

thought and imagination and, indeed, intuition itself to transform our world.

And when the crew of the International Space Station—who are on Twitter—[*inaudible*—these days, when they look on this world, on our planet and see it go a little greener, chances are they don't just think American, they don't just think British or Indonesian or any place else, they might well think that down there, that's our human family, the family of man, and they are at home.

And because we are, Mr. President. For all we build, for all we make in finance, in politics, in business or economics, we know, because of these connections, that our real wealth are the reserves of love and kindness and insight and understanding and courage and compassion that were so carefully attained and accrued over those many long years. And as we celebrate St. Patrick and St. Patrick's week, let us build on those reserves to build better nations, better people, and a better world. There, here,

Mr. President, the sun is new every day. And may it shine brightly on our peoples and on all that we undertake together in the cause of each other.

So in your responsibilities all around the world, the many onerous responsibilities you carry, we wish you good fortune and good health and success. And in the words of the Fighting 69th: "Our Union, our country, and Ireland forever. *Fág an bealach.*" *Is féidir linn.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:47 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to White House Director of Speechwriting Cody S. Keenan. Prime Minister Kenny referred to Deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore of Ireland and his wife Carol Hanney; author and filmmaker Rebecca Miller, wife of Irish actor Daniel Day-Lewis, who portrayed Abraham Lincoln in the film "Lincoln"; and crystal engraver Sean Egan.

Statement on the 10th Anniversary of the Iraq War March 19, 2013

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq war, Michelle and I join our fellow Americans in paying tribute to all who served and sacrificed in one of our Nation's longest wars. We salute the courage and resolve of more than 1.5 million servicemembers and civilians who, during multiple tours, wrote one of the most extraordinary chapters in military service. We honor the memory of the nearly 4,500 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice to give the Iraqi people an opportunity to forge their own future after many years of hardship. And we express our gratitude to our extraordinary military families who sacrificed on the home front, especially our Gold Star families who remain in our prayers.

The last of our troops left Iraq with their heads held high in 2011, and the United States continues to work with our Iraqi partners to

advance our shared interest in security and peace. Here at home, our obligations to those who served endure. We must ensure that the more than 30,000 Americans wounded in Iraq receive the care and benefits they deserve and that we continue to improve treatment for traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder. With a strong post-9/11 GI bill, we must help our newest veterans pursue their education and find jobs worthy of their incredible talents. And all Americans can continue to support and honor our military families who are pillars of so many of our communities. On this solemn anniversary, we draw strength and inspiration from these American patriots who exemplify the values of courage, selflessness, and teamwork that define our Armed Forces and keep our Nation great.