

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