

These are questions that cannot be answered by us. But on this day, we remember that it is on our behalf that they gave our lives—they gave their lives. We remember that it is their courage, their unselfishness, their devotion to duty that has sustained this country through all its trials and will sustain us through all the trials to come. We remember that the blessings we enjoy as Americans came at a dear cost, that our very presence here today, as free people in a free society, bears testimony to their enduring legacy.

Our Nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay. But we can honor their sacrifice, and we must. We must honor it in our own lives by holding their memories close to our hearts and heeding the example they set. And we must honor it as a nation by keeping our sacred trust with all who wear America's uniform, and the families who love them, by never giving up the search for those who've gone missing under our country's flag or are held as prisoners of war, by serving our patriots as well as they serve us, from the moment they enter the military to the moment they leave it, to the moment they are laid to rest.

That is how we can honor the sacrifice of those we've lost. That is our obligation to America's guardians, guardians like Travis Manion. The son of a marine, Travis aspired to follow in his father's footsteps and was accepted by the U.S. Naval Academy. His roommate at the Academy was Brendan Looney, a star athlete and born leader from a military family, just like Travis. The two quickly became best friends. "Like brothers," Brendan said.

After graduation, they deployed: Travis to Iraq and Brendan to Korea. On April 29, 2007,

while fighting to rescue his fellow marines from danger, Travis was killed by a sniper. Brendan did what he had to do. He kept going. He poured himself into his SEAL training and dedicated it to the friend that he missed. He married the woman he loved. And his tour in Korea behind him, he deployed to Afghanistan. On September 21 of last year, Brendan gave his own life, along with eight others, in a helicopter crash.

Heartbroken, yet filled with pride, the Manions and the Looneys knew only one way to honor their sons' friendship. They moved Travis from his cemetery in Pennsylvania and buried them side by side here at Arlington. "Warriors for freedom," reads the epitaph written by Travis's father, "brothers forever."

The friendship between First Lieutenant Travis Manion and Lieutenant Brendan Looney reflects the meaning of Memorial Day: brotherhood, sacrifice, love of country. And it is my fervent prayer that we may honor the memory of the fallen by living out those ideals every day of our lives, in the military and beyond. May God bless the souls of the venerable warriors we've lost and the country for which they died.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. in Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman-designate, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Timothy and Carolyn McGahan, parents of 2d Lt. Michael E. McGahan, USA; Thomas and Janet Manion, parents of 1st Lt. Travis J.L. Manion, USMC; and Amy Looney, wife, and Kevin and Maureen Looney, parents, of Lt. Brendan J. Looney, USN.

## Remarks on the Nomination of John E. Bryson To Be Secretary of Commerce May 31, 2011

*The President.* Good afternoon, everybody. Today I am pleased to announce that I will nominate John Bryson to be our Nation's next Commerce Secretary. John is somebody who

will bring to this job a wealth of experience in the public and in the private sectors. But in my mind, nothing has prepared him more for this demanding role—a role that requires delicate

diplomacy, complex negotiations, and careful management of folks with strong views—than being the father of four daughters.

They're all here today, as is John's wife Louise. And I'm sure John agrees that Louise gets the credit for how wonderfully they have turned out.

As Commerce Secretary, John is going to be an important part of my economic team, promoting American business and American products across the globe. By working with companies here at home and representing America's interests abroad, I'm confident that he's going to help us meet the goal that I set of doubling our Nation's exports.

In this new role, John will be able to draw on decades of business experience across a range of industries, from his role on the boards of major companies like Disney and Boeing to his leadership in the clean energy industry. That's the expertise that will help us create new jobs and make America more competitive in the global economy.

Of course, John will be building on the success of outgoing Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, who has tirelessly advanced America's economic leadership abroad, securing export deals that will mean hundreds of thousands of jobs here in America, including an agreement with China, where Gary will now be serving as our next Ambassador. And we couldn't be prouder of him, and we're confident he is going to be doing an outstanding job there.

Of course, in the years ahead, a key to achieving our export goal will be promoting clean energy in America. That's how we'll reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and that's how we'll encourage new businesses and jobs to take root on our shores. John understands this better than virtually anybody. Throughout a distinguished career in which he's led nonprofits, government agencies, and large companies, he's been a fierce proponent of alternative energy.

As a young man with a degree in hand from a prestigious law school, John didn't follow his

friends to a blue-chip law firm. John took a chance on an idea he cared about and cofounded the Natural Resources Defense Council, which grew into a powerful and important voice in protecting the safety of our air and water.

It was then that John caught the eye of a young California Governor named Jerry Brown. I'm not sure what happened to that guy, but—[laughter]—but for John it led to leadership positions in government, where he got a firsthand look at the real-life impact of energy and environmental policies, from water conservation to electricity production.

Later, in the private sector, he rose to become the chairman and CEO of Edison International, one of the Nation's largest utility companies. John headed the company for almost 20 years, during which time he helped Edison become a leader in solar and wind power and innovative approaches to proving the profitability of clean energy. Just before he retired from the company, he launched a plan to turn 65 million square feet of unused commercial rooftops into solar power stations, the largest array in the country, with enough electricity for more than 160,000 homes.

Today, he advises companies around the world as a business leader who understands what it takes to innovate, to create jobs, and to persevere through tough times. And he continues to carry himself with the integrity and sense of responsibility that have guided him his entire life. This experience and these qualities will serve our Nation well as John takes on yet another tough assignment in his career.

So I want to thank Gary again for his extraordinary service. He has done an outstanding job while at Commerce.

And, John, I am grateful to you for your willingness to serve. I look forward to working with you. And I know that you will help us deliver the kinds of growth, prosperity, and job creation here in America that we all want.

So thank you very much, both of you.

*Secretary-designate Bryson.* Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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*The President.* Thank you.  
*Secretary of Commerce Gary F. Locke.* Thank you, Mr. President.  
*The President.* Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Julia, Jane, Ruth, and Kathleen Bryson, daughters of Secretary-designate Bryson.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Designations Under the Kingpin Act June 1, 2011

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

This report to the Congress, under section 804(a) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901–1908 (the “Kingpin Act”), transmits my designations of the following seven foreign individuals as appropriate for sanctions under the Kingpin Act and reports my direction of sanctions against them under the Act:

Manuel Torres Felix (Mexico)  
Gonzalo Inzunza Inzunza (Mexico)  
Haji Lal Jan Ishaqzai (Afghanistan)  
Kamchybek Asanbekovich Kolbayev (Kyrgyzstan)  
John Harun Mwau (Kenya)  
Naima Mohamed Nyakiniywa (Kenya)  
Javier Antonio Calle Serna (Colombia)

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl M. Levin, chairman, and John S. McCain III,

ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Max S. Baucus, chairman, and Orrin G. Hatch, ranking member, Senate Committee on Finance; John F. Kerry, chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Patrick J. Leahy, chairman, and Charles E. Grassley, ranking member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Dianne Feinstein, chairman, and C. Saxby Chambliss, vice chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, chairman, and Adam Smith, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairman, and Howard L. Berman, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Lamar S. Smith, chairman, and John J. Conyers, Jr., ranking member, House Committee on the Judiciary; David L. Camp, chairman, and Sander M. Levin, ranking member, House Committee on Ways and Means; and Michael J. Rogers, chairman, and C.A. “Dutch” Ruppersberger, ranking member, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

## Remarks at the Pritzker Architecture Prize Ceremony June 2, 2011

Thank you very much. Thank you. Please, please, everybody, have a seat.

Well, thank you, Tom, for that introduction. Thank you to the entire Pritzker family for your friendship and incredible generosity towards so many causes. I want to welcome as

well the diplomatic corps that is here, as well as Secretary Arne Duncan.

On behalf of Michelle and myself, I want to begin by congratulating tonight’s winner, Eduardo Souto de Moura. And I also want to recognize the members of the prize jury, who I