

Oct. 21 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2010

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. at the University of Washington. In his remarks, he re-

ferred to Rep. Pete Sessions, in his capacity as chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee; Republican senatorial candidate Dino Rossi; and musicians Beyonce G. Knowles and Paul D. “Bono” Hewson.

Statement on the Death of Paul S. Miller *October 21, 2010*

I was saddened to learn of the passing of one of my staffers and a leader in the disability rights movement, Paul Miller. In a world where persons with disabilities are still too often told, “You can’t,” Paul spent his life proving the opposite. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law School, Paul went on to become a law professor, disability law expert, one of the longest serving commissioners of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

an adviser to President Bill Clinton, and later, an invaluable adviser to me. But more important than any title or position was the work that drove him. He dedicated his life to a world more fair and more equal and an America where all are free to pursue their full measure of happiness, and all of us are better off for it.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Jennifer, his daughters Naomi and Delia, and all whose lives Paul touched.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner in Palo Alto, California *October 21, 2010*

Please have a seat. I’m going to come to you, and I’m not going to bore you with a long speech because I’m going to be able to sit with each of you at your table and to have a terrific conversation.

My main message is to say thank you to Zachary and Marissa for opening up this wonderful home. I was especially thrilled to see the pumpkins—[laughter]—and the Halloween stuff out there because in the Obama household, Halloween is big. And in fact, for all the campaigning I’m going to be doing over the next 10 days, I will be home on Sunday night—[laughter]—when the girls get dressed up and do some trick-or-treating.

I see a lot of old friends here, people who have supported us for a very long time, and I see some new ones as well. Some of you I had a chance to meet around the same time I first met Marissa. I remember that first visit to Google very well. In fact, it made it into my second book. And I talked about how inspiring it was and how it spoke to the essence of America, the American idea that if we’re innovating, if people

have the tools to let their imaginations run, that there’s nothing we can’t do in this country.

And that’s I think the spirit that all of us want to see recaptured after a decade in which, frankly, that can-do spirit had been lost. Obviously, we’re going through a very difficult time right now, the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, the worst recession since the Great Depression. But my task over the last 2 years hasn’t just been to stop the bleeding. My task has also been to try to figure out how do we address some of the structural problems in the economy that have prevented more Googles from being created, prevented more Hewlett-Packards from being created, prevented more engineers from being trained in our schools; how do we unleash this incredible energy and dynamism that we know has always driven America, decade after decade.

We’ve made a start on all these fronts. I think our education reform agenda has been as innovative and aggressive as anything that we’ve seen, and we’re now partnering with the private sector to figure out how do we get more math