

sure that the thing that makes us Democrats, this notion that this country is there for everybody, that everybody has got to have a shot, and that it's nothing—there's nothing wrong with us, even as we affirm our individualism, saying, you know what, I'm going to help my neighbor, I'm going to help my friend, I'm going to help my coworker, I'm going to help somebody I may not know because that's part of what America is all about.

You can't take for granted that spirit. It has to be fought for; it has to be worked on. And people who embody it have to be supported. Barbara Boxer is one of those people. And so I want you to work just as hard, I want you to write just as many checks, I want you to call just as many

people, I want you to knock on just as many doors as you did for me on behalf of Barbara Boxer. And if you do, I guarantee you we're going to send her back for another term as a great United States Senator from the great State of California.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. In his remarks, he referred to Stewart Boxer, husband of Sen. Boxer. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 20.

## Statement on the Death of Dorothy I. Height *April 20, 2010*

Michelle and I were deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Dorothy Height, the godmother of the civil rights movement and a hero to so many Americans. Ever since she was denied entrance to college because the incoming class had already met its quota of two African American women, Dr. Height devoted her life to those struggling for equality. She led the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years and served as the only woman at the highest level of the civil rights movement, witnessing

every march and milestone along the way. And even in the final weeks of her life, a time when anyone else would have enjoyed their well-earned rest, Dr. Height continued her fight to make our Nation a more open and inclusive place for people of every race, gender, background, and faith.

Michelle and I offer our condolences to all those who knew and loved Dr. Height and all those whose lives she touched.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and Senate Judiciary Committee Members and an Exchange With Reporters *April 21, 2010*

*The President.* All right, everybody. We are here to talk about the Supreme Court. Obviously, we have lost one of—the services of one of the finest Supreme Court Justices that we've seen. Justice Stevens announced that he will be retiring at the end of this term. Those are going to be some tough shoes to fill. This is somebody who operated with extraordinary integrity and fidelity to the law.

But I'm confident that we can come up with a nominee who will gain the confidence of the Senate and the confidence of the country and the confidence of individuals who look to the

Court to provide evenhanded justice to all Americans.

Last time, when I nominated Sonia Sotomayor, I have to say that all of the individuals who are sitting here—Mitch McConnell, Harry Reid, Jeff Sessions, and Patrick Leahy—worked very cooperatively on what I considered to be a smooth, civil, thoughtful nomination process and confirmation process. And I very much thank, particularly, the ranking member and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for running a smooth process.

My hope is, is that we can do the exact same time—same thing this time. Last time, the nomination went up at the end of May. We are certainly going to meet that deadline, and we hope maybe we can accelerate it a little bit so that we have some additional time. But my hope is, is that we're going to be able to get a Supreme Court nominee confirmed in time for the next session.

As Justice Stevens said, I think it's very important, particularly given the important cases that may be coming before the Supreme Court, that we get this process wrapped up so that a new Justice can be seated and staffed and can work effectively with his or her colleagues in time for the fall session.

So I just want to again thank all of these gentlemen for their input. They are here to consult with me. One of the things that we did last time was to listen to the thoughts and views of our colleagues before I nominated a candidate. I take this process very seriously. And so I'm going to be interested in hearing their thoughts and concerns before any final decisions are made.

All right. With that, let me call on one question. Ben [Ben Feller, Associated Press], you get the shot.

#### *Abortion Rights*

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Would you be willing to nominate someone who did not support a woman's right to choose?

*The President.* You know, I am somebody who believes that women should have the ability to make often very difficult decisions about their own bodies and issues of reproduction. Obviously, this has been a hugely contentious issue in our country for a very long time. I will say the same thing that every President has said since this issue came up, which is, I don't have litmus tests around any of these issues.

But I will say that I want somebody who is going to be interpreting our Constitution in a way that takes into account individual rights, and that includes women's rights. And that's going to be something that's very important to me, because I think part of what our core Constitution—constitutional values promote is the notion that individuals are protected in their privacy and their bodily integrity, and women are not exempt from that.

All right? Thank you. I appreciate it.

#### *President's Supreme Court Nominee*

Q. Are you getting close to a decision?

*The President.* You know, I think we've got some terrific potential candidates.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

## Remarks at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City

*April 22, 2010*

Thank you very much. Everybody, please have a seat. Thank you very much. Well, thank you. It is good to be back. It is good to be back in New York. It is good to be back in the Great Hall at Cooper Union.

We've got some special guests here that I want to acknowledge: Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney is here in the house; Governor David Paterson is here; Attorney General Andrew Cuomo; State Comptroller Thomas Di-

Napoli is here; the mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg; Dr. George Campbell, Jr., president of Cooper Union; and all the citywide elected officials who are here. Thank you very much for your attendance.

It is wonderful to be back in Cooper Union, where generations of leaders and citizens have come to defend their ideas and contest their differences. It's also good to be back in lower Manhattan, a few blocks from Wall Street.