

We remember Marine Sergeant Marc Golczynski of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Marc volunteered for a second tour of duty in Iraq. He knew the dangers his service would entail. Before he deployed, he wrote the following in an e-mail to his family and friends: "Please don't feel bad for us. We are warriors, and as warriors have done before us, we fight and sometimes die so our families do not have to." Marc left behind an 8-year-old son, Christian, who is with us today. He managed to be brave while he held his father's folded flag.

With us are other children and families mourning moms and dads and sons and daughters. Nothing said today will ease your pain. But each of you need to know that your country thanks you, and we embrace you, and we will never forget the terrible loss you have suffered. I hope you find comfort in knowing that your loved ones rest in a place even more peaceful than the fields that surround us here.

The greatest memorial to our fallen troops cannot be found in the words we say or the places we gather. The more lasting tribute is all around us—a country where citizens have the right to worship as they want, to march for what they believe, and to say what they think. These freedoms came at great costs, and they will survive only as long as there are those willing to step forward to defend them against determined enemies.

As before in our history, Americans find ourselves under attack and underestimated. Our enemies long for our retreat. They question our moral purpose. They doubt our strength of will. Yet even after 5 years of war, our finest citizens continue to answer our enemies with courage and confidence. Hundreds of thousands of patriots still raise their hands to serve their country; tens of thousands who have seen war on the battlefield volunteer to reenlist. What an amazing country, to produce such fine citizens.

Laura and I have met many of them. We've sat at the bedsides of the wounded. This morning I met with servicemembers who received medals for distinguished service and found myself humbled by their grace and their grit. I had the honor of meeting with families of the fallen in the Oval Office

and was amazed by their strength and resolve and decent grace under pressure.

We've heard of 174 marines recently—almost a quarter of a battalion—who asked to have their enlistments extended. For these extensions, they would earn no promotion and no promise of a favored posting. They want to serve their Nation. And as one of them put it, "I'm here so our sons don't have to come and fight here someday."

Those who serve are not fatalists or cynics. They know that one day, this war will end—as all wars do. Our duty is to ensure that its outcome justifies the sacrifices made by those who fought and died in it. From their deaths must come a world where the cruel dreams of tyrants and terrorists are frustrated and foiled, where our Nation is more secure from attack, and where the gift of liberty is secured for millions who have never known it.

This is our country's calling. It's our country's destiny. Americans set off on that voyage more than two centuries ago, confident that this future was within our reach, even though the shore was distant and even though the journey may be long. And through generations, our course has been secured by those who wear a uniform, secured by people who man their posts and do their duty. They have helped us grow stronger with each new sunrise.

On this day of memory, we mourn brave citizens who laid their lives down for our freedom. They lived and died as Americans. May we always honor them. May we always embrace them. And may we always be faithful to who they were and what they fought for.

Thank you for having me. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery.

Remarks on the Situation in Darfur, Sudan

May 29, 2007

Good morning. For too long, the people of Darfur have suffered at the hands of a

Government that is complicit in the bombing, murder, and rape of innocent civilians. My administration has called these actions by their rightful name: genocide. The world has a responsibility to help put an end to it.

Last month, I announced that the United States was prepared to take new steps if the Government of Sudan did not allow the full deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force, if the Government did not begin living up to its many commitments, that the United States would act. I made clear that the time for promises was over, and that President Bashir had to do something to end the suffering.

I held off implementing these steps because the United Nations believed that President Bashir could meet his obligations to stop the killing and would meet his obligations to stop the killing. Unfortunately, he hasn't met those obligations. President Bashir's actions over the past few weeks follow a long pattern of promising cooperation while finding new methods for obstruction.

One day after I spoke, the military bombed a meeting of rebel commanders designed to discuss a possible peace deal with the Government. In the following weeks, he used his army and Government-sponsored militias to attack rebels and civilians in south Darfur. He's taken no steps to disarm these militias in the year since the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed. Senior officials continue to oppose the deployment of the U.N. peacekeeping force.

The result is that the dire security situation on the ground in Darfur has not changed. And so today, at my instruction, the United States has taken the steps I announced in April.

First, the Department of Treasury is tightening U.S. economic sanctions on Sudan. With this new effort, the United States will more aggressively enforce existing sanctions against Sudan's Government.

As part of this effort, the Treasury Department will add 30 companies owned or controlled by the Government of Sudan to its list of Specially Designated Nationals. We're also adding an additional company to the list, a company that has been transporting weapons to the Sudanese Government and militia

forces in Darfur. All these companies are now barred from the U.S. financial system. It is a crime for American companies and individuals to knowingly do business with them.

Second, we're targeting sanctions against individuals responsible for violence. These sanctions will isolate these persons by cutting them off from the U.S. financial system, barring them from doing business with any American citizen or company, and calling the world's attention to their crimes.

Third, I'm directing the Secretary of State to consult with the United Kingdom and other allies on a new United Nations Security Council resolution. This resolution will apply new sanctions against the Government of Sudan, against individuals found to be violating human rights or obstructing the peace process. It will impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to the Government of Sudan. It will prohibit the Sudanese Government from conducting any offensive military flights over Darfur. It will strengthen our ability to monitor and report any violations.

At the same time, we will continue to push for U.N. support, including funding for the African Union peacekeepers, who remain the only force in Darfur that is protecting the people. We will continue to work for the deployment of a larger, hybrid force of AU and U.N. peacekeeping troops. We will continue to support the diplomacy of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. We will continue to insist on the full implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. We will continue to promote a broadly supported and inclusive political settlement that is the only long-term solution to the crisis in Darfur.

America's commitment is clear. Since this conflict began, we have provided more than \$1.7 billion in humanitarian and peacekeeping assistance for Darfur. We are the world's largest single donor to the people of Darfur. We're working for the day when the families of this troubled region are allowed to return safely to their homes and rebuild their lives in peace.

The people of Darfur are crying out for help, and they deserve it. I urge the United Nations Security Council, the African Union,

and all members of the international community to reject any efforts to obstruct implementation of the agreements that would bring peace to Darfur and Sudan.

I call on President Bashir to stop his obstruction and to allow the peacekeepers in and to end the campaign of violence that continues to target innocent men, women, and children. And I promise this to the people of Darfur: The United States will not avert our eyes from a crisis that challenges the conscience of the world.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 a.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan.

Remarks Following a Briefing on the Georgia and Florida Wildfires in Brunswick, Georgia

May 29, 2007

I've just had an extensive briefing on the fires here in Georgia and Florida. You can see on the map back there, the fire covers a lot of area. A lot of timberland is being burnt down. A lot of people's livelihoods are being affected. A lot of good country is being destroyed. And a lot of good people are fighting the fires.

First, I appreciate very much the folks that have put a strategy in place to deal with these fires. They're doing their very best to contain the fires. But the best solution, of course, would be if the weather patterns change. And until that, they're going to be fighting these fires. And we've got a lot of brave men and women on the frontlines doing it.

Secondly, I got a briefing from the local officials about what the Federal Government ought to continue to do. Right now, the coordination is good, in terms of fighting the fires. The question is, can we help them even more? And so we'll take back the recommendations to Washington. Secretary Chertoff will look very carefully at the recommendations, and then work closely with Senator Chambliss and Senator Martinez about what we can do to help the good people down here.

It's a very difficult period for the people, particularly in southeast Georgia and north Florida. A lot of lives are being affected. I've come down to let the people know that we are concerned about their livelihood, that I'm fully aware of the nature of these fires, that we strongly support the efforts being done here to fight these fires, and we wish the people all the best.

In the meantime, we'll be analyzing ways that we can help even further. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 a.m. at Airport Fire Station Number Five at the Brunswick Golden Isles Airport.

Remarks at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia

May 29, 2007

Thank you all very much. Please be seated, unless, of course, you don't have a chair. [Laughter] Thanks for having me. I'm honored to be here at the headquarters of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

I don't know whether you realize this or not, but the Government originally planned to open this center inside the Capital Beltway. No one looks very sad that we didn't open it in front of the Capital Beltway. [Laughter] It's a spectacular place to have this center. It is a glorious place to live. I'm honored to be in your presence. Thanks for letting me come by and share some thoughts with you.

I want to thank Director Patrick for her strong leadership and her kind introduction. I appreciate very much the tour I have just taken. A lot of our fellow citizens probably don't know what goes on here, but this is a center full of smart, capable instructors who are helping to train men and women who've volunteered to serve our country on the frontlines of protecting the homeland. I am grateful to be in your midst. I thank those of you who work here; I thank those of you who are being trained here; and I thank your families as well.

We have a mission, a vital mission, and that's to protect our country. And you all are on the frontlines of that protection. And it gives me great confidence when I meet you