

marks, he referred to Rep. Gabrielle D. Giffords, who was shot while meeting with constituents in Tucson, AZ, on January 8; Jared L. Loughner, suspected gunman in the January 8 shootings in Tucson, AZ; Daniel Hernandez, Rep. Giffords's intern; Tucson residents Patricia Maisch, Bill Badger, Roger Salzgeber, and Joseph Zamudio, who helped subdue Mr.

Loughner; Antoine de Leocour and Vincent Delory, French citizens kidnaped in Niger by suspected terrorists on January 7 and killed during a rescue attempt by French and Nigerian troops; and Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, wife of President Sarkozy. President Sarkozy spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the First Anniversary of the Earthquake in Haiti *January 11, 2011*

As we mark 1 year since the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, we honor the memory of the quarter of a million Haitians who were lost, along with more than 100 Americans, many United Nations personnel, and citizens from dozens of nations. We recall how Americans, civilian and military, joined with people from around the world in one of the largest humanitarian efforts ever attempted. And we continue to be inspired by the Haitian people and our vibrant Haitian American community, who have faced unimaginable loss with extraordinary courage and faith.

Since the first moments of the disaster, the United States has helped to rally international support for Haiti's recovery and reconstruction and respond to new challenges, such as the outbreak of cholera and Hurricane Tomas. This global effort, led by the Haitian Government, continues today and has been matched by the tremendous compassion of the American people, who, in difficult economic times, have given generously to help.

Over the past year, countless lives have been saved, and many Haitians affected by the earthquake now have better access to food, water, and health care than they did before the disaster. Still, too much rubble continues to clog the streets, too many people are still living in tents, and for so many Haitians, progress has not come fast enough. As we have said all along, helping the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere recover from one of the worst natural disasters ever to strike our hemisphere will take years, if not decades.

So on this day, when our thoughts and prayers are with the Haitian people, my message is the same as it was last year: Haiti can and must lead the way with a strong vision for its future. The international community must now fulfill the pledges it has made to ensure a strong and sustained long-term effort. And as they forge ahead with the hard work of rebuilding their proud country, the people of Haiti will continue to have an enduring partner in the United States.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 *January 11, 2011*

Dear _____:

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114)(the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension, for 6 months beyond

February 1, 2011, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Daniel K. Inouye, chairman, and W. Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; John F. Kerry, chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Harold D. Rogers, chair-

man, and Norman D. Dicks, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairman, and Howard L. Berman, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for Victims of the Shootings in Tucson, Arizona

January 12, 2011

Thank you very much. Please, please be seated. To the families of those we've lost; to all who called them friends; to the students of this university, the public servants who are gathered here, the people of Tucson, and the people of Arizona: I have come here tonight as an American who, like all Americans, kneels to pray with you today and will stand by you tomorrow.

There is nothing I can say that will fill the sudden hole torn in your hearts. But know this: The hopes of a nation are here tonight. We mourn with you for the fallen. We join you in your grief. And we add our faith to yours that Representative Gabrielle Giffords and the other living victims of this tragedy will pull through.

Scripture tells us:

There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High
dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

On Saturday morning, Gabby, her staff, and many of her constituents gathered outside a supermarket to exercise their right to peaceful assembly and free speech. They were fulfilling a central tenet of the democracy envisioned by our Founders: representatives of the people answering questions to their constituents, so as to carry their concerns back to our Nation's Capital. Gabby called it "Congress on Your Corner," just an updated version of government of and by and for the people.

And that quintessentially American scene, that was the scene that was shattered by a gun-

man's bullets. And the six people who lost their lives on Saturday, they too represented what is best in us, what is best in America.

Judge John Roll served our legal system for nearly 40 years. A graduate of this university and a graduate of this law school, Judge Roll was recommended for the Federal bench by John McCain 20 years ago, appointed by President George H.W. Bush, and rose to become Arizona's chief Federal judge.

His colleagues described him as the hardest working judge within the ninth circuit. He was on his way back from attending Mass, as he did every day, when he decided to stop by and say hi to his Representative. John is survived by his loving wife Maureen, his three sons, and his five beautiful grandchildren.

George and Dorothy Morris—Dot to her friends—were high school sweethearts who got married and had two daughters. They did everything together, traveling the open road in their RV, enjoying what their friends called a 50-year honeymoon. Saturday morning, they went by the Safeway to hear what their Congresswoman had to say. When gunfire rang out, George, a former marine, instinctively tried to shield his wife. Both were shot. Dot passed away.

A New Jersey native, Phyllis Schneck retired to Tucson to beat the snow. But in the summer, she would return east, where her world revolved around her three children, her seven grandchildren, and 2-year-old great-granddaughter. A gifted quilter, she'd often work under a favorite tree, or sometimes, she'd sew aprons with the logos of the Jets and the Giants—[laughter]—to give out at the church