

voices and try to stay a little bit more focused on the issues at hand. All right?

Q. Will you talk with him if he decides to call you?

The President. Oh, I talk to everybody.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Absolutely.

All right? Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:24 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; Secretary of the Treasury Timothy F. Geithner; Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis; Secretary of Commerce Gary F. Locke; and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks September 10, 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. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of Sep-

tember 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2009, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
September 10, 2009.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Honoring the 2009 Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins September 10, 2009

The President. Thank you. Please, everybody, have a seat.

First of all, I'm sorry to keep you guys waiting. I—the—I have all these things I've got to do—[*laughter*—as President. This is by far the most fun thing that I'm doing today. So welcome to the White House. We are extraordinarily pleased to have the world champion Pittsburgh Penguins with their third Stanley Cup.

Just a couple of acknowledgements in the house: Pittsburgh mayor, Luke Ravensahl—where's Luke? Where's the mayor? I thought he was around here. Well, he should be. [*Laughter*] Senator Bob Casey—is he around? Come on, Bob Casey; Senator Arlen

Specter in the house; Representative Mike Doyle—I know he's a fan; Representative Jason Altmire; Representative Chris Carney; Representative Tim Murphy; and Representative Glenn Thompson. And even though he's from Iowa, this guy grew up in Pittsburgh, is still a fanatic, and that is Secretary Tom Vilsack, Agricultural Secretary.

I have to say all of you look pretty good without your playoff beards. They're pretty good looking guys without all that. [*Laughter*] I want to congratulate all the fans back home who made Mellon Arena such a tough place for visiting teams this year. With the Steelers and the Penguins, I guess it's a good time to be a sports fan in Pittsburgh.

I was complaining about this—it's been a while since Chicago won anything, coach. [Laughter] And I'm not happy about that. But as many of you know, I have a special place in my heart for Pittsburgh, and so if it can't be the Blackhawks, then the Penguins aren't a bad choice.

The last time this team was here was during the playoffs against the Washington Capitals. It was a hard fought series, but it showed everybody how enthusiastic our hockey fans are also here in the Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Coach Dan for being here. Not only did Dan win the Stanley Cup in his first season as head coach—that does not happen very often—but he also brought a new sense of purpose and excitement to the team and made sure his players had a little fun along the way.

Having Mario Lemieux here is a pretty big deal. He won a couple of these trophies as a player, but this is his first as an owner, and he's still got a big smile on his face, so I guess it feels pretty good this way too.

I want to thank Willie O'Ree for joining us. Willie is a hockey pioneer in his own right, who has worked tirelessly to make sure kids from every background can learn the lessons that hockey has to offer. So we are grateful to you, sir. Please give him a big round of applause.

And this team would not be here without two of its youngest members. So first of all, I want to congratulate Sidney Crosby on becoming the youngest captain in history to win the Stanley Cup and Evgeni Malkin for being the third-youngest player ever to be named playoff MVP.

You know, we've had a lot of championship teams visit the White House—I've seen a lot of trophies—there is something special about the Stanley Cup, other than it just being really big. [Laughter] Winning this trophy takes a whole new level of sacrifice. It takes a group of players who can persevere through injuries and pain and setbacks and seven game series. Above all, it takes a team that is willing to stick together, because nobody wins the Stanley Cup on their own.

And that's why, after the last buzzer sounded back in June, these players took the Cup on the road to say thank you to all the people who

helped get them here. They took it on fishing trips and stopped by neighborhood barbecues; they visited elementary schools and brightened the days of children who were in hospitals. I think this Cup has even held a baby or two. So this is a team that understands that being a champion doesn't end when you step off the ice.

Service is a way of life for these players back in Pittsburgh. Earlier today, Willie and the guys put on a clinic for kids here at Fort Dupont as part of our United We Serve summer of service. And besides teaching the kids a few moves, they stressed the importance of staying in school and leading active and healthy lifestyles. I understand we've got some of those young players from Washington, DC, and Pittsburgh here with us; go ahead and wave, guys. There you go.

And that's what the Stanley Cup is all about, not just having your names engraved alongside the best players in history, but also giving back to others along the way. And this spirit of service helps to strengthen our communities, it strengthens our country, and I know this team gets a lot in return for it as well.

So I want again to just say congratulations for your outstanding season, for not just your athleticism, but also your sportsmanship. Coach, we're very proud of you. Thank you very much.

Dan Bylsma. Mr. President, it's certainly an honor and a privilege to receive the invitation to come here today, and the hospitality you showed our team and our families and the organization, it was very gracious, and we appreciate it very much. And on behalf of all the people in our organization, but especially the players behind me, we'd like to present you with a jersey—our captain, Sidney—

The President. This is what I'm talking about. [Laughter]

Can I just make one more point? Sidney must be really fast because there are some big hockey players, and he's not one of them. [Laughter] But you know, he's got some speed and some skill. So thank you everybody. We are thrilled—can we get a picture with the Cup in the background here?

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Dan Bylsma, head coach, Pittsburgh Penguins; and William O'Ree, Director

of Youth Development, National Hockey League.

Remarks at a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia
September 11, 2009

Secretary Gates, Admiral Mullen, and members of the Armed Forces, fellow Americans, family and friends of those that we lost this day: Michelle and I are deeply humbled to be with you. Eight Septembers have come and gone. Nearly 3,000 days have passed—almost one for each of those taken from us—but no turning of the seasons can diminish the pain and the loss of that day. No passage of time and no dark skies can ever dull the meaning of this moment.

So on this solemn day, at this sacred hour, once more we pause. Once more we pray as a nation and as a people, in city streets where our two towers were turned to ashes and dust, in a quiet field where a plane fell from the sky, and here, where a single stone of this building is still blackened by the fires.

We remember with reverence the lives we lost. We read their names; we press their photos to our hearts. And on this day that marks their death, we recall the beauty and meaning of their lives, men and women and children of every color and every creed, from across our Nation and from more than 100 others. They were innocent. Harming no one, they went about their daily lives. Gone in a horrible instant, they now “dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”

We honor all those who gave their lives so that others might live and all the survivors who battled burns and wounds and helped each other rebuild their lives, men and women who gave life to that most simple of rules: I am my brother's keeper; I am my sister's keeper.

We pay tribute to the service of a new generation, young Americans raised in a time of peace and plenty who saw their Nation in its hour of need and said, “I choose to serve. I will do my part.” And once more we grieve. For you and your families, no words can ease the ache of your heart, no deeds can fill the empty

places in your homes. But on this day and all that follow, you may find solace in the memory of those you loved, and know that you have the unending support of the American people.

Scripture teaches us a hard truth: The mountains may fall and the Earth may give way; the flesh and the heart may fail. But after all our suffering, God and grace will “restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.” So it is, so it has been for these families, so it must be for our Nation.

Let us renew our resolve against those who perpetrated this barbaric act and who plot against us still. In defense of our Nation, we will never waver; in pursuit of Al Qaida and its extremist allies, we will never falter.

Let us renew our commitment to all those who serve in our defense, our courageous men and women in uniform and their families and all those who protect us here at home. Mindful that the work of protecting America is never finished, we will do everything in our power to keep America safe.

Let us renew the true spirit of that day. Not the human capacity for evil, but the human capacity for good. Not the desire to destroy, but the impulse to save and to serve and to build. On this first National Day of Service and Remembrance, we can summon once more that ordinary goodness of America to serve our communities, to strengthen our country, and to better our world.

Most of all, on a day when others sought to sap our confidence, let us renew our common purpose. Let us remember how we came together as one Nation, as one people, as Americans, united not only in our grief, but in our resolve to stand with one another, to stand up for the country we all love.

This may be the greatest lesson of this day, the strongest rebuke to those who attacked us, the highest tribute to those taken from us, that