

And so I have said before, and I will repeat again, that my administration is going to seek to work with Congress to execute serious entitlement reform that preserves a safety net for our seniors, for people with disabilities, but also puts it on a firmer, stable footing so that people's retirements are going to be secure not just for this generation or—but also for the next generation.

And that's going to be hard work. It's going to require some tough choices, but I'm going to need support of the American people to get that done. That's part of what this administration is

about: Let's make the tough choices now so that we've got a better future for America.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. at Rio Rancho High School. In his remarks, he referred to Chris Lardner, homemaker, who introduced the President, her husband Scott Gardner, owner, Rocky Mountain Stone, Inc., and their daughters Danielle and Caitlin; Reps. Ben R. Lujan, Martin Heinrich, and Harry Teague; Mayor Martin J. Chavez of Albuquerque, NM; and Chip Reid, CBS News reporter.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma May 14, 2009

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue for 1 year beyond May 20, 2009.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13310 of July 28, 2003, Execu-

tive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, and Executive Order 13464 of April 30, 2008, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
May 14, 2009.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15. The notice of May 14 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Honoring the 2008 World Series Champion Philadelphia Phillies May 15, 2009

The President. Thank you. Everybody, please have a seat. Welcome to the White House, and congratulations to the world champion Philadelphia Phillies.

We originally planned to do this last month, but we postponed it after the loss of the legendary voice so familiar to any sports fan, the Hall of Fame announcer, the great Harry Kalas.

And Harry left us as he lived, in the ballpark, preparing to call another game for his beloved Phillies. And I know a season without the warm comfort of his voice is difficult, but I also know this, that Harry is here with us in spirit today, and he is proud of all of you.

He waited 28 years to call another World Series championship run, and what an unbelievable run it was, full of come-from-behind wins by an underdog team that loved to prove the prognosticators wrong. And so we share something in common there, because nobody thought I was going to win either. *[Laughter]*

This is a team that never gave up. You weren't supposed to win your division. You weren't supposed to win postseason series against the Dodgers or the Rays. And even though the stretch between the top and the bottom of the sixth inning in game five took 2 full days of rain, you came out before the toughest fans in sports to win Philadelphia's first major championship since 1983.

And so this was truly a victory for both young folks, but also the young at heart, those who waited nearly three decades, and a new generation of fans that had been waiting their entire lives. It also, as I mentioned to the team back here, was not just a victory for the people of Philadelphia, but for some long-time fans like Joe Biden, and my campaign manager, David Plouffe, who—I'm not sure whether he cared more about my victory or the Phillies's victory—*[laughter]*—but it was a close call—as well as folks from the entire Delaware Valley.

This is a team made up of guys who don't quit: Cole Hamels, the unbelievable playoff ace; Chase Utley, a throwback who plays hurt and plays hard and never complains; Brad Lidge, who came to the Philly organization looking for a fresh start, and who went a perfect 48 for 48 in save opportunities all season long, and who wiped away 28 years of near-misses and heartbreak with that final strikeout.

And guys like our manager here, Charlie Manuel, who lost his mother during the playoffs. And I know how tough that is. I lost my grandmother in the middle of my election. And, Charlie, I admired your perseverance

during those trying times. I know how hard that must have been on you.

Also guys like Shane Victorino—Shane, we don't get that many baseball players from Hawaii in the Majors. Where did Shane go? He was around here somewhere. He was pointing out the Hawaiian flag on the carpet in there, saying "*shaka*"—local boy. But that means that there are a lot of folks looking out for you. And then Jimmy Rollins, who, I have to say, made some telephone calls on behalf of our campaign before the election, and I couldn't be more grateful to him for that.

You know, I remember giving a campaign speech in Chester, just outside of Philadelphia, 1 week before the election. And it was the day after rain had suspended the Series game, and it was still raining. And I told my staff, if they can suspend the World Series in the middle of a game, then the least you could do is find an indoor location for my speech. *[Laughter]* That was the coldest I may have ever been. Do you remember that, Plouffe? I mean, it was cold. But true to form, thousands of Philadelphians showed up to brave the rain and my speech, just like they had shown up to watch their beloved Phillies play. And so like this team, I tried to give them my best.

I also know how it felt for the Phillies to get this weight off their back, because my beloved White Sox finally did it 3 years ago after nearly 90 years of waiting. So, Cubs fans out there, take heart. *[Laughter]* Anything is possible.

I also want to point out the example that each and every one of these guys, their wives, and the entire organization set with their time and efforts off the field. Chase works on behalf of pediatric hospitals. Brad supports our wounded warriors. Cole helps those suffering with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Ryan Howard is a national face for the Boys and Girls Clubs, participates in Make-A-Wish Foundation, and takes an active role in mentoring inner-city students, and on and on.

And just as the number of African American kids taking up baseball is in severe decline, the impact of having role models like Ryan and Jimmy to look up to just can't be measured. You know, Jimmy likes to say that nothing comes easy in Philly, and that's why I think

that so many Americans found themselves rooting for this extraordinary team. As Americans, we know a little something about being underdogs. We know a little something about coming together when times are tough. And like this team, we remember a simple truth, which is that we rise and fall together, and no one individual is bigger than the team.

So, Phillies, congratulations not only for a great season but doing it the right way. And, Manager——

Charlie Manuel. Thank you.

Statement on Military Commissions *May 15, 2009*

Military commissions have a long tradition in the United States. They are appropriate for trying enemies who violate the laws of war, provided that they are properly structured and administered. In the past, I have supported the use of military commissions as one avenue to try detainees, in addition to prosecution in Article III courts. In 2006, I voted in favor of the use of military commissions. But I objected strongly to the Military Commissions Act that was drafted by the Bush administration and passed by Congress because it failed to establish a legitimate legal framework and undermined our capability to ensure swift and certain justice against those detainees that we were holding at the time. Indeed, the system of military commissions at Guantanamo Bay had only succeeded in prosecuting three suspected terrorists in more than 7 years.

Today the Department of Defense will be seeking additional continuances in several pending military commission proceedings. We will seek more time to allow us time to reform the military commission process. The Secretary of Defense will notify the Congress of several

The President. ——great job. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. on the South Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Joe Biden; David Plouffe, senior adviser, AKPD Message and Media; and Cole Hamels and Brad Lidge, pitchers, Chase Utley, Jimmy Rollins, and Ryan Howard, infielders, Charlie Manuel, manager, and Shane Victorino, outfielder, Philadelphia Phillies.

changes to the rules governing the commissions. The rule changes will ensure that: First, statements that have been obtained from detainees using cruel, inhuman, and degrading interrogation methods will no longer be admitted as evidence at trial; second, the use of hearsay will be limited, so that the burden will no longer be on the party who objects to hearsay to disprove its reliability; third, the accused will have greater latitude in selecting their counsel; fourth, basic protections will be provided for those who refuse to testify; and fifth, military commission judges may establish the jurisdiction of their own courts.

These reforms will begin to restore the commissions as a legitimate forum for prosecution, while bringing them in line with the rule of law. In addition, we will work with the Congress on additional reforms that will permit commissions to prosecute terrorists effectively and be an avenue, along with Federal prosecutions in Article III courts, for administering justice. This is the best way to protect our country, while upholding our deeply held values.

The President's Weekly Address *May 16, 2009*

Good morning. Over the past few months, as we've put in place a plan to speed our economic recovery, I've spoken repeatedly of the need to lay a new foundation for lasting prosperity, a

foundation that will support good jobs and rising incomes, a foundation for economic growth where we no longer rely on excessive debt and reckless risk, but instead rely on skilled workers