

For my family and millions of Americans, that's what Christmas is all about. It reminds us that part of what it means to love God is to love one another, to be our brother's keeper and our sister's keeper. But that belief is not just at the center of our Christian faith, it's shared by Americans of all faiths and backgrounds. It's why so many of us, every year, volunteer our time to help those most in need, especially our hungry and our homeless.

So whatever you believe, wherever you're from, let's remember the spirit of service that connects us all to this season as Americans. Each of us can do our part to serve our com-

munities and our country, not just today, but every day.

*The First Lady.* So from our family to yours, merry Christmas.

*The President.* Merry Christmas, happy holidays, happy New Year, everybody.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:30 p.m. on December 16 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on December 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on December 24.

## Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Nigeria *December 25, 2011*

We condemn this senseless violence and tragic loss of life on Christmas Day. We offer our sincere condolences to the Nigerian people and especially those who lost family and

loved ones. We have been in contact with Nigerian officials about what initially appear to be terrorist acts and pledge to assist them in bringing those responsible to justice.

## Statement on the Observance of Kwanzaa *December 26, 2011*

Michelle and I send our warmest wishes to all those celebrating Kwanzaa this holiday season. Today marks the beginning of the week-long celebration honoring African American heritage and culture through the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

We celebrate Kwanzaa at a time when many African Americans and all Americans reflect on our many blessings and memories over the past year and our aspirations for the year to come. And even as there is much to be thankful for, we know that there are still too

many Americans going through enormous challenges and trying to make ends meet. But we also know that in the spirit of unity, or *umoya*, we can overcome those challenges together.

As families across America and around the world light the red, black, and green candles of the kinara this week, our family sends our well wishes and blessings for a happy and healthy new year.

NOTE: The statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary as a statement by the President and the First Lady.

## Statement on Senator E. Benjamin Nelson's Decision Not To Seek Reelection *December 27, 2011*

I want to thank Senator Nelson for his years of service representing the people of Nebras-

ka, first as Governor, and then for more than a decade in the United States Senate. Over the