

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“This book succeeds in not only explaining the Pledge of Allegiance but also the reasons that her great-aunt chose to immigrate to the U. S.... This is an essential purchase.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Spanish words appear occasionally, in keeping with the melting-pot theme, and Barton’s art easily conveys Libby and Lobo’s loving rapport.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“An intergenerational ode to a positive United States immigration experience.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

by Pat Mora and Libby Martinez; illustrated by Patrice Barton



The first collaboration between award-winning author **Pat Mora** and her daughter, **Libby Martinez**, **I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE** (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers / On Sale April 22, 2014 / Ages 3-7) tells a story inspired by Libby’s real-life great-aunt Lobo. Charmingly illustrated by **Patrice Barton**, this enchanting picture book depicts patriotism across the generations as a little girl and her great-aunt learn the Pledge of Allegiance together.

Young Libby’s great-aunt Lobo is from Mexico, but the United States has been her home for many years, and she wants to become a U.S. citizen. At the end of the week, Lobo will say the Pledge of Allegiance at a special ceremony. Libby is also learning the Pledge this week, at school—and at the end of the week, *she* will stand up in front of everyone and lead the class in the Pledge. Libby and Lobo practice together—asking questions and sharing stories and memories—until the day when they both stand tall and proud, with their hands over their hearts.

A significant, kid-friendly picture book that captures classroom and family dynamics, conveying emotion, humor, and warmth, **I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE** is the perfect story to teach preschoolers and kindergarteners important themes of citizenship, immigration, and patriotism, with an intergenerational relationship at its core.

PAT MORA’s award-winning books include *Tomás and the Library Lady* and *Doña Flor*. She is an honorary member of the ALA, the highest honor the association bestows on non-librarian members. Visit her online at PatMora.com.

LIBBY MARTINEZ has worked in the Texas political arena, has served as the Director of School and Community Partnerships at the Philadelphia Zoo, and is the founder of a strategy consulting practice. She lives with her husband in Colorado Springs. Visit her at LibbyMartinez.com.

PATRICE BARTON’s books include *Sweet Moon Baby* by Karen Henry Clark; *Mine!* by Shutta Crum; *I Like Old Clothes* by Mary Ann Hoberman; and *Rosie Sprout’s Time to Shine* by Allison Wortche—all available from Knopf.

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On sale April 22, 2014 | Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers | Ages 3–7

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