

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 30, 2010

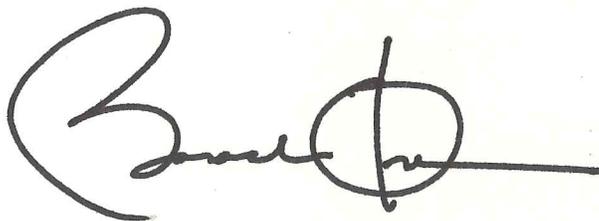
I send my warmest greetings to the people of Australia as we commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

During World War II, formidable battles at sea in the Pacific theater pitted aircraft carrier forces against each other in strategic efforts to control the hemisphere and emerge victorious. The engagement in the Coral Sea, off Australia's eastern coast on May 7 and 8, 1942, holds a unique place in the history of our two nations.

The cooperation between American and Australian naval forces during this battle marked an important evolution in our alliance. This alliance would ultimately help win World War II in the Pacific theater, and was formalized in 1951 through the signing of the ANZUS Treaty. Almost 70 years later, our alliance remains one of the most important and dynamic in the world.

As we mark the strong bond between our countries, we also remember the courage and selfless dedication of the American and Australian service members who fought this crucial battle 68 years ago. Their legacy—and that of all our men and women in uniform—is the freedom we enjoy today.

In marking this milestone, we pay tribute to the sacrifice and loss we shared at sea, and commit ourselves to building and maintaining a common future of security, prosperity, and freedom. I wish you all the best.

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