

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:47 p.m. at the Hilton Stamford Hotel & Executive Meeting

Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jackie Clegg Dodd, wife of Sen. Dodd, and their daughters Grace and Christina.

## Statement on the 26th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon *October 23, 2009*

We remember today the 241 American marines, soldiers, and sailors who lost their lives 26 years ago as the result of a horrific terrorist attack that destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The military personnel serving in Beirut were there to bring peace and stability to Lebanon after years of internal strife and conflict. The murder of our soldiers, sailors, and marines on this day on 1983 remains a senseless tragedy.

We pay tribute on this day to the courage and sacrifice of those whose lives were lost in the Beirut attack, as well as their families and loved

ones. We also wish to honor the brave service of all members of the United States military who are protecting Americans and promoting freedom and security around the world, as well as those international peacekeepers who serve in harm's way.

In remembering this terrible day of loss, we are at the same time hopeful that a new Government in Lebanon will soon be formed. We look forward to working with a Lebanese Government that works actively to promote stability in the region and prosperity for its people.

## Message to the Congress on the Declaration of a National Emergency With Respect to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic *October 23, 2009*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency in order to be prepared in the event of a rapid increase in illness across the Nation that may overburden health care resources. This declaration will allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services, if necessary, to temporarily waive certain standard Federal requirements in order to enable U.S. health care facilities to implement emergency operations plans to deal with the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic in the United States. A copy of my proclamation is attached.

Further, I have authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise the authority under section 1135 of the Social Security

Act to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements of the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance programs and of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule as necessary to respond to the pandemic throughout the duration of the public health emergency declared in response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,  
October 23, 2009.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 24. The related proclamation of October 23 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.