

## Statement on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Day of Remembrance

January 27, 2011

Fifty years ago, a young President facing mounting pressure at home propelled a fledgling space agency on a bold, new course that would push the frontiers of exploration to new heights. Today, on this day of remembrance, when NASA reflects on the mighty sacrifices made to push those frontiers, America's space agency is working to achieve even greater goals. NASA's new 21st-century course will foster new industries that create jobs, pioneer technology innovation, and inspire a new generation of explorers through education, all while continuing its fundamental missions of exploring our home planet and the cosmos.

Throughout history, however, we have seen that achieving great things sometimes comes at

great cost, and we mourn the brave astronauts who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of NASA missions throughout the agency's storied history. We pause to reflect on the tragic loss of the *Apollo 1* crew, those who boarded the Space Shuttle *Challenger* in search of a brighter future, and the brave souls who perished on the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

Through triumph and tragedy, each of us has benefited from their courage and devotion, and we honor their memory by dedicating ourselves to a better tomorrow. Despite the challenges before us today, let us commit ourselves and continue their valiant journey toward a more vibrant and secure future.

## Statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27, 2011

I join people here at home, in Israel, and around the world in commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as we mark one of the darkest, most destructive periods in human history.

To remember is a choice, and today we remember the innocent victims of the Nazis' murderous hate, 6 million Jews and millions of other people. We are reminded to remain ever vigilant against the possibility of genocide and to ensure that "Never again" is not just a phrase, but a principled cause. And we resolve to stand up against prejudice, stereotyping, and violence—including the scourge of anti-Semitism—around the globe.

At the same time, we remember the ordinary people who courageously and heroically

expressed the very best of the human capacity for compassion and justice by risking their lives to save their fellow human beings during the Holocaust. They demonstrated that in the midst of evil, human beings can perform remarkable acts of decency and dignity.

Finally, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember the survivors and the profound faith and courage they have embodied to build lives of purpose and meaning. In doing so, they are defying those who tried to kill them and teaching us that love and life can vanquish hate and death. Let us honor them and those we lost by building a more peaceful, just, and tolerant world.

## Remarks at the Families USA Health Action 2011 Conference

January 28, 2011

Thank you. Everybody, please have a seat. Thank you. Thank you, Ron, for not only the generous introduction, but for the wonderful

leadership and for sharing some of your applause with me. [Laughter] To Phil and Kate Villers, for founding Families USA, we thank