

Address at the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemorative Dinner

PRIME MINISTER:

Thank you very much. Thank you.

And thank you Mr President and Mrs Trump for your warm family welcome to New York. Lucy and I are honoured to be here. It is always wonderful to be back in this city and it is wonderful to meet your family, to be here with our son and our son-in-law, it has been a great evening and thank you so much.

And well done, congratulations – it is always good to win a vote in the Congress, or the Parliament as we call it.

And I've got to say, it is always reasonably satisfying to win a vote when people predict you're not going to win it too. So keep at it. It is great. Well done Mr President.

There are so many distinguished guests here tonight – I want to thank you all so much for joining us and in such a great cause.

But there none more distinguished than the Veterans of the Battle of the Coral Sea. From the Royal Australian Navy Rear Admiral Andrew Robertson, Norm Tame, Gordon Johnson, Bill White, Derek Holyoake and from the US Navy John Hancock, Wendell Thrasher and Roger Spooner.

Gentlemen we salute you and we thank you. And I have to say you're all in great shape. You're all in great shape!

Earlier this week in Townsville we thanked and welcomed Cecil Wizwell, 93 years young, who served on the USS Lexington as a 17-year-old.

Now, 75 years ago the Japanese advance seemed unstoppable.

Their infamous surprise attack on Pearl Harbour had sunk or disabled much of the United States Pacific Fleet – with the notable exception of the carriers.

The impregnable fortress of Singapore had fallen.

The Royal Navy's battle ship Prince of Wales and the battle cruiser Repulse had been sunk by Japanese bombers off the coast of Malaya. HMAS Perth and USS Houston had been sunk off Java as had the carrier USS Langley.

Most of Australia's army was either fighting in the Middle East or were prisoners of the Japanese.

Darwin, as Andrew reminded us, had been bombed. Indonesia, then the Dutch

East Indies was taken, as was the north coast of New Guinea and the great naval base of Rabaul.

And Japan's next inexorable advance was to seize Port Moresby in New Guinea, from which it would isolate Australia, take us out of the war, to be invaded as and when it suited the convenience of the new masters of the Pacific.

And in so doing deprive the United States of the forward base from which to mount its counter attack.

These were dark days indeed.

But then, as so often today, it was signals intelligence that cut through the darkness. From Melbourne, American and Australian code breakers revealed the Japanese plans to the Pacific Commander Admiral Nimitz.

Nimitz sent two carrier task forces led by USS Lexington and the USS Yorktown into the Coral Sea. They were joined by another Task Force led by the Australian cruisers HMAS Australia, HMAS Hobart and the United States ship Chicago.

For the first time, Australian ships were under the overall command of the United States Commander, Rear Admiral Fletcher, and within Task Force 44 itself, Australian Rear Admiral John Crace commanded American ships.

Unity of purpose, unity of command, shared and collaborative signals intelligence – the Battle of the Coral Sea took to the water and the sky, the mateship that had fought and won the Battle of Hamel 99 years ago.

The victory in the Coral Sea was the first setback to the Japanese in the Pacific War, the Moresby invasion force was turned back and by sinking one and damaging two Japanese carriers, it laid the foundation for the decisive victory at Midway a month later.

Churchill called this time the 'hinge of fate' and he was so right. The 'hinge of fate' turned to victory for America, Australia and our allies.

But it had a high price. The aircraft carrier USS Lexington was lost, as was the destroyer USS Sims and the tanker USS Neosho – over 600 American and Australian sailors and airmen died to secure that victory.

Our nations' freedom was secured by the bravery of the men on those ships and the pilots who flew through everything the enemy and the weather could throw in their way.

Now this evening, President Trump and I have discussed the bond our great nations forged in freedom's cause – from the battlefield of Hamel nearly one hundred years ago to our forces fighting side-by-side in the Middle East at this very moment.

And as we reflect on the Battle Coral Sea we are reminded of how the stability and prosperity of our region over so many decades has been secured and is secured today by the United States. A commitment to the peace

stability, the rule of law in our region renewed by President Trump for which we thank you sir.

Each of our great nations defines its national identity, not by race or religion or ethnicity as so many others do, but by a commitment to shared political values, as timeless as they are inclusive – freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

Shared values. A shared destiny.

Fiercely competitive, we always want to win, but we know we are always more assured of winning when we are fighting together.

We are confident and we trust each other – that is why the United States is the largest foreign investor in Australia and the United States is our largest overseas investment destination. And as we have heard from Anthony about to become even larger.

And this relationship is built on the work of millions of Australians and Americans – many of whom here with us tonight – creating thousands of jobs in the USA and in Australia.

Today together we condemn and resist North Korea's reckless provocation. We fight together in Iraq and Afghanistan to defeat and destroy the terrorists who threaten our way of life.

From the mud of Hamel to the waters of the Coral Sea to the sands of the Middle East today, Australians and Americans stand shoulder to shoulder defending our freedoms.

Recently, I travelled to Baghdad and Kabul to visit our troops and to commemorate Anzac Day.

I brought with me the gratitude of our nation.

And the certain knowledge that we best honour the service and sacrifice of generations past by supporting the servicemen and women, the veterans and their families of today.

I commend the board of the Australian American Association – Chairman Jennifer Nason and President John Berry – for their initiative in launching a new Veterans Fellowship Fund tonight and I thank you all for being so generous.

The proceeds from this evening's dinner will enable a new generation of Australian and American veterans to be recognised for their service, and rewarded with the experience of earning a degree in either Australia or the United States.

We thank all those Australians and Americans who served– and remember the more than 600 who died–in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

And to all those who serve in the United States and Australian defence

forces, we honour you, we thank you, you and your families – with your courage and your service, you keep us free.

Thank you.

[ENDS]

Insurance regulator chief removed from office

The State Council announced Friday the removal of Xiang Junbo from the post of the chairman of China Insurance Regulatory Commission.

Xiang is being investigated for suspected serious violation of the Party's code of conduct, according to an announcement from the top anti-graft authority on April 9.

The council also appointed Zheng Shanjie as a deputy director of its Taiwan affairs office, replacing Li Yafei.

Zheng's previous post was deputy head of the National Energy Administration.

Meeting with the Hon. Donald J Trump, President of the United States of America

PRIME MINISTER:

Congratulations on your vote today.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Thank you very much. It was great. Big day.

PRIME MINISTER:

Big day. Every vote counts.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

You got it. We had a couple left over and we wanted them, we didn't need them. It was a very big day. Really – I appreciate your waiting.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, I know the feeling. We have challenges with our parliament too. We have only 29 seats in a Senate of 76 so you need a lot of work to get legislation through.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

That means you're doing a good job.

PRIME MINISTER:

When you get it passed, you are. Yeah that's right.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

It's great to be with you.

JOURNALIST:

How are you getting along?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We get along great. We get along great. Always have.

JOURNALIST:

How important is the relationship with Australia Mr President?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

I love Australia. We have a fantastic relationship. But I love Australia, always have. Greg Norman is here today, a friend of ours. We have a lot of friends here tonight.

PRIME MINISTER:

A lot of friends in common.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A lot of friends in common.

JOURNALIST:

Do you think you can you put the refugee deal behind you and move on?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Oh yeah sure. That's all worked out. That has been worked out for a long time.

JOURNALIST:

Telephone calls going will be good in future?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We had a good telephone call.

PRIME MINISTER:

We had a great call.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

You guys exaggerated that call. That was a big exaggeration. We had a great call. I mean, we're not babies. (Laughter) But we had a great call. Right?

PRIME MINISTER:

Young at heart – young at heart.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We had a very, very good call. It was a little bit of fake news – that's the expression.

PRIME MINISTER:

Exactly right.

JOURNALIST:

When can we expect you in Australia Mr Trump?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

That will happen. One of the great, great places. One of the most beautiful places on earth. I have so many friends there. I will be there. We will be there – absolutely we will be there.

PRIME MINISTER:

We are looking forward to it.

JOURNALIST:

You're here celebrating the Battle of the Coral Sea, how important is the event tonight?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Great, I will be speaking about the Battle of the Coral Sea tonight. That was some battle. That was a very important battle for both of us.

PRIME MINISTER:

It was.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We did it together.

PRIME MINISTER:

We did. It saved Australia and it was the turning point in the war. I was just up on the flight deck with some of the veterans, American and Australian veterans. They were teenagers when they turned the war, the tide of war-

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Turned it around.

PRIME MINISTER:

And Australia and America started to win.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

So we have been allies for 99 years. Can you imagine that? 99 years and never a bad time. It is a great, great thing.

JOURNALIST:

Mr President, how hard is it going to be to get that health care deal through the Senate?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

I think we will get it through. The Republicans are very united like seldom before. I mean you have seen that today. The Republicans came together all of a sudden two days ago and it was like magic. They just came together. They are very, very united. Every group from Freedom Caucus to Tuesday to every single group. A lot of groups. A lot of great people. But they are very very united. You saw that today and you will see it again. The Senate is looking forward to getting it. Mitch McConnell knows how to do things. And I think we are going to have some really great healthcare for a long time.

JOURNALIST:

President Trump, what do you say to some of the congressmen who are concerned about how it will change in the Senate?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Well it could change a little bit. It could get maybe even better. It is a very good bill right now. The premiums are going to come down very substantially. The deductibles are going to come down. It is going to be fantastic healthcare.

Right now Obamacare is failing. We have a failing healthcare. I shouldn't say

this to our great gentleman and my friend from Australia, because you have better health care than we do. But we are going to have great healthcare very soon. Obamacare is failing. The insurance companies are leaving, Aetna announced they are out from Obamacare. Some states, you look at a lot of states, a lot of different states, you look at Tennessee, you look at Kentucky is now trouble, Iowa is in trouble. The insurance companies are all leaving. Obamacare is dead. So when you compare something to Obamacare, Obamacare is no longer living. We have something that is going to be, I think, one of the best anywhere in the world and we look forward to it.

JOURNALIST:

Mr President, can I ask you about your tweet on foreign policy and international issues. It's unconventional for a President, is it an asset or a liability for your foreign policy?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Social media is the way to go. I have got over 100 million people watching and social media to me is the way to go. This way, if somebody's not treating you properly or if you do have indeed fake media – not all of it is fake, some of it is fantastic actually – but you can just sort of circumvent. But you know, I find, I don't know if you find that but I find social media is the way to go between the different forums. There are many different forums but it is a fast way of getting the word out. I really think it helped today in healthcare. I think it is a great way to communicate and it is a modern way to communicate.

Thank you very much.

[ENDS]

[Young, alone, no house and not much sex](#)

While most watchers of Chinese society are focusing their attention on the aging population, some have turned their eyes in another direction, to an emerging group in big cities—younger men and women who live alone.

Reports say there are 50 million of them. If they were a province, it would be the 11th-most populated. Observers even created a term for this group in Chinese—kongchaoqingnian—literally “young empty-nester”.

Kongchao, or empty-nest, has been used mainly in reference to parents whose children are gone. But thanks to the media's wordplay, young empty-nesters include those from 20 to 39 years old who work far from their hometown and

eat and sleep on their own.

That's the definition used by Taobao, a leading e-commerce platform, which issued a wide-ranging report on Wednesday based on its trade database about this group.

They are not necessarily otaku, a Japanese concept referring to those who tend to stay at home all day and drown themselves in computer animation, comics and games. Some actually have pretty good social lives and enjoy hanging out with friends.

They do not have to be "single dogs", either—a Chinese word created to mock those who are single beyond a certain age. Some maintain long-term romances.

Neither can they be simply categorized as kenlaozu, or boomerang children, media jargon referring to those who are economically dependent on their parents. Some, though not all, earn salaries way above average.

But one thing is for sure: They feel empty. That's where the indication of the adjective kongchao, or empty nest, grabs their hearts.

As many as 68 percent of them say they have felt lonely in the past week, according to a recent survey by NetEase, a Chinese online portal website. The results were released on Thursday. Only 14 percent say they never feel empty.

The survey interviewed 5,000 young empty-nesters and looked into big data from NetEase's news service and two other online social service providers —Tantan and Blued, the latter focusing on the gay community.

Young men seem more likely to become empty-nesters than their female counterparts, at least based on the current available surveys, representing 64 percent of the respondents in the survey.

Sexual relations, too, have become a luxury. Nearly half of the young empty-nesters had only one sexual encounter in the past year. Another 31 percent made love once in the past six months. Only 5 percent said they have sex more than 10 times per month. On the other hand, 64 percent of the gay empty-nesters said they have sex at least once every month.

That said, only 1 percent of all respondents placed a sexless or low-sex life as their biggest concern. Their top three concerns: no house, no partner and no hope.

[Security risk management to be](#)

highlighted in China schools

Chinese authorities will list security risk management as a measure for assessing primary and middle schools and kindergartens, an official with the Ministry of Education said Thursday.

Schools and kindergartens will be told to install anti-collision facilities at school gates should conditions allow, Wang Daquan told a press conference, adding that heads of schools and kindergartens should be held accountable for school safety.

Educational departments should coordinate with relevant departments to map out guidebooks preventing and controlling bullying and violence, Wang said, citing a guideline recently issued by the State Council.

Wang said that schools should purchase liability insurance, while social organizations are encouraged to establish risk funds on school safety or student aid funds.