

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2017

Remarks on the Situation in Charlottesville, Virginia

August 14, 2017

Thank you. I'm in Washington today to meet with my economic team about trade policy and major tax cuts and reform. We are renegotiating trade deals and making them good for the American worker. And it's about time.

Our economy is now strong. The stock market continues to hit record highs, unemployment is at a 16-year low, and businesses are more optimistic than ever before. Companies are moving back to the United States and bringing many thousands of jobs with them. We have already created over 1 million jobs since I took office.

We will be discussing economic issues in greater detail later this afternoon, but based on the events that took place over the weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia, I would like to provide the Nation with an update on the ongoing Federal response to the horrific attack and violence that was witnessed by everyone.

I just met with FBI Director Christopher Wray and Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The Department of Justice has opened a civil rights investigation into the deadly car attack that killed one innocent American and wounded 20 others. To anyone who acted criminally in this weekend's racist violence, you will be held fully accountable. Justice will be delivered.

As I said on Saturday, we condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence. It has no place in America. And as I have said many times before, no matter the color of our skin, we all live under the same laws, we all salute the same great flag, and we are all made by the same almighty God. We must love each other, show affection for each other, and unite together in condemnation of hatred, bigotry, and violence. We must rediscover the bonds of love and loyalty that bring us together as Americans.

Racism is evil. And those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, White supremacists, and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans. We are a nation founded on the truth that all of us are created equal. We are equal in the eyes of our Creator, we are equal under the law, and we are equal under our Constitution. Those who spread violence in the name of bigotry strike at the very core of America.

Two days ago, a young American woman, Heather Heyer, was tragically killed. Her death fills us with grief, and we send her family our thoughts, our prayers, and our love. We also mourn the two Virginia State troopers who died in service to their community, their commonwealth, and their country. Troopers Jay Cullen and Berke Bates exemplify the very best of America, and our hearts go out to their families, their friends, and every member of American law enforcement.

These three fallen Americans embody the goodness and decency of our Nation. In times such as these, America has always shown its true character: responding to hate with love, division with unity, and violence with an unwavering resolve for justice.

As a candidate, I promised to restore law and order to our country, and our Federal law enforcement agencies are following through on that pledge. We will spare no resource in fighting so that every American child can grow up free from violence and fear. We will defend

and protect the sacred rights of all Americans, and we will work together so that every citizen in this blessed land is free to follow their dreams in their hearts, and to express the love and joy in their souls.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Heather D. Heyer, who was killed during the vehicular attack in Charlottesville, VA, on August 12; and Virginia State Police Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, who were killed on August 12 in the helicopter crash that occurred while monitoring the situation in Charlottesville, in which protesters clashed over the proposed removal of a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee in Emancipation Park.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Situation in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Locations: Washington, DC.

Names: Bates, Berke M.M.; Cullen, Henry J., "Jay," III; Heyer, Heather D.; Sessions, Jefferson B., III; Wray, Christopher A.

Subjects: ; Justice, Department of : Bureau of Investigation, Federal; Commerce, international : Free and fair trade; Economy, national : Improvement; Employment and unemployment : Job creation and growth; Employment and unemployment : Unemployment rate; Justice, Department of : Attorney General; Law enforcement and crime : Law enforcement officers, service and dedication; Taxation : Tax Code, reform; Virginia : Charlottesville :: Civil unrest and violence; Virginia : Charlottesville :: State police helicopter crash; Virginia : Charlottesville :: Vehicular attack.

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