



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 29, 2013

I send warm greetings to the people of Australia as we commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

On May 7 and 8, 1942, Americans and Australians fought alongside each other to halt the progress of a seemingly unstoppable foe. Committed to restoring peace and preserving liberty, these brave service members helped turn the tide of World War II in the Pacific in favor of the Allied forces.

As we mark this anniversary, we celebrate one of the defining moments in the enduring alliance between the United States and Australia. In those fateful days, our partnership at sea laid the foundation for a bond formalized through the ANZUS Treaty in 1951. Gaining depth and breadth with each passing year, our alliance grows stronger and more resilient as we continue marching toward our shared vision of peace, security, and prosperity for all people.

The Coral Sea will forever live in our memories as the place where hundreds of selfless American and Australian service members gave their lives in the name of freedom. During these days of remembrance, Americans stand with Australians to honor their legacy as we recommit to the vitality of our alliance and the promotion of lasting peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.