

Let's get together. Let's get to work. Let's get busy. Let's pass this bill. Let's make sure that we are shaping a destiny for our children that we are proud of, and let's remind the entire world why the United States of America is the greatest nation on the planet.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Dallas, TX, teacher Kimberly Russell, who introduced the President; President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea; Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.; Steven P. Jobs, chairman of the board, Apple Inc.; and William H. Gates III, chairman, Microsoft Corp.

Statement on Representative Jerry F. Costello's Decision Not To Seek Re-election

October 4, 2011

For over two decades, Jerry Costello has proudly represented the people of southwestern and southern Illinois. Born and raised in the State he now serves, Jerry has distinguished himself as a fierce advocate for improving our Nation's transportation infrastruc-

ture to ensure Illinois and the entire country are prepared to lead the way in a 21st-century economy. Michelle and I want to join the people of Illinois in thanking Congressman Costello for his service, and we wish him and his family well in the future.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser in St. Louis, Missouri

October 4, 2011

The President. Hello, hello, hello! It's good to be back in St. Louis. It's close to home. This is close to home. It's good to be back in the Midwest. Good to be—

Audience member. We love you!

The President. I love you too. It's good to be back in Missouri. I know that the Cardinals game is going on right now. I see some of you checking your phones for the score. [Laughter] So I'm going to try to be brief, see if I can get you out of here by—

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. No, no, no. You've got the ninth inning coming up. A couple of people I just want to acknowledge. First of all, you have one of the finest Governors in the country, somebody who is thinking about the families of Missouri every single day, Jay Nixon. Please give him a big round of applause. I want to acknowledge the outstanding mayor of St. Louis, Francis Slay; Congressman Russ Carnahan in the house; St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley; Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster. Two people who are not here, but who

are great friends, great supporters, I just want to acknowledge them: First of all, somebody who's been a outstanding friend since I started this incredible journey, Claire McCaskill, your great Senator, as well as Congressman William Lacy Clay, who are both in DC but doing great work. We are proud of them.

Now, I've come here today because I need your help.

Audience member. Okay. [Laughter]

The President. I need your help. I need your help to finish what we started in 2008. Back then, we started this campaign not because we thought it was going to be a cakewalk. I mean, after all, your candidate's name was Barack Obama. [Laughter] So we knew that was going to be hard. We didn't need a poll for that. But we forged ahead, because we believed that the essence of this country is that no matter where you come from, no matter what you look like, that if you're willing to work hard, if you're willing to make an effort, you can make it here. You can make it if you try.