

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

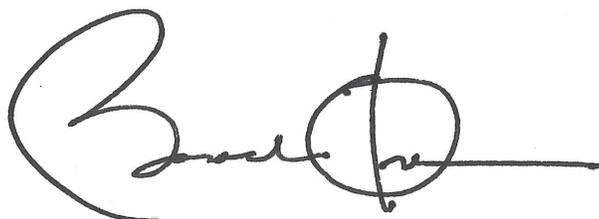
April 30, 2012

I send warm greetings to the people of Australia as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Less than a year after the devastating attacks on Pearl Harbor and Malaya, the Allied forces were faced with assaults across the Pacific Theater. On May 7 and 8, 1942, against overwhelming odds, American and Australian forces stood united in the Coral Sea, delivering a victory that buoyed the spirits of free nations and marked an important milestone in the enduring partnership between the United States and Australia.

From military bases in Queensland to the naval armada arrayed across the Coral Sea, the forces serving our two nations performed their duties admirably, demonstrating the courage and resolve that would lead our men and women to victory. This battle also laid the groundwork for an alliance between the United States and Australia that was later formalized through the signing of the ANZUS Treaty in 1951. After seven decades, we remain united in our purpose to preserve freedom, maintain stability, and promote lasting peace.

On this occasion, we reaffirm the strong bond between our nations and honor the selfless devotion of the American and Australian service members who bravely fought in that battle 70 years ago. We will never forget their sacrifice, and we will always honor the legacy of those who fought to keep us free.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, consisting of a large 'B' followed by a stylized 'O' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 2012

Mr. Drew Quinn
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Quinn:

I am pleased to enclose a Message from President Barack Obama.

Please be advised that the White House has strict guidelines governing the use of Presidential Messages. The enclosed document may only be used for the specific date and purpose for which it was provided. This letter may be read aloud at this event.

Note that the Message cannot appear in other publications or forms of communication, including but not limited to, electronic, print, and/or display on a website. Please forward a copy of any printed or electronic material in which this Message has been used to the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House, Washington, D.C. 20502.

Any unauthorized use or display of this Message or White House letterhead is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of the Director of Presidential Correspondence.

Please also note the following non-comprehensive list of actions that are expressly prohibited: alteration of this Message; sale of this Message; and use of this Message for fundraising, recruiting, advertising, solicitation, promotion, or as an endorsement of any individual, entity, organization, or unit of government. These prohibitions apply in all forms of communication, including, but not limited to electronic, print, and/or display on website.

Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Olson
Special Assistant to the President and
Director of Presidential Correspondence