

who we are: builders and doers who never stop imagining a better future. What I see here is a reminder of the character that makes us great, that we're a people who will forge a better future because that's what we do. What I see here is an America that is resilient, an America that understands that when we come together, nobody can stop us.

And so I tell you what, I'm going to keep betting on you. And as long as I continue to have the privilege of being the President of the United States, I'm going to keep fighting alongside

you for a future that is brighter for this community, for Toledo, for Ohio, for America.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:21 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Michael P. Bell of Toledo, OH; Chrysler employee Jill L. Opial, her husband Christopher, and their children Carter and Jenna; and Jan L. McClain, mother, and Robert McClain, Sr., stepfather, of Jill L. Opial.

## The President's Weekly Address *June 4, 2011*

Hello, everybody. I'm speaking to you today from a Chrysler plant in Toledo, Ohio, where I just met with workers, including Jill Opial. Jill was born and raised here in Toledo. Her mom and stepfather retired from this plant. She met her husband here, and now they have two children of their own. This plant has not only been central to the economy of this town, it's been part of the lifeblood of this community.

Now, the reason I came to Toledo was to congratulate Jill and her coworkers on the turnaround they helped bring about at Chrysler and throughout the auto industry. Today, each of the Big Three automakers—Chrysler, GM, and Ford—is turning a profit for the first time since 2004. Chrysler has repaid every dime and more of what it owes American taxpayers for their support during my Presidency, and it repaid that money 6 years ahead of schedule. And this week, we reached a deal to sell our remaining stake. And that means soon Chrysler will be a hundred percent in private hands.

Most importantly, all three American automakers are now adding shifts and creating jobs at the strongest rate since the 1990s. Chrysler has added a second shift at the Jefferson North plant in Detroit that I visited last year. GM is adding a third shift at its Hamtramck plant for the first time ever. And GM plans to hire back all of the workers they had laid off during the recession.

That's remarkable when you think about where we were just a couple of years ago. When I took office, we were facing the worst recession since the Great Depression, a recession that hit our auto industry particularly hard. In the year before I was President, this industry lost more than 400,000 jobs, and two great, iconic American companies, Chrysler and GM, stood on the brink of collapse.

Now, we had a few options. We could have done what a lot of folks in Washington thought we should do—nothing. But that would have made a bad recession worse and put a million people out of work. I refused to let that happen. So I said if GM and Chrysler were willing to take the difficult steps of restructuring and making themselves more competitive, the American people would stand by them, and we did.

But we decided to do more than rescue this industry from crisis. We decided to help it retool for a new age, and that's what we're doing all across the country. We're making sure America can outbuild, outinnovate, and outcompete the rest of the world. That's how we'll build an economy where you can see your incomes and savings rise again, send your kids to college, and retire with dignity, security, and respect. That's how we'll make sure we keep that fundamental American promise that if you work hard and act responsibly, you'll be able to pass on a better life to your kids and your grandkids.

Now, we've got a ways to go. Even though our economy has created more than 2 million private sector jobs over the past 15 months and continues to grow, we're facing some tough headwinds. Lately it's high gas prices, the earthquake in Japan, and unease about the European fiscal situation. That's going to happen from time to time. There are going to be bumps on the road to recovery.

We know that. But we also know what's happened here at this Chrysler plant. We know that hard-working Americans like Jill helped turn this company and this industry around. That's the American story. We're a people who don't give up, who do big things, who shape our own destiny. And I'm absolutely confident

that if we hold on to that spirit, our best days are still ahead of us.

Thanks for tuning in, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:25 p.m. on June 3 at the Chrysler Toledo Assembly Complex in Toledo, OH, for broadcast on June 4. In the address, the President referred to Jan L. McClain, mother, Robert McClain, Sr., stepfather, Christopher J. Opial, husband, and Carter J. and Jenna E. Opial, children, of Chrysler Toledo Assembly Complex employee Jill L. Opial. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 3, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on June 4.

## Statement on the Death of Lawrence S. Eagleburger June 4, 2011

With the passing of former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, our Nation has lost a distinguished diplomat and public servant. Through more than four decades of service, first in the Army and then as a dedicated Foreign Service officer and statesman, Lawrence Eagleburger devoted his life to the security of our Nation and to strengthening our ties with allies and partners. As Deputy Secretary and then Secretary of State under President

George H.W. Bush, he helped our Nation navigate the pivotal days during the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war. Our Nation is grateful for Secretary Eagleburger's lifetime of service, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, especially his three sons.

NOTE: The statement referred to L. Scott, L. Andrew, and L. Jason Eagleburger, sons of former Secretary Eagleburger.

## Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany June 7, 2011

*President Obama.* Good morning, everybody.

*Audience members.* Good morning.

*President Obama.* Chancellor Merkel, members of the German delegation: On behalf of Michelle and myself, it is our great pleasure to welcome you back to the White House, and on behalf of the American people, it is our great honor to welcome you back to the United States.

Today marks the first official visit and state dinner for a European leader during my Presi-

dency. It's only fitting. The transatlantic alliance is the cornerstone, is the heart, of our efforts to promote peace and prosperity around the world. And Germany, at the heart of Europe, is one of our strongest allies. And Chancellor Merkel is one of my closest global partners.

Our alliance, at its core, is a partnership between our peoples: the generations of German Americans who helped build a strong America; the Americans who, during a long cold war, helped to defend a free Germany; and citizens of both our countries—entrepreneurs, innova-