

Envoy for Middle East Peace. President Mubarak referred to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres, and Minister of Defense Ehud Barak of Israel. Presi-

dent Mubarak spoke partly in Arabic, and those portions of his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Statement on the Death of Former President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea *August 18, 2009*

I was saddened at the passing of former President Kim Dae-jung of the Republic of Korea, a courageous champion of democracy and human rights. President Kim risked his life to build and lead a political movement that played a crucial role in establishing a dynamic democratic system in the Republic of Korea.

His service to his country, his tireless efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula, and his personal sacrifices on behalf of freedom are inspirational and should never be forgotten. On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to his family and to the Korean people.

## Remarks Honoring the 2008 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion *August 19, 2009*

Good afternoon, everyone. Please have a seat. Welcome to the White House. Just before I begin, there are a couple of acknowledgements I want to make. First of all, we've got some wounded warriors from Walter Reed and the National Naval Medical Center, and I want everybody to give them a big round of applause. We are grateful to them. They're some big NASCAR fans. I also want to thank a good friend and a terrific Governor, Brad Henry from Oklahoma is here. Stand up, Brad.

You know, it is not every day that we have a championship stock car parked out on the South Lawn. Fortunately, we got Jimmie to agree not to do any burnouts or tear up my backyard. I also suggested to Jimmie that, in exchange for free parking, he should let me take the 48 out for a few laps. He said that was fine, but Secret Service didn't think it was fine. *[Laughter]*

But that's okay, because I'm just glad Jimmie could be here so we can honor him for winning his third consecutive Sprint Cup Championship. Give him a big round of applause. Jimmie got his start racing in motor cross events at the age of 5 and has been rack-ing up trophies and titles for nearly three decades now. But like me, I think his greatest achievement is probably just how far he mar-

ried up. I had a chance to meet his wife Chandra, and I'm so glad that she could be here today as well. And congratulations for your family's success.

We want to keep—everyone who keeps the 48 upfront—we want to congratulate all of them: owner Rick Hendrick, the crew chief—go ahead—*[applause]*—Rick deserves a round of applause; crew chief Chad Knaus—did I say that right?—and all the folks at Hendrick Motorsports. Because we all know that NASCAR, winning isn't just about who's behind the wheel during the race; it's also about who's got your back in the pit and everyone back at the shop who preps these cars week after week.

With these folks at his side, Jimmie's hoping for a fourth series championship in a row this year. But I think there's another group of guys back here who may have something to say about that. Jeff, good luck in your "drive for five." And good luck to all the other chase drivers joining us today. I'm extraordinarily grateful to them.

We're also joined today by one of NASCAR's alltime greats, "The King," Richard Petty, sitting right in the front row where he belongs. With a family tradition that's generations strong, the Pettys are about as close as you can get to a NASCAR dynasty.