

by all other Arab parties and states, and we implement this peace initiative when Israel implements and fulfills its obligations.

President Obama. Okay. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Amir Sabah

referred to Capt. Michael S. “Scott” Speicher, USN, who was lost in action on January 17, 1991, and whose remains were recovered in Iraq’s Anbar Province in July. Amir Sabah spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks on the Release of American Journalists by North Korea

August 5, 2009

Good morning, everybody. I want to just make a brief comment about the fact that the two young journalists, Euna Lee and Laura Ling, are safely back with their families. We are, obviously, extraordinarily relieved. I had an opportunity to speak with the families yesterday once we knew that they were on the plane. The reunion that we’ve all seen on television, I think, is a source of happiness not only for the families but for the entire country.

I want to thank President Bill Clinton—I had a chance to talk to him—for the extraordinary humanitarian effort that resulted in the release of the two journalists. I want to thank Vice President Al Gore, who worked tirelessly in order to achieve a positive outcome.

I think that not only is this White House, obviously, extraordinarily happy, but all Americans should be grateful to both former Presi-

dent Clinton and Vice President Gore for their extraordinary work. And my hope is, is that the families that have been reunited can enjoy the next several days and weeks, understanding that because of the efforts of President Clinton and Gore, they are able to be with each other once again.

So we are very pleased with the outcome, and I’m hopeful that the families are going to be able to get some good time together in the next few days.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:37 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling, who had been held by North Korean authorities since March 17.

Remarks at Monaco RV, LLC, in Wakarusa, Indiana

August 5, 2009

The President. Thank you. Please, everybody, have a seat. Thank you so much. Well, it is wonderful to be in Wakarusa. Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome. Herman, thanks for the great introduction. It is great to be back in Indiana. This is as close as I’ve gotten to home in a while. *[Laughter]*

And I flew out here with somebody who I think the people of Indiana have known for a long time, have trusted for a long time because he’s fighting for working families in Indiana each and every day, and that is our great Senator, Evan Bayh. Please give Evan a big round of applause.

And it’s nice to get out of Washington and spend some time with people who actually sent me to Washington. Too often, there are those in Washington who focus on the ups and downs of politics. But my concern is the ups and downs in the lives of the American people: the families feeling the pain of this recession; the folks I’ve met across this country who’ve lost jobs and savings and health insurance but haven’t lost hope; the men and women who still believe in the capacity, the ability of this Nation to meet the challenges of our times.

Now, these are challenges you know all too well here in Wakarusa and in Elkhart County.