

Finally, this legislation marks a major step forward in America's commitment to families and caregivers who tend to our wounded warriors every day. They're spouses like Sarah. They're parents once again caring for their sons and daughters. Sometimes they're children helping to take care of their mom or dad.

These caregivers put their own lives on hold, their own careers and dreams aside, to care for a loved one. They do it every day, often around the clock. As Sarah can tell you, it's hard physically and it's hard emotionally. It's certainly hard financially. And these tireless caregivers shouldn't have to do it alone. As of today, they'll be getting more of the help that they need.

If you're like Sarah, and caring for a severely injured veteran from Afghanistan or Iraq, you'll receive a stipend and other assistance, including lodging when you travel for your loved one's treatment. If you need training to provide specialized services, you'll get it. If you need counseling, you'll receive it. If you don't have health insurance, it will be provided. And if you need a break, it will be arranged, up to 30 days of respite care each year.

So today is a victory for all the veterans' organizations who fought for this legislation. It's a

tribute to those who led the fight in Congress, including Senator and World War II vet Danny Akaka and Senator Richard Burr, and in the House, Representatives Mike Michaud and Bob Filner. And I thank all the Members of Congress who are joining us here today.

Most of all, today is a victory for veterans like Ted and caregivers like Sarah, who, by the way, has become a passionate and very effective voice on behalf of wounded warriors and their families. Testifying before Congress, she said of her husband, "Just like he needed a team in the military to accomplish the mission, he needs a team at home in the longer war."

So to Ted and to Sarah, to all our veterans and your families, with this legislation we're building a stronger team here at home that you need, now and for the long road to recovery. And that's why I'm very much looking forward to signing this legislation. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:29 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to S. 1963, approved May 5, which was assigned Public Law No. 111-163.

Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Celebration May 5, 2010

The President. Hello, everybody.

Audience member. Viva Obama!

The President. Viva! [Laughter] Good evening, everyone. *Buenas noches.* Michelle and I are so honored to welcome you to the White House. And you all brought outstanding weather, so we thank you for that. [Laughter] Thank you. I know that a lot of you would rather be watching tonight's game, the Spurs against *los* Suns from Phoenix.

Tonight's another one of our great events here at the White House celebrating Latino culture in America, including our concert some of you might have attended that we had during Hispanic Heritage Month on the South Lawn, *Fiesta Latina*. And Malia and Sasha will probably never forget playing drums with Sheila E. [Laughter] Michelle, on the other hand, would prefer to forget the sight of me trying to dance

with Thalia. [Laughter] I didn't think I was that bad. [Laughter]

The First Lady. You were okay. [Laughter]

The President. But there will be no—[laughter]—there will be no repeat performances tonight.

Audience members. Aww. [Laughter]

The President. We gather to mark a day that's become as celebrated here in the United States as it is in Mexico. And we're honored to be joined by Mexico's Interior Secretary, Fernando Gomez Mont, and his lovely wife Gloria. Please give them a big round of applause. It's good to see you again. And a great friend to me and the United States, Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan and his wonderful wife Veronica, who are also here; it's good to see you again.

Now, the events of this date in history are well known, how nearly 150 years ago, at the

Battle of Puebla, a band of Mexican patriots faced off against a massive European army and won a victory that inspires the world to this day. Less well known is that General Zaragoza, who led those patriots, was born in what is now the town of Goliad in Texas. In fact, you can go there today.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Are you from there?

Audience member. Yes.

The President. You can visit his birthplace. It's a historic landmark, includes a 10-foot tall statue of the general, presented by the people of Mexico and preserved by the people of the United States.

So the glory of this day is shared by both of our countries. And so is the pride in the lasting contributions that Hispanics have made to America throughout our history, including the men and women who join us here tonight.

We're joined by dedicated Members of Congress and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as some of their staffs. This includes Senator Bob Menendez; hey, Bob. Representative Xavier Becerra, where's Xavier? There he is, back there. Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez, where's Nydia?

We're joined by outstanding members of my Cabinet, including Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. Hilda! As well as Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano is here. And although she's down—although he's down on the Gulf helping to lead our response to the oil spill, I want to acknowledge my outstanding Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar.

We're joined by Hispanic Americans serving at every level of my Government. And I'm proud that we've nominated more Latinos to senior positions than any administration in history, not just because they're Latino, but because they're the best people for the job. And I should note that many of those appointments are Latinas, wise Latinas, undoubtedly. And although she's not here tonight, I think we should give a little round of applause to our first Latina on the Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor.

We're also joined by leaders from every segment of American society. And I especially

want to welcome those of you serving on the commission to explore the creation of a new museum in Washington to celebrate the history of Latinos in America. And I look forward to seeing the results of the commission's hard work and to the day when we open the doors on a new National Museum of the American Latino.

Tonight's performers are a wonderful example of how Latin culture's shaped and strengthened the fabric of America. So I want to say thank you to Maru and the Montero Dance Company, along with Javier Cortes. Thank you very much. Before I came out, I was listening to you guys inside. [Laughter] You sounded really good.

Now, by celebrating the story of Hispanics in America, we're really celebrating the larger story of America. After all, the dreams of Mexican Americans and all Latinos are the same dreams as any other American. It's why, in the face of unprecedented economic crises, we took bold action to get our economy growing again, creating jobs again, and laying the foundation for lasting prosperity. That's good for all Americans, including Hispanics, among whom the unemployment rate remains unacceptably high and who are ready to go back to work.

It's why, after nearly a century, we passed historic health care reform, with the help of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. And we're grateful to them. That's good for all Americans. It's good for all Americans, including the millions of Latinos who will finally get the coverage they lack today, as well as the Latino small-business owners who will finally be able to provide coverage for their employees. And that allows them to join the children of legal immigrants, who are finally able to get health care through the SCHIP program, something that we did very early on in my administration.

It's why we've made college more affordable, why we're reforming education. And that's good for all children, including Latinos, who, instead of having the highest dropout rate, deserve every chance to achieve their God-given potential.

So today reminds us that America's diversity is America's strength. That's why I spoke out

against the recently passed law in Arizona. Make no mistake: Our immigration system is broken. And after so many years in which Washington has failed to meet its responsibilities, Americans are right to be frustrated, including folks along border States. But the answer isn't to undermine fundamental principles that define us as a nation. We can't start singling out people because of who they look like or how they talk or how they dress. We can't turn law-abiding American citizens and law-abiding immigrants into subjects of suspicion and abuse. We can't divide the American people that way. That's not the answer. That's not who we are as the United States of America.

And that's why I've instructed my administration to closely monitor the new law in Arizona, to examine the civil rights and other implications that it may have. That's why we have to close the door on this kind of misconceived action by meeting our obligations here in Washington.

So I want to say it again, just in case anybody's confused: The way to fix our broken immigration system is through commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform. And that means responsibility from our Government to secure our borders, something we have done and will continue to do. It means responsibility from businesses that break the law by undermining American workers and exploiting undocumented workers. They've got to be held accountable. It means responsibility from people who are living here illegally. They've got to admit that they broke the law and pay taxes and pay a penalty and learn English and get right before the law and then get in line and earn their citizenship.

Comprehensive reform, that's how we're going to solve this problem. And I know there's been some commentary over the last week since I talked about this difficult issue. Well, is this politically smart to do? Can you get Republican votes? Look, of course, it's going to be tough; that's the truth. Anybody who tells you it's going to be easy or that I can wave a magic wand and make it happen hasn't been paying attention to how this town works. [*Laughter*]

We need bipartisan support. But it can be done, and it needs to be done. So I was pleased

to see a strong proposal for comprehensive reform presented in the Senate last week, and I was pleased that it was based on a bipartisan framework. I want to begin work this year, and I want Democrats and Republicans to work with me, because we've got to stay true to who we are, a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.

That's the spirit that I saw in some remarkable men and women that I recently hosted right here in the Rose Garden. They came from more than a dozen countries. And even though they weren't yet citizens, they had enlisted in the United States military. And one woman was named Perla Ramos, and she was born and raised in Mexico. She came to the United States shortly after 9/11. Her husband was a U.S. marine, and she said, "A passion for the military grew inside me."

In time, she joined herself, enlisting in the Navy. And she said, "I take pride in our flag and the history that forged this great Nation and the history we write day by day." And as Perla's Commander in Chief, I took great pride in helping to swear her in, a daughter of Mexico and one of our newest American citizens. So she continues a great tradition of Mexican Americans serving in our military, someone in whom both our nations can take great pride.

So today I want us to remember the United States and Mexico are not simply neighbors bound by geography and history; we're two societies that are woven together by millions of family and friends, by common interests and a shared future. Those are bonds that are unbreakable. They're bonds of an aspirational community: you and your mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters who struggled and sacrificed to realize the American Dream. They're also bonds of commerce and trade that sustain millions of jobs, both in Mexico and in the United States.

They're bonds that are represented in the trust and respect that I have for President Calderon, as we work together to create opportunity and prosperity for our peoples and confront the drug cartels and violence that threaten both our countries. It's the warmth that Michelle felt on her recent trip to Mexico, her first solo trip as First Lady. And it's the friendship and cooperation that we'll deepen when we

host President Calderon and First Lady Margarita Zavala for their state visit and dinner in a couple of weeks.

That's the spirit that all of you are putting on display today. So thank you for living it in your own lives. Thank you for sharing it with us tonight.

Have a wonderful party. You can be as noisy as you want. [Laughter]

The First Lady. We can hear you.

The President. We can hear you, though. [Laughter] If it goes past a certain hour, we'll kick you out. [Laughter] All right?

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:58 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers Sheila Escovedo, Ariadna Thalia Sodi Miranda, Maru Montero, and Javier Cortes; and 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.

Statement on the Death of President Umaru Yar'Adua of Nigeria May 5, 2010

We are saddened by the news of Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua's passing, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Yar'Adua family and the people of Nigeria as they mourn his loss. Tonight we remember and honor President Yar'Adua's profound personal decency and integrity, his deep commitment to public service, and his passionate belief in the vast potential and bright future of Nigeria's 150 million people.

President Yar'Adua worked to promote peace and stability in Africa through his support of Nigerian peacekeeping efforts as well as his strong criticism of undemocratic actions in the region. He was committed to creating

lasting peace and prosperity within Nigeria's own borders, and continuing that work will be an important part of honoring his legacy.

Under President Yar'Adua's leadership, Nigeria and the United States took steps to deepen the strong bilateral relationship between our two nations, and that work has continued even in recent months when President Yar'Adua's illness forced him to step back from his governing duties. The Nigerian people and Government should know that in this time of national mourning they have a friend and enduring partner in the United States and that together we will continue to work to address the common challenges we face.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Proposed Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy May 5, 2010

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful

Uses of Nuclear Energy. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the