

Aug. 17 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2009

Jim Norene passed away, at night, in his sleep, quietly, peacefully—the “tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.”

The next day, I was privileged to join the commemoration at Normandy to mark the day when the beaches were stormed and a continent was freed. There were Presidents and Prime Ministers and veterans from the far corners of the Earth, but long after the bands stopped playing and the crowds stopped cheering, it was the story of a departed VFW member that echoed in our hearts.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, you have done your duty to your fallen comrades, to your communities, to your country. You have always fulfilled your responsibilities to America, and so long as I am President of the United States, America will always fulfill its responsibilities to you.

God bless you. God bless all our veterans, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. in the Phoenix Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Glen Gardner, outgoing commander-in-chief, and his wife Jean, Robert E. Wallace, executive director, and Thomas Tradewell, incoming commander-in-chief, and his wife Sharon, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Dixie Hild, national president, and Jan Tittle, senior vice president, Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary; Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki; White House Chief Performance Officer Jeffrey D. Zients; White House Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra; and White House Chief Information Officer Vivek Kundra. He also referred to his great uncle Charles Payne.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Nazran, Ingushetia, Russia *August 17, 2009*

I am deeply troubled about reports of a suicide bombing today in Nazran, Ingushetia, that has resulted in the tragic loss of at least 20 lives and 138 injured. There can be no justification for such an act of terrorism. This latest

attack highlights the concerning increase in violence in the region affecting officials and civilians alike. Our condolences go out to the Government of Russia and the families of victims.

Remarks During a Meeting With President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and an Exchange With Reporters *August 18, 2009*

President Obama. Well, let me, on behalf of the American people and my administration, welcome President Mubarak for his first visit since I've taken office. I want to publicly thank him for the extraordinary hospitality that he showed us when I traveled to Egypt and delivered my speech at Cairo University. It was an extraordinary visit, not only because of the great welcome that I received from the President and the college students who were in attendance, but also, having an opportunity to visit the pyramids was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me.

The United States and Egypt have worked together closely for many years, and for many

of those years, President Mubarak has been a leader and a counselor and a friend to the United States. We obviously have a lot of great challenges that have to be dealt with, and we are continuing to work together to find those areas where we can find common ground and to work in concert to bring peace and security to the region.

The Arab-Israeli situation is something that has been of ongoing interest, and we had an extensive conversation about how we could help to jump-start an effective process on all sides to move away from a status quo that is not working for the Israeli people, the