

families have been willing—have been able to say to their loved ones who served us so bravely, “Welcome home.” You’re the reason. [*Applause*] You’re the reason.

And so if you turn back now, if you buy into the cynicism that you hear all the time that says somehow the change we fought isn’t possible, well then, of course, change won’t happen. If you stop, change won’t happen. You are what brings it about. If you give up on the idea that your voice makes a difference, then other voices fill the void: the special interests, the lobbyists, the folks who write \$10 million checks to run all those negative ads, the people who are trying to make it harder for you to vote, the politicians who want to decide who you can marry or want to control health care choices that women should be making for themselves. You’ll leave it up to them to make decisions.

Only you can make sure that doesn’t happen. When you see that sign that says “Forward,” we don’t go forward without you. Only you have that power, and I’m depending on you to use that power. I’m asking you to make sure you don’t give up that power. Every—young people here, I need you to register to vote. If you’re not registered, go on gottaregister.com; that’s g-o-t-t-a. Sorry, English teachers, this is not “got to,” it’s “gotta”—gottaregister.com.

If you need to know how to vote, including early vote here in Iowa, go to gottavote.com. I’m asking you not only to register and vote. I

need you to go after your friends, talk to your parents, talk to your cousins, aunts, uncles, cousins, whoever you got. Iowa, I need you to make some phone calls with me. I need you to knock on some doors with me. I need you to tell your friends and your neighbors and your coworkers what’s at stake in this election.

And if you do, we will finish what we started. If you use the power that you have, we will create more good jobs in America. We’ll generate more homegrown energy in America. We’ll hire more good teachers in America. And we will send more young people to college right here in America. We’ll bring our troops home, and we’ll take care of more of our veterans. And we’ll open up more doors of opportunity to every American who’s willing to work hard to walk through them.

That’s what we need. We will win Johnson County. We will win Iowa. We will finish what we started in 2008, and we’ll remind the world why the United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth.

God bless you. Let’s get to work. Let’s move forward.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:47 p.m. at the University of Iowa. In his remarks, he referred to Ben Greenman, staff editor, the *New Yorker* magazine. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden.

The President’s Weekly Address *September 8, 2012*

This week, we mark the 11th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. It’s a time to remember the nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children we lost and the families that they left behind. It’s a chance to honor the courage of the first-responders who risked their lives on that day and every day since. And it’s an opportunity to give thanks for our men and women in uniform who have served and sacrificed—sometimes far from home—to keep our country safe.

This anniversary is about them. It’s also a time to reflect on just how far we’ve come as a nation these past 11 years.

On that clear September morning, as America watched the towers fall and the Pentagon burn and the wreckage smoldering in a Pennsylvania field, we were filled with questions. Where had the attacks come from, and how would America respond? Would they fundamentally weaken the country we love? Would they change who we are?

The last decade has been a difficult one, but together, we have answered those questions and come back stronger as a nation.

We took the fight to Al Qaida, decimating their leadership, and put them on the path to defeat. And thanks to the courage and skill of our intelligence personnel and Armed Forces, Usama bin Laden will never threaten America again.

Instead of pulling back from the world, we've strengthened our alliances, while improving our security here at home. As Americans, we refuse to live in fear. Today, a new tower rises above the New York skyline. And our country is stronger, safer, and more respected in the world.

Instead of turning on each other, we resisted the temptation to give in to mistrust and suspicion. I've always said that America is at war with Al Qaida and its affiliates and we will never be at war with Islam or any other religion. We are the United States of America. Our freedom and diversity make us unique, and they will always be central to who we are as a nation.

Instead of changing who we are, the attacks have brought out the best in the American people. More than 5 million members of the 9/11 generation have worn America's uniform over the past decade, and we've seen an outpouring of good will towards our military, our veterans, and their families. Together, they've done everything we've asked of them. We've ended the war in Iraq and brought our troops

home. We brought an end to the Taliban regime. We've trained Afghan security forces and forged a partnership with a new Afghan Government. And by the end of 2014, the transition in Afghanistan will be complete, and our war there will be over.

And finally, instead of turning inward with grief, we've honored the memory of those we lost by giving back to our communities, serving those in need, and reaffirming the values at the heart of who we are as a people. That's why we mark September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance, because we are one American family. And we look out for each other, not just on the difficult days, but every day.

Eleven years later, that's the legacy of 9/11: the ability to say with confidence that no adversary and no act of terrorism can change who we are. We are Americans, and we will protect and preserve this country we love. On this solemn anniversary, let's remember those we lost, let us reaffirm the values they stood for, and let us keep moving forward as one Nation and one people.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 12:15 p.m. on September 5 in the Diplomatic Room at the White House for broadcast on September 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 7, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on September 8.

Remarks at a Campaign Rally in Seminole, Florida September 8, 2012

The President. Hello, St. Pete's! I am fired up! I am ready to go forward!

Oh, it is good to be back in Florida. It is good—how's everybody doing today?

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. All right. Now, first thing I want to do is make sure everybody is staying hydrated, and if you've been standing here a while, bend your knees. I don't want everybody—anybody falling out.

I want to thank Charlie Crist for his introduction, for his support, for showing that the values that we're fighting for are not Democratic values or Republican values, they are American values. That's what we're fighting for.

We've got one of the finest Senators in the country, your Senator, Bill Nelson, here. One of the best Members of Congress that we've got, Kathy Castor is here. And all of you are here. I'm really excited about that.