

here. Whether your ancestors came from a—came over on a slave ship or crossed the Rio Grande or were here long before the country was founded, we're in this together. And we have the opportunity to right now—to determine our own destiny.

So I hope you will join me in helping us meet this moment. Let's get to work putting the American people back to work. And let's show once again why the United States of

America remains the greatest nation on Earth.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. in the Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior. In his remarks, he referred to Sfc. Leroy A. Petry, USA.

Statement on Congressional Passage of Trade Agreements With Colombia, Panama, and South Korea

October 12, 2011

The landmark trade agreements and assistance for American workers that passed tonight are a major win for American workers and businesses. I've fought to make sure that these trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama deliver the best possible deal for our country, and I've insisted that we do more to help American workers who have been affected by global competition. Tonight's vote, with bipartisan support, will significantly boost exports that bear the proud label "Made in America," support tens of thousands of good-

paying American jobs, and protect labor rights, the environment, and intellectual property. American automakers, farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, including many small businesses, will be able to compete and win in new markets. I look forward to signing these agreements, which will help achieve my goal of doubling American exports and keeping America competitive in the 21st century.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3078, H.R. 3079, and H.R. 3080.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea

October 13, 2011

President Obama. Good morning, everybody. I hope everybody is enjoying the weather.

I am told there is a Korean proverb, which says, "Words have no wings, but they can fly a thousand miles." President Lee, First Lady Kim, I hope my words today will be felt in the hearts of all South Koreans when I say to our allies, our partners, our dear friends, please accept our warmest welcome. *Hwan yong hannida.*

Today we welcome a leader whose remarkable life embodies the rise of his nation, from an impoverished child who drank water to fill his hungry stomach, to the student who cleaned the streets to pay his tuition, to the activist sent to jail for protesting dictatorship, to

the leader guiding his country to new heights, my good friend and partner, President Lee.

Today we celebrate an alliance rooted in the shared values of our people: our servicemembers who have fought and bled and died together for our freedom, our students and workers and entrepreneurs who work together to create opportunity and prosperity, and our families, bound by the generations, including many who are here today, proud and patriotic Korean Americans.

President Lee, our two nations have stood together for more than 60 years. Over the past 2 years we've deepened our cooperation. Today I'm proud to say that the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea is stronger than it has ever been.