

## Appendix 2: Letter of recognition from President Barack Obama

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

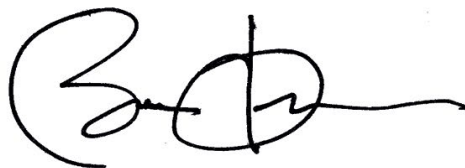
July 27, 2012

I am pleased to join in honoring the tremendous contributions Coastwatchers and Solomon Scouts made to the cause of freedom during World War II. Their efforts helped save the Pacific, and they are worthy of the highest praise and recognition.

The landing of United States Marines on Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942, marked the beginning of the arduous journey to victory in the Pacific theater. Were it not for the brave Americans, Solomon Islanders, and other Allied Forces who fought side-by-side during the Battle of Guadalcanal, history might have looked very different.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of this crucial campaign, we recall that its success owed much to the critical intelligence provided by the Coastwatchers and the Solomon Scouts. Operating under constant threat and from behind enemy lines, they risked their lives so others would know freedom. They demonstrated the resourcefulness and commitment to duty that became the hallmark of the independent Solomon Islands, and when Solomon Scouts rescued Navy LTGJ John F. Kennedy after his PT boat was sunk, they secured a lasting place in history.

On this special occasion, I commend all those who have worked to ensure the legacy of the Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers is preserved for future generations. I wish you all the best for the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Bob". The signature is stylized with a large, circular initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Barack Obama". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Source: Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers Trust.

This text is taken from *Solomon Islanders in World War II: An Indigenous Perspective*, by Anna Annie Kwai, published 2017 by ANU Press,  
The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.