

There's nothing we can't accomplish when we set our minds to it. And that's what we'll keep doing as long as I have the privilege of being your President.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 12:40 p.m. on May 6 at Allison Transmission, Inc., in Indianapolis, IN, for broadcast on May 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 6, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on May 7.

## Statement on Israeli Independence Day May 9, 2011

Sixty-three years ago, when Israel declared its independence, the dream of a state for the Jewish people in their historic homeland was finally realized. On that same day, the United States became the first country in the world to recognize the State of Israel. As Israelis celebrate their hard-won independence, it gives me great pleasure to extend the best wishes of the American people to the people of Israel and to honor their remarkable achievements over the past six decades. Our two nations share a unique and unbreakable bond of friendship that is anchored in common interests and shared values and the United States unwavering commitment to Israel's security. I have every confidence that the strong relationship between our countries will grow deeper with each passing year.

This is a period of profound change in the Middle East and North Africa, as people across the region courageously pursue the path of dignity and self-governance. Just as I know that Israel will always be one of our closest allies, I believe that the region can be more peaceful and prosperous when its people are able to fulfill their legitimate aspirations. We will continue our efforts with Israel and others in the region to achieve a comprehensive peace, including a two-state solution, and to working together toward a future of peace, security, and dignity for the people of Israel and all the people of the region.

I offer my best wishes to President Peres, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the people of Israel as they celebrate their 63d Independence Day.

## Remarks in El Paso, Texas May 10, 2011

*The President.* Hello, El Paso! Well, it is wonderful, wonderful to be back with all of you in the Lone Star State. Everything is bigger in Texas.

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* I love you back! Even the welcomes are bigger. So, in appreciation, I wanted to give a big policy speech outside on a really hot day. [Laughter] Those of you who are still wearing your jackets, feel free to take them off. I hope everybody is wearing sunscreen. Now—

*Audience member.* We live here.

*The President.* —you say you live here? You don't need it, huh? [Laughter] Well, it is a great honor to be here. And I want to express

my appreciation to all of you for taking the time to come out today.

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* Thank you. I appreciate it. Thank you.

You know, about a week ago, I delivered a commencement address at Miami Dade community college, which is one of the most diverse schools in the Nation. The graduates were proud that their class could claim heritage from 181 countries around the world—181 countries.

Many of the students were immigrants themselves, coming to America with little more than the dream of their parents and the clothes on their back. A handful had discov-