

much for your attendance. And again, to our honorees, thanks for setting such an extraordinary example for all of us. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to his sister Maya Soetoro-

Ng; Kurt Klein, husband of Gerda W. Klein; Elizabeth Little, wife of Tom Little; former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali; and former First Lady Barbara Bush. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Lt. Cmdr. John F. McCarthy, USCG, Coast Guard Aide to the President.

## Statement on Serbian National Day *February 15, 2011*

On behalf of the American people, I extend my best wishes to all those who are observing Serbian National Day. The United States and Serbia share an important partnership based on mutual respect and shared goals. Here in

America, those of Serbian descent contribute to the fabric of American life. I look forward to a continued friendship between our two countries.

## Remarks on the America's Great Outdoors Initiative *February 16, 2011*

Thank you very much. Everybody, please have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. It is great to have you here. What better place to hold our Great Outdoors event than right here inside the East Room. *[Laughter]* We thought it might be a little chilly for some of you. Not the folks from Montana. *[Laughter]* Now, while an indoor celebration of the great outdoors may seem strange, it is worth noting that the White House is actually inside a 82-acre national park, including an area once found to have the "densest squirrel population known to science." *[Laughter]* This is true. So we've got that going for us. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Sally for the terrific introduction. I asked her if she brought me any gear. She said that Secret Service wouldn't let her, otherwise she would have. *[Laughter]*

I also want to make a couple of acknowledgements, people who have worked so hard on this initiative, and I want to make sure that they get all the credit in the world: my great Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, is here; my outstanding Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. Tom's still recovering from the Super Bowl—big Steelers fan. *[Laughter]* Went

down to the game, all that stuff. Had the towel. *[Laughter]*

Administrator of the EPA, Lisa Jackson; Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Nancy Sutley; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy; and somebody I am just thrilled to have here because this is my model for public service and just—not only a great former Senator, but also just a class act and a wonderful gentleman, who I have not seen in a while, John Warner of the great Commonwealth of Virginia. Nice to see you, John. Thank you.

We also have—in addition to Sally, I want to make sure that everybody knows who's standing behind me here—Dusty Crary, who's a rancher from Rocky Mountain Front Advisory Committee—Dusty; Sam Solomon, the president and CEO of the Coleman Company; John Tomke, president, Sporting Conservation Council, Ducks Unlimited; Troy Uentillie, Navajo Nation member and the Sherman BIE School; and Rebecca Wodder, president of American Rivers. All these folks have just done a lot of work to make this day possible.

Now, in 1786, Thomas Jefferson described the view from Monticello. "How sublime to