

and her writings have inspired millions, and in so doing, have put fear into the hearts of the leaders of the Burmese junta.

And that's why the regime has called a vote in May to ratify a dangerously flawed constitution, one that bars Suu from ever leading—leaving her country. Aung San Suu Kyi has said to the American people, "Please use your liberty to promote ours." We're doing all we can, and we will continue to do so until the tide of freedom reaches the Burmese shores and frees this good, strong woman.

Americans are inspired by the examples of these women and the women we honor here today. We will continue to support their work and the work of women across the world who stand up for the freedom of their people.

One of America's finest poets was a woman named Emma Lazarus, who is most famous for writing the verses carved into the base of the Statue of Liberty. Those verses describe the copper icon as "a mighty woman with a torch" to light the

way for all "yearning to breathe free." During Women's History Month and at this celebration of International Women's Day, we are proud that the most recognizable symbol of America's love for freedom is "a mighty woman." And we reaffirm our commitment to light the way for all—both women and men—"yearning to be free."

And now, I'd like to ask Laura and Secretary Chao and Secretary Peters and the Members of Congress who are here to join me on stage as I proudly sign Women's History Month proclamation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to White House Press Secretary Dana Perino; President Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus; and former President Fidel Castro Ruz and President Raul Castro Ruz of Cuba. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady. The Women's History Month proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks on Arrival in Nashville, Tennessee March 11, 2008

*The President.* This is Dr. Christian, Dr. Karla Christian, who really symbolizes the best of America. She and a team of hers have performed a surgery on a little Iraqi girl who was discovered by United States marines. People in Nashville raised the money for the family; they were supported by the marines there in Iraq. Some of the marines raised money, and they sent this little girl, whose heart was ailing, to America, right here to Nashville. And Karla and her team healed the little girl, and she's back in Iraq.

And the contrast couldn't be more vivid. We got people in Iraq who murder the innocent to achieve their political objec-

tives, and we've got Americans who heal the broken hearts of little Iraqi girls. Ours is a compassionate nation that believes in the universality of freedom. And ours is a nation full of loving souls that when they find a stranger in need will lend their God-given talents to help that stranger. And that's precisely what happened.

*Karla G. Christian.* Thank you.

*The President.* I want you to thank your team there for all the good work you've done.

*Dr. Christian.* Thank you for all you've done.

*The President.* God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. at Nashville International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Karla G. Christian, associate chief of pediatric cardiac surgery and

director of pediatric cardiac surgical education, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, and her patient Amina Al'a Thabit.

## Remarks to the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville March 11, 2008

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for the warm welcome. Nothing better than being introduced by a fellow Texan. [Applause] And it's good to see some of my Texas buddies here—[applause]—like my friend Evans from Dallas. Good to see you, Tony. Thanks for letting me come by.

This is kind of a rambunctious crowd. [Laughter] I really am pleased to be with you. For 64 years, this association has brought together some of the most memorable voices of the—our Christian community here in America. You've preached the blessings of grace and understanding and patience. I've needed all three during my time as President. [Laughter]

I was very young when I first learned about obedience to a higher power, and my mother sends her best to you. [Laughter] I am surrounded by strong women and have been all my wife. [Laughter] And speaking about a strong and gracious woman, Laura sends her love and best.

We have something else in common: Each of us has had doors opened to us by the same man. He led the way for America's religious broadcasters. He brought the Gospel to millions, and many years ago, he helped me change my life. And today, this good man is recovering from surgery in North Carolina, and please join me in sending our love and prayers to Billy Graham. A lot of Americans love Billy Graham, and I'm one. So, Billy, we're thinking about you.

He has led countless Americans to the grace and goodness of the Almighty, and each of you performs the same mission

every day. You renew the poor in spirit, you bring comfort to those in anguish, and you show millions the path to salvation and the peace of God.

I thank you for guiding the faithful. I thank you for strengthening America's families. I thank you for standing up for our values, including the right to life. And I appreciate your firm belief in the universality of freedom. I believe and I know most of you, if not all of you, believe that every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth has been given the great gift of liberty by an Almighty God. And today I want to speak about this precious gift, the importance of protecting freedom here at home, and the call to offer freedom to others who have never known it.

But before I do, I do want to thank Dr. Ron Harris and his wife Judy, straight out of Arlington, Texas. Appreciate other members of the National Religious Broadcasters Executive Committee. I thank Dr. Frank Wright and his wife Ruth.

I appreciate Members of Congress who have come today: Congressman Mike Pence of Indiana, Congressman Lincoln Davis of Tennessee, and Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee. Thank you all for coming. Proud to be with you.

This organization has had many important missions, but none more important than ensuring our airways—America's airways—stay open to those who preach the good news. The very first amendment to our Constitution includes the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. Founders believed these unalienable rights were