even more journalists and bloggers find themselves imprisoned in nations around the world. Iran, following its crackdown on dissent after the last elections, now has more journalists behind bars than any other nation. Governments in Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, North Korea, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela imprisoned journalists who wrote articles critical of Government leaders and their policies.

But for every media worker who has been targeted, there are countless more who continue to inform their communities despite the risks of reprisal. On World Press Freedom Day, we honor those who carry out these vital tasks despite the many challenges and threats they face, as well as the principle that a free and independent press is central to a vibrant and well-functioning democracy.

NOTE: The statement referred to Yusuf Bey IV, who allegedly ordered the 2007 murder of journalist Chauncey Bailey.