

our deficit. That's what the American people expect us to do. That's why they sent us here.

A few days ago, I received a letter from a mother in Longmont, Colorado. Over the year, her son's eighth grade class saved up money and worked on projects so that next week they could take a class trip to Washington, DC. They even have an appointment to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The mother wrote that for the last few days the kids in her son's class had been worried and upset that they might have to cancel their trip because of a shutdown. She asked those of us in Washington to get past our petty grievances and make things right. And she said:

"Remember, the future of this country is not for us. It's for our children."

Today we acted on behalf of our children's future. And next week, when 50 eighth graders from Colorado arrive in our Nation's Capital, I hope they get a chance to look up at the Washington Monument and feel the sense of pride and possibility that defines America, a land of many that has always found a way to move forward as one.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:04 p.m. in the Blue Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Shalini Schane and her son Adam.

## The President's Weekly Address

*April 9, 2011*

Last night, after weeks of long and difficult negotiations over our national budget, leaders of both parties came together to avert a Government shutdown, cut spending, and invest in our future.

This is good news for the American people. It means that small businesses can get the loans they need, our families can get the mortgages they applied for, folks can visit our national museums and parks, and hundreds of thousands of Americans will get their paychecks on time, including our brave men and women in uniform.

This is an agreement to invest in our country's future while making the largest annual spending cut in our history. Like any compromise, this required everyone to give ground on issues that were important to them; I certainly did. Some of the cuts we agreed to will be painful. Programs people rely on will be cut back; needed infrastructure projects will be delayed. And I would not have made these cuts in better circumstances. But we also prevented this important debate from being overtaken by politics and unrelated disagreements on social issues. And beginning to live within our means is the only way to protect the investments that will

help America compete for new jobs: investments in our kids' education and student loans, in clean energy and lifesaving medical research.

Reducing spending while still investing in the future is just common sense. That's what families do in tough times. They sacrifice where they can, even if it's hard, to afford what's really important.

A few months ago, I was able to sign a tax cut for American families because both parties worked through their differences and found common ground. Now, the same cooperation has made it possible for us to move forward with the biggest annual spending cut in history. And it's my sincere hope that we can continue to come together as we face the many difficult challenges that lie ahead, from creating jobs and growing our economy to educating our children and reducing our long-term deficits.

That's our responsibility. That's what the American people expect us to do, and it's what the American people deserve.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:15 p.m. on April 8 in the Red Room at the White House for broadcast on April 9. In

the address, the President referred to Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid; and Speaker of the House of Representatives John A. Boehner.

The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 8, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 9.

## Statement on the Situation in Cote d'Ivoire

*April 11, 2011*

The United States welcomes the decisive turn of events in Cote d'Ivoire, as former President Laurent Gbagbo's illegitimate claim to power has finally come to an end. This represents a victory for the democratic will of the Ivoirian people, who have suffered for far too long through the instability that followed their election. Today the people of Cote d'Ivoire have the chance to begin to reclaim their country, solidify their democracy, and rebuild a vibrant economy that taps the extraordinary potential of the Ivoirian people.

In the 4 months that have passed since Alassane Ouattara was elected President, the United States and international community have strongly supported the results of Cote d'Ivoire's democratic election and the right of the Ivoirian people to determine their own destiny. These results came after several years of support by the international community for Cote d'Ivoire's peace and democratic processes. The United Nations Security Council, members of the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have all worked to advance the

goal of a democratic Cote d'Ivoire in which the rule of the people is stronger than the rule of one man. The United States commends the United Nations operation in Cote d'Ivoire and French forces for the actions that they have taken to protect civilians.

For President Ouattara and the people of Cote d'Ivoire, the hard work of reconciliation and rebuilding must begin now. President Ouattara will need to govern on behalf of all the people of Cote d'Ivoire, including those who did not vote for him. All militia groups should lay down their weapons and recognize an inclusive military that protects all citizens under the authority of President Ouattara. The victims and survivors of violence deserve accountability for the violence and crimes that have been committed against them. The international community must continue to support the people of Cote d'Ivoire as they turn the page to a more hopeful and democratic future. In that effort, a democratic Cote d'Ivoire that respects the rights of its people will always have a friend in the United States of America.

## Statement on the Death of Kam T. Kuwata

*April 11, 2011*

I was saddened to learn of the passing of my friend Kam Kuwata. Kam's brilliance as a political strategist was matched by his passion for our country and the process by which we govern ourselves. I'll never forget the critical contribution Kam made to our efforts in

2008, planning an open, vibrant convention that really captured the spirit of our campaign. Michelle and I send our deepest condolences to Kam's extended family of friends and to so many in California who mourn his passing.