

The President's Weekly Address

January 1, 2011

Hello, everybody. As we close the books on one year and begin another, I wanted to take a moment today to wish you a very happy New Year and to talk a little bit about the year that lies ahead.

At the start of 2011, we're still just emerging from a once-in-a-lifetime recession that's taken a terrible toll on millions of families. We all have friends and neighbors trying to get their lives back on track.

We are, however, riding a few months of economic news that suggests our recovery is gaining traction. And our most important task now is to keep that recovery going. As President, that's my commitment to you: to do everything I can to make sure our economy is growing, creating jobs, and strengthening our middle class. That's my resolution for the coming year.

Still, even as we work to boost our economy in the short term, it's time to make some serious decisions about how to keep our economy strong, growing, and competitive in the long run. We have to look ahead, not just to this year, but to the next 10 years and the next 20 years. Where will new innovations come from? How will we attract the companies of tomorrow to set up shop and create jobs in our communities? What will it take to get those jobs? What will it take to outcompete other countries around the world? What will it take to see the American Dream come true for our children and grandchildren?

Our parents and grandparents asked themselves those questions. And because they had the courage to answer them, we've had the

good fortune to grow up in the greatest nation on Earth.

Now it's our turn to think about the future. In a few days, a new Congress will form, with one House controlled by Democrats and one House controlled by Republicans, who now have a shared responsibility to move this country forward. And here's what I want you to know: I'm willing to work with anyone of either party who's got a good idea and the commitment to see it through. And we should all expect you to hold us accountable for our progress or our failure to deliver.

As I've said since I first ran for this office, solving our challenges won't be quick or easy. We've come through a difficult decade, one of new threats and new trials we didn't expect when it began. But a new year and a new decade stretches out before us. And if we just remember what America is capable of and live up to that legacy, then I'm confident that we are poised for a period of progress, one in which our economy is growing, our standing in the world is rising, and we do what it takes to make sure America remains in the 21st century what it was in the 20th: the greatest country in the world.

Thanks for listening, and happy New Year.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:45 p.m. on December 20, 2010, in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on January 1, 2011. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 31, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on January 1.

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Egypt and Nigeria

January 1, 2011

I strongly condemn the separate and outrageous terrorist bombing attacks in Egypt and Nigeria. The attack on a church in Alexandria, Egypt, caused 21 reported deaths and dozens

of injured from both the Christian and Muslim communities. The perpetrators of this attack were clearly targeting Christian worshipers and have no respect for human life and dignity.

They must be brought to justice for this barbaric and heinous act. We are continuing to gather information regarding this terrible event and are prepared to offer any necessary assistance to the Government of Egypt in responding to it.

The attack near an army barracks in Abuja also reportedly killed more than 20 people and wounded many more. Killing innocent civilians who were simply gathering, like so many people around the world, to celebrate the begin-

ning of a new year further demonstrates the bankrupt vision of those who carry out these attacks, and we are similarly prepared to offer assistance to the Government of Nigeria as it works to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The United States extends its deepest condolences to the families of those killed and to the wounded in both of these attacks, and we stand with the Nigerian and Egyptian people at this difficult time.

Statement on Signing the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010

January 2, 2011

I was honored to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act to ensure that rescue and recovery workers, residents, students, and others suffering from health consequences related to the World Trade Center disaster have access to the medical monitoring and treatment they need. We will never forget the selfless courage demonstrat-

ed by the firefighters, police officers, and first-responders who risked their lives to save others. I believe this is a critical step for those who continue to bear the physical scars of those attacks.

NOTE: H.R. 847, approved January 2, was assigned Public Law No. 111-347.

Exchange With Reporters Aboard Air Force One

January 3, 2011

President's Visit to Hawaii

The President. Did you guys have a little bit of fun?

Q. Happy New Year.

The President. Happy New Year. I hope you guys had a little fun. At least one guy had the right wardrobe.

Q. Did you have beans in your shaved ice? I ask this every year.

The President. No, I did not. I'm a plain shaved ice guy. No beans, no ice cream, no sweet milk on top.

Q. What were the flavors today?

The President. I went for the melon and cherry. I was——

Q. Consistent.

The President. I was consistent.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit

Q. Could the Democratic Convention be out here? Have you considered bringing it out here? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, we've got the APEC convention, so we'll be back in November. That will be a big event. So everybody is very excited about that. The mayor and Governor and all those folks are excited.

Congress/Bipartisanship

Q. A serious question: Are you concerned you're going to get a chilly reception in Washington? Republicans, on Sunday, were talking about the first thing they're going to do is repeal health care. They're talking about asking you to get rid of Eric Holder, the Attorney