

we're increasing childcare; we're increasing support to help spouses and families deal with the stress and separation of war.

And finally, we pledge to be there when you come home. We're improving care for our wounded warriors, especially those with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. I want to salute the outstanding work you do at the hospital here on the base, including your new TBI clinic. Thank you for giving our wounded warriors the world-class care they deserve.

We're funding the post-9/11 GI bill because we want to give your families the chance to pursue your dreams. And we're making the biggest commitment to our veterans, the largest percentage increase in the VA budget in more than 30 years.

So these are the commitments I'm making to you. Because you've always taken care of America, and America has to take care of you back. America's obligation to our military, as we saw this week, is a sacred trust that we are honor-bound to uphold.

It's the sacred trust that brought a nation together this week around 13 battlefield crosses.

It's the sacred trust that leads us to pause, on that November day, to give thanks for all those who served before us. It's the sacred trust that brings me here to say thank you for serving today, thank you to you and your families for all you do to protect this country we love.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, everybody. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:39 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. William J. Troy, USA, commander, U.S. Army Alaska; Col. Mark D. Camerer, USAF, vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Tom Baker, USAF, 3d Wing, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF, commander, Alaskan Command; Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Moore, USAF, 11th Air Force; Command Sgt. Maj. David Turnbull, USA, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry; and Donna Fleury-Brown, mother, Christopher Flygare, father, and Albert Fleury, grandfather, of Cpl. Gregory M.W. Fleury, USMC, who was killed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on Oct. 26.

Statement on a Business Roundtable Report on Health Care Reform *November 12, 2009*

A new report released today by the Business Roundtable underscores what experts and businesspeople have told us all along: Comprehensive health insurance reform is one of the most important investments we can make in American competitiveness. It finds, for example, that if reform passes this year, businesses could see health care costs reduced by as much as \$3,000 per employee in 2019. And that means more than savings for businesses; it will be vital boost to American competitiveness. The report also echoes widespread support for the cost containment and fiscal responsibility provisions in current legislation, such as a new CMS Innovation Center, accountable care organizations, and reducing preventable hospital readmissions.

The Roundtable's report also makes clear the steep price that American businesses stand to pay if we fail to act. If we don't pass compre-

hensive reform, the report finds, health care costs that are already squeezing our businesses will continue to rise, and in 10 years, employment-based spending on health care for large employers will be fully 166 percent higher per employee than it is today. And the yearly health insurance costs for the average employee will rise to a staggering \$28,530.

The Business Roundtable's report comes as Congress is reaching new milestones in the effort to reform our health care system. The House of Representatives acted to pass their version of the legislation on Saturday night, and the Senate's version will move to the floor soon. The potential benefit for America's businesses is just another reason why we can't afford delay or political games as this process moves forward. I look forward to working with our business communities and their partners in

Congress to pass reform by the end of the year.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on the Ukrainian *Holodomor* Remembrance Day November 13, 2009

Seventy six years ago, millions of innocent Ukrainians—men, women, and children—starved to death as a result of the deliberate policies of the regime of Joseph Stalin. Tomorrow we join together, Ukrainian Americans and all Americans, to commemorate these tragic events and to honor the many victims.

From 1932 to 1933, the Ukrainian people suffered horribly during what has become known as the *Holodomor*—“death by hunger”—due to the Stalin regime’s seizure of crops and farms across Ukraine. Ukraine had once been a breadbasket of Europe. Ukrainians could have fed themselves and saved mil-

lions of lives had they been allowed to do so. As we remember this calamity, we pay respect to millions of victims who showed tremendous strength and courage. The Ukrainian people overcame the horror of the great famine and have gone on to build a free and democratic country.

Remembering the victims of the man-made catastrophe of *Holodomor* provides us an opportunity to reflect upon the plight of all those who have suffered the consequences of extremism and tyranny around the world. We hope that the remembrance of *Holodomor* will help prevent such tragedy in the future.

Joint Statement by the United States of America and Japan Toward a World Without Nuclear Weapons November 13, 2009

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan welcome the renewed international attention and commitment to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons and confirm their determination to realize such a world. They welcome, in this context, the recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament and UNSC Resolutions 1540 and 1887, as well as the resolution of the Government of Japan, co-sponsored by the Government of the United States, to the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.”

Recognizing the challenge to achieve total elimination of nuclear weapons, the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan plan to work actively to create conditions for achieving this objective. They express their determination to take the follow-

ing practical steps on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in a way that promotes international stability and security while ensuring that those steps do not in any way diminish the national security of Japan or the United States of America and its allies.

Nuclear Disarmament

The Government of the United States continues to seek early conclusion of a START follow-on treaty through negotiations with the Russian Federation. The Government of Japan welcomes the progress made in the negotiations and expresses its expectation for early agreement. The Government of the United States and the Government of Japan call upon states that hold nuclear weapons to respect the principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility in the process of nuclear disarmament. The Government of the United States is committed to reducing the role of nuclear