

to support the Libyan people as they stand up for their own freedom.

So I just want to express the extraordinary thanks that I give to the people of Greece for their friendship and for their contributions to the life of our Nation and so many others. I also obviously want to say to all my great friends in the Greek American community how much I appreciate your support and your friendship, and I'm glad that we have one more occasion to celebrate together here in the White House. So it's wonderful to see you again, and I hope you guys have a great time today.

The President's Weekly Address *March 26, 2011*

Last week, when I ordered our Armed Forces to protect the Libyan people from the brutality of Muammar Qadhafi, I pledged to keep the American people fully informed. Since then, I've spoken about the limited scope and specific purpose of this mission. Today I can report that thanks to our brave men and women in uniform, we've made important progress.

As Commander in Chief, I face no greater decision than sending our military men and women into harm's way. And the United States should not, and cannot, intervene every time there's a crisis somewhere in the world.

But I firmly believe that when innocent people are being brutalized, when someone like Qadhafi threatens a bloodbath that could destabilize an entire region, and when the international community is prepared to come together to save many thousands of lives, then it's in our national interest to act. And it's our responsibility. This is one of those times.

Our military mission in Libya is clear and focused. Along with our allies and partners, we're enforcing the mandate of the United Nations Security Council. We're protecting the Libyan people from Qadhafi's forces. And we've put in place a no-fly zone and other measures to prevent further atrocities.

We're succeeding in our mission. We've taken out Libya's air defenses. Qadhafi's forces are no longer advancing across Libya. In places like Benghazi, a city of some 700,000 that Qadhafi

All right? Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, who introduced the President; former Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes; Prime Minister Georgios Andreas Papandreou of Greece; Greece's Ambassador to the U.S. Vassilis Kaskarelis; and Cyprus's Ambassador to the U.S. Pavlos Anastasiades and his wife Maria Antonopoulou-Anastasiades.

hafi threatened to show no mercy, his forces have been pushed back. So make no mistake, because we acted quickly, a humanitarian catastrophe has been avoided and the lives of countless civilians—innocent men, women, and children—have been saved.

As I pledged at the outset, the role of American forces has been limited. We are not putting any ground forces into Libya. Our military has provided unique capabilities at the beginning, but this is now a broad, international effort. Our allies and partners are enforcing the no-fly zone over Libya and the arms embargo at sea. Key Arab partners like Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have committed aircraft. And as agreed this week, responsibility for this operation is being transferred from the United States to our NATO allies and partners.

This is how the international community should work: more nations, not just the United States, bearing the responsibility and cost of upholding peace and security.

This military effort is part of our larger strategy to support the Libyan people and hold the Qadhafi regime accountable. Together with the international community, we're delivering urgent humanitarian assistance. We're offering support to the Libyan opposition. We've frozen tens of billions of dollars of Qadhafi's assets that can help meet the needs and aspirations of the Libyan people. And every day, the pressure on Qadhafi and his regime is increasing.

Our message is clear and unwavering: Qadhafi's attacks against civilians must stop. His forces must pull back. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to reach those in need. Those responsible for violence must be held accountable. Muammar Qadhafi has lost the confidence of his people and the legitimacy to rule, and the aspirations of the Libyan people must be realized.

In recent days, we've heard the voices of Libyans expressing their gratitude for this mission. "You saved our lives," said one Libyan. Said another, "Today, there is hope."

Every American can be proud of the lives we've saved in Libya and of the service of our men and women in uniform who once again

have stood up for our interests and our ideals. And people in Libya and around the world are seeing that the United States of America stands with those who hope for a future where they can determine their own destiny.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:55 p.m. on March 25 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on March 26. In the address, the President referred to Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on March 26.

Statement on the Death of Geraldine A. Ferraro March 26, 2011

Michelle and I were saddened to learn about the passing of Geraldine Ferraro. Geraldine will forever be remembered as a trailblazer who broke down barriers for women and Americans of all backgrounds and walks of life. Whether it was as a public school teacher, assistant district attorney, Member of Congress, or candidate for Vice President, Geraldine fought to uphold America's founding ideals of

equality, justice, and opportunity for all. And as our Ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, she stood up for those ideals around the world. Sasha and Malia will grow up in a more equal America because of the life Geraldine Ferraro chose to live.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband John Zaccaro, her children and grandchildren, and their entire family.

Remarks at Univision's "Es el Momento" Town Hall Meeting and a Question-and-Answer Session March 28, 2011

Univision Moderator Jorge Ramos. Mr. President, I have the first question. As a newscaster and as an anchor, I have to ask first. And I would like to ask something that everybody wants to know. You're going to talk about Libya. I don't know if you can give us something about the speech you're going to give later on for us to listen to it here at Univision. And we are going through a very difficult time. We're going through three different wars at the same time. And I was looking at the education budget in the country, and it really amazes me that every dollar that is being spent on education, we spend \$10 for war and on the Department

of Defense. Do we need to change that? What would you do?

The President. Well, first of all, I just want to say, Jorge, it's wonderful to be with Univision. It's wonderful to be here at Bell Multicultural. You guys are doing outstanding work.

I also want to make a confession, and that is that although I took Spanish in high school, I'm receiving translation through this earpiece. [Laughter] But for all the young people here, I want you guys to be studying hard because it is critical for all American students to have language skills. And I want everybody here to be working hard to make sure that you don't just