

remarks, he referred to Malia and Natasha “Sasha” Obama, daughters of President-elect Barack Obama; Arlene Howard, mother of Port Authority police officer George Howard, who was killed at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001; Anthony

Recasner, principal, Samuel J. Green Charter School, New Orleans, LA; and Julio Medina, executive director, Exodus Transitional Community, New York City. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on Death of Andrew Wyeth *January 16, 2009*

Laura and I deeply mourn the death of American painter Andrew Wyeth.

Mr. Wyeth captured America in his paintings of his native Pennsylvania and Maine.

Mr. Wyeth was no stranger to White House recognitions. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963. President Nixon sponsored an exhibition of Andrew Wyeth’s paintings at the White House. In 1990, my father presented Mr. Wyeth the Congressional Gold Medal. And in 2007, I awarded Mr. Wyeth the National Medal of Arts in recognition of his lifetime

achievement and contribution to American arts and culture.

Laura and I are fortunate to have known Andrew Wyeth and to have had the pleasure of enjoying his work. In 2005, Andrew and his wife Betsy presented to the White House his painting, “Jupiter,” which is displayed in the Family Sitting Room in the Residence.

On behalf of the American people, Laura and I offer our sincere condolences to Betsy and the Wyeth family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The President’s Radio Address *January 17, 2009*

Good morning. For the last 8 years, I have had the honor of speaking to the American people Saturday mornings through this radio address. In hundreds of broadcasts, I have talked to you about important issues affecting our security and our prosperity. And today, in my final address, I want to send a simple and heartfelt message: Thank you.

Eight years ago, Laura and I left our home in Texas to come to Washington. Through two terms in the White House, we have been blessed by your kind words and generous prayers. We have been inspired by those of you who reach out to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, and care

for the sick. We have been moved by the courage and devotion of those of you who wear the uniform. Serving as your President has been an incredible honor.

Like every individual who has held this office before me, I have experienced setbacks. There are things I would do differently if given the chance. Yet I’ve always acted with the best interests of our country in mind. I have followed my conscience and done what I thought was right. You may not agree with some tough decisions I have made, but I hope you can agree that I was willing to make the tough decisions.