

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Crewmembers of the *Apollo 11* Moon Landing

July 20, 2009

Very rarely do I have such an extraordinary pleasure as I have today to welcome three iconic figures, three genuine American heroes. To have Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin here beside me is just wonderful. And I think that all of us recall the moment in which mankind finally was untethered from this planet and was able to explore the stars, the moment in which we had one of our own step on the Moon and leave that imprint that is there to this day. And it's because of the heroism, the calm under pressure, the grace with which these three gentlemen operated, but also the entire NASA family that was able to—at great risk oftentimes, and with great danger—was somehow able to lift our sights, not just here in the United States but around the world.

We now have a wonderful NASA Administrator in Charles Bolden and the Deputy Administrator Lori Garver. We are confident that they are going to be doing everything that they can in the decade to come to continue the inspirational mission of NASA. But I think it's fair to say that the touchstone for excellence in exploration and discovery is always going to be represented by the men of *Apollo 11*.

And so I'm grateful to them for taking the time to visit with us. The country continues to draw inspiration from what you've done. I should note, just personally, I grew up in Hawaii, as many of you know, and I still recall sitting on my grandfather's shoulders when those capsules would land in the middle of the Pacific, and they'd get brought back, and we'd go out, and we'd pretend like they could see us as we were waving at the folks coming home. And I remember waving American flags and my

grandfather telling me that the Apollo mission was an example of how Americans can do anything they put their minds to.

I also know that, as a consequence of the extraordinary work of NASA generally, that you inspired an entire generation of scientists and engineers that ended up really sparking the innovation, the drive, the entrepreneurship, the creativity back here on Earth. And I think it's very important for us to constantly remember that NASA was not only about feeding our curiosity, that sense of wonder, but also had extraordinary practical applications. And one of the things that I've committed to doing as President is making sure that math and science are cool again, and that we once again achieve the goal by 2020 of having the highest college graduation rates of any country on Earth, especially in the maths and science fields.

So I think on this 40th anniversary, we are—all of us thankful and grateful to all of you for what you've done, and we expect that there's, as we speak, another generation of kids out there who are looking up at the sky and are going to be the next Armstrong, Collins, and Aldrins. And we want to make sure that NASA is going to be there for them when they want to take their journey.

All right. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:14 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Neil A. Armstrong, mission commander, Michael Collins, command module pilot, and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., lunar module pilot, *Apollo 11*.

## Statement on a Meeting With Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

July 20, 2009

I enjoyed my meeting with President Monson and Elder Oaks. I'm grateful for the genealogical records that they brought with them and

am looking forward to reading through the materials with my daughters. It's something our family will treasure for years to come.

NOTE: The statement referred to Thomas S. Monson, president, and Dallin H. Oaks, mem-

ber of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act *July 20, 2009*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am pleased to transmit to you a report required by section 104(g) of the Henry J. Hyde United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-401), as amended by section 105 of the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-369).

The report covers the period of October 4, 2008, to June 30, 2009. It provides an update on U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation and developments that relate to India's nuclear-re-

lated activities. Classified information associated with these issues has been provided in a separate classified annex.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John F. Kerry, chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Howard L. Berman, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## Remarks on Health Care Reform *July 21, 2009*

### *Defense Spending*

Good afternoon, everybody. Before I talk about the progress we're making on health insurance reform, I want to say a few words about a very important vote that just took place in Congress.

Now, long before I took this office, I argued that meeting our greatest challenges would require not only changing policies in Washington but changing the way we do business in Washington. I also promised that part of that change would be eliminating waste and inefficiency in our defense projects, reform that will better protect our Nation, better protect our troops, and save taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

As Commander in Chief, I will do whatever it takes to defend the American people, which

is why we've increased our funding for our military and why we will always give our men and women in uniform the equipment and support that they need to get the job done.

But I reject the notion that we have to waste billions of taxpayer dollars on outdated and unnecessary defense projects to keep this Nation secure. And that's why I've taken steps to greatly reduce no-bid defense contracts. That's why I've signed overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation to limit cost overruns on weapons systems before they spiral out of control. And that's why I'm grateful that the Senate just voted against an additional \$1.75 billion to buy F-22 fighter jets that military experts and members of both parties say we do not need.

At a time when we're fighting two wars and facing a serious deficit, this would have been an inexcusable waste of money. Every dollar of