

our—in our Episcopal churches of Boston that our earliest patriots planned our Revolution. It was in the Baptist churches of Montgomery and Selma that the civil rights movement was born. And it's in the Catholic and Evangelical and mainline churches of our Southwest and across our entire continent that a new movement for immigration reform is taking shape today.

So I'll keep doing my part. I'll keep pushing and working with Congress. But the only way we are going to get this done is by building a widespread movement for reform. That's why I'm asking you to keep preaching and persuading your congregations and communities. That's why I'm asking you to keep on activating, getting involved, mobilizing. That's why

we all need to keep praying. I'm asking you to help us recognize ourselves in one another. And if you can do that, I'm absolutely confident that we will not only make sure America remains true to its heritage as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws, but we'll make sure we remain true to our founding ideals and that we build a beloved community here on this Earth.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:29 a.m. at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr., founder and president, Esperanza, who introduced the President.

## Remarks at a Ceremony Honoring the National Association of Police Organizations TOP COPS

May 12, 2011

*The President.* Thank you so much. Thank you, everybody. Please, everybody have a seat.

Thank you, Joe, not just for being a great Vice President, but being one of law enforcement's best friends and strongest advocates over the years. I think they've gotten even more love from you than the railroads—[laughter]—and that's hard to do.

I look forward to this event every single year. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the efforts of law enforcement officials nationwide, not just because I've got several around me 24 hours a day. I have had the special honor of meeting police officers and law enforcement officials in all 50 States. Last week, I had the special honor of visiting with the men and women of New York City's First Precinct, which was the first to respond on 9/11 and serves the area encompassing Ground Zero.

And what I told them is the same thing that I'll tell all of the law enforcement professionals here today: Thank you. We appreciate your service. You have our support. We're grateful for the sacrifices you and your families make, and my administration is committed to making sure that you get what you need.

Some of the public servants helping us do that today are here: Our excellent Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano; our Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske, is here—[applause]—a longtime police officer who also served as police chief in four different cities.

I'd also like to say that today I am seeking a 2-year extension for FBI Director Bob Mueller. And in his 10 years at the FBI, Bob has set the gold standard for leading the Bureau. He's improved the working relationship with local law enforcement across the country. And I hope that Democrats, led by Judiciary Chairman Pat Leahy, who's here, as well as Republicans in Congress will join together in extending that leadership for the sake of our Nation's safety and security.

We've also got several elected officials here today, and I'm grateful for their service and their support of law enforcement. And obviously, I want to welcome the leaders of the National Association of Police Organizations, including your president, Tom Nee, and your executive director, William Johnson.

And most importantly, congratulations to the 30 officers, sheriffs, detectives, investigators, agents who are behind me, our Nation's TOP COPS, right here.

*Audience members.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* We've got the Montana crew hollering. [Laughter] That was Missoula, right? [Applause] There you go, Missoula.

I know the families are bursting with pride for your loved ones' accomplishments, but your love and support has had a lot to do with those accomplishments. So again, we are grateful to you.

This is the third year I've had the honor of welcoming America's TOP COPS to the White House. It's kind of like the Heisman Trophy presentation for law enforcement. But I just spent a little time with these men and women inside, and I can tell you with certainty, they carry themselves with such humility. They don't say to themselves: "This is it. This year I made TOP COP. I'm going to train, put in long hours, and go to Washington and stand with the President." That's not why they do what they do every single day.

None of them put together a PR package for our consideration. Some of them are still recovering from gunshot wounds suffered in the line of duty. Some have heavy hearts for partners who've been lost, and they commit themselves to their memory. And all would put forward others in their units who they would say are just as brave or just as dedicated or just as capable or just as deserving of this recognition.

But, you know, a moment came when their actions earned recognition. It wasn't talk, it was what they did. They didn't know it that morning as they pinned on a badge or strapped on a vest or holstered a weapon. But that day, something would happen that would make them worthy of this honor, whether it was a random act of bravery or a successful outcome that was the results of months or even years of painstaking and dangerous police work.

The men and women we honor today have responded with courage under withering fire to defend the innocent. They've skillfully rescued women and children from armed gang members and have saved the life of a shooting

victim when there wasn't time for paramedics to arrive. They've carried out a dangerous and deadly sting operation to get drugs off the streets. They've burst into a white-hot building to save paralyzed senior citizens whose beds were engulfed in flames. They've doggedly pursued an 18-year-old cold case until justice was done. And they've investigated last year's attempted Times Square bombing, successfully extracting a full confession and a wealth of actionable intelligence leading to arrests that have made this country safer.

Think about the strong stuff that takes. Think about the character it takes to refuse to close the books on a case forgotten by all but the victims' families, the coolness it takes to talk down an armed and hostile criminal, the courage it takes to run into flames or press forward through a hail of bullets when every natural instinct would say: Stop. Think about yourself. Survive.

They'll be the first to say that they've been trained to do it. Some of them will argue they're not heroes. They'll tell you a badge doesn't bestow courage, that special training or physical strength doesn't make you braver, that heroism isn't something made evident only after the chaos of a firefight. I think when you talk to most of these guys, they'll say heroism lies just as much in the action of their fellow officers and the hearts of the fellow citizens they've sworn to protect.

And it's true, heroism is all around us, inside of all of us, just waiting to be summoned. But I tell you what, when gunshots ring out and fires burn hot, when injustice goes unanswered and innocent people cry out for help, it's one thing to talk about courage, it's another thing to respond swiftly, decisively, heroically, with little regard for yourself and complete regard for your fellow man.

And these are the men and women who actually responded. These are America's TOP COPS, who protect and who serve, who walk the beat, who answer the call and do the dangerous and difficult work of forging a safer, stronger America, block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood.

So each of you deserves this moment in the sun, and it is sunny. [*Laughter*] Because tomorrow we know that you and your fellow first-responders will be back on your diligent duty, looking out for us, looking out for one another, looking back at times with fallen partners, determined to make sure that their extraordinary sacrifices were not in vain. And we will be standing behind you, as one Nation and one people, proud of your actions, awed by your courage, and grateful for your service on our behalves.

So to all of you and to all who wear the badge, thank you for keeping us safe. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. We're going to knock down this podium, and let's take a picture with America's TOP COPS.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden. The related proclamation of May 13 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

### Statement on the Resignation of United States Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George J. Mitchell *May 13, 2011*

Over the past 2½ years, George Mitchell has worked as a tireless advocate for peace as the U.S. Special Envoy for the Middle East. His deep commitment to resolving conflict and advancing democracy has contributed immeasurably to the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security.

George told me when he took this job that he would put in a couple of years, and I'm so glad he did. He is, by any measure, one of the finest public servants that our Nation has ever had. Even though he already had an extraordinary legacy—serving the people of Maine, leading the Senate, and bringing peace to Northern Ireland—he took on the toughest job imaginable and worked grueling hours to advance the interests of the United States and the cause of peace.

As he returns to his family, George leaves behind a proud legacy of dedicated public service, and the country owes him a debt of gratitude for his extraordinary commitment.

As a nation, we remain committed to peace in the Middle East and to building on George's hard work and progress toward achieving this goal. Secretary Clinton has asked the Deputy Middle East Envoy, David Hale, to serve as the Acting Envoy, and I have every confidence in David's ability to continue to make progress in this important effort.

NOTE: The statement released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included a statement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Ambassador Mitchell's resignation and the full text of the resignation letter submitted to the President by Ambassador Mitchell.

### Statement on Senator Herbert H. Kohl's Decision Not To Seek Reelection *May 13, 2011*

Today I called Senator Herb Kohl to thank him for his remarkable career in public service.

During his 23 years in the United States Senate, Herb's invaluable perspective as the long-time head of a family-owned business made him an unwavering voice for working families, small-business owners, and seniors.

America's children will grow up in a better place thanks to his advocacy on behalf of childhood nutrition programs, a strengthened food safety system, access to affordable health care and childcare, and juvenile crime prevention.

Herb's dedication to American families and businesses remains evident today in the robust