

Sept. 6 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2010

for those that followed. The searing images of soldiers guarding students from those days will forever serve as a testament to the progress we've made, the barriers that previous generations have torn down, and the power of ordinary

men and women to help us build a more perfect Union.

Our Nation owes Mr. Thomas a debt of gratitude for the stand he took half a century ago and the leadership he showed in the decades since. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

## Videotaped Remarks on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah September 7, 2010

As Jews in America and around the world celebrate the first of the High Holy Days, I want to extend my warmest wishes for the New Year. *L'shana Tova Tikatevu*—may you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the spiritual calendar and the birth of the world. It serves as a reminder of the special relationship between God and his children, now and always. And it calls us to look within ourselves, to repent for our sins, recommit ourselves to prayer, and remember the blessings that come from helping those in need.

Today, those lessons ring as true as they did thousands of years ago. And as we begin this New Year, it is more important than ever to believe in the power of humility and compassion to deepen our faith and repair our world.

At a time when too many of our friends and neighbors are struggling to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads, it is up to us to do what we can to help those less fortunate.

At a time when prejudice and oppression still exists in the shadows of our society, it is up to us to stand as a beacon of freedom and tolerance

and embrace the diversity that has always made us stronger as a people.

At a time when Israelis and Palestinians have returned to direct dialogue, it is up to us to encourage and support those who are willing to move beyond their differences and work towards security and peace in the Holy Land. Progress will not come easy, it will not come quick. But today we had an opportunity to move forward, toward the goal we share: two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The Scripture teaches us that there is "a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace." In this season of repentance and renewal, let us commit ourselves to a more hopeful future.

Michelle and I wish all who celebrate Rosh Hashanah a sweet year full of health and prosperity.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 5:35 p.m. on September 2 in the Blue Room at the White House for later broadcast.

## Statement on Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's Decision Not To Seek Reelection September 7, 2010

No mayor in America has loved a city more or served a community with greater passion than Rich Daley. He helped build Chicago's im-

age as a world-class city and leaves a legacy of progress that will be appreciated for generations to come.

Remarks at Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus in Parma, Ohio  
September 8, 2010

*The President.* Hello, everybody! Hello! Thank you very much. Thank you, Ohio. Thank you, Cleveland. Everybody, please have a seat. Have a seat. We've got some business to do today. Thank you very much.

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* I love you back. Thank you.

Before I get started, I want to just acknowledge some outstanding public servants who are here. First of all, somebody who I believe is one of the finest Governors in this country, Ted Strickland is here. The Lieutenant Governor and soon-to-be junior Senator from the great State of Illinois—or Ohio—I was thinking about my own—Lee Fisher is here.

Yes, I used to hear that line all the time about “Senator from Illinois”—that would be me. [Laughter]

Outstanding mayor of Cleveland, Frank Jackson is here; the mayor of Parma, Dean DePiero. Somebody who's fighting for working families each and every day, Senator Sherrod Brown is here; and three of the hardest working and finest Members of the House of Representatives: Dennis Kucinich, Marcia Fudge, and John Bocchieri.

Well, good afternoon, everybody. It is good to be back in Ohio.

You know, in the fall of 2008, one of the last rallies of my Presidential campaign was right here in the Cleveland area. It was a hopeful time, just 2 days before the election. And we knew that if we pulled it off, we'd finally have the chance to tackle some big and difficult challenges that had been facing this country for a very long time.

We also hoped for a chance to get beyond some of the old political divides—between Democrats and Republicans, red States and blue States—that had prevented us from making progress. Because although we are proud to be Democrats, we are prouder to be Americans, and we believed then and we believe now that no single party has a monopoly on wisdom.

Now, that's not to say that the election didn't expose deep differences between the parties. I ran for President because for much of the last decade, a very specific governing philosophy had reigned about how America should work: Cut taxes, especially for millionaires and billionaires; cut regulations for special interests; cut trade deals, even if they didn't benefit our workers; cut back on investments in our people and in our future, in education and clean energy, in research and technology. The idea was that if we just had blind faith in the market, if we let corporations play by their own rules, if we left everyone else to fend for themselves, that America would grow and America would prosper.

And for a time, this idea gave us the illusion of prosperity. We saw financial firms and CEOs take in record profits and record bonuses. We saw a housing boom that led to new homeowners and new jobs in construction. Consumers bought more condos and bigger cars and better TVs.

But while all this was happening, the broader economy was becoming weaker. Nobody understands that more than the people of Ohio. Job growth between 2000 and 2008 was slower than it had been in any economic expansion since World War II, slower than it's been over the last year. The wages and incomes of middle class families kept falling while the cost of everything from tuition to health care kept on going up. Folks were forced to put more debt on their credit cards and borrow against homes that many couldn't afford to buy in the first place. And meanwhile, a failure to pay for two wars and two tax cuts for the wealthy helped turn a record surplus into a record deficit.

I ran for President because I believed that this kind of economy was unsustainable for the middle class and for the future of our Nation. I ran because I had a different idea about how America was built. It was an idea rooted in my own family's story.