

## Remarks Honoring the 2011 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Minnesota Lynx September 18, 2012

Hello, everybody! Hello! Please, everybody, have a seat. Have a seat.

Welcome to the White House, and congratulations to the Minnesota Lynx on winning their first-ever WNBA championship. These women have brought glory back to the Twin Cities. I know there are a lot of fans at home who are happy to have a professional title back in Minnesota.

This team has come a long way to get here. Just 2 years ago, the Lynx had the worst record in the WNBA. *[Laughter]* I'm just saying. *[Laughter]* But they didn't let it get them down. They got to work. GM Roger Griffith is here, and he'll tell you that it was hard work for him too.

It helped that the team drafted UConn standout Maya Moore. She is becoming a regular here. I mean, this is like the fourth time she's shown up at the White House. *[Laughter]* She just somehow likes to attract hardware. Picked up veterans like Rebekkah Brunson and Lindsay Whalen, and Cheryl Reeve took over as head coach and has done an extraordinary job.

Apparently, that was the recipe to go from worst to first. By the end of the season, Maya was Rookie of the Year, Lindsay led the league in assists, Cheryl was Coach of the Year. The team had the best record in the league. They made their home games the hottest ticket in town. Then, just in case anyone doubted their dominance, they marched through the playoffs, losing only one game and sweeping their final two series. That is one heck of a turnaround.

In the championship series, the Lynx faced a very tough Atlanta Dream, but they were ready. I hear they brought in a bunch of men who played in college to imitate the Dream in practice so they could get an extra edge. And those were some brave guys, because—*[laughter]*—I wouldn't want to take any of these ladies on. I've had the pleasure of playing with Maya, and she lit everybody up. *[Laughter]* It

is not fun when she's raining down jumpers on you.

But obviously, it worked. And in the finals, the Lynx came back from three consecutive first-half deficits and took home the championship trophy. They won it on the shooting of Seimone Augustus, who averaged nearly 25 points a game and, after leading the scoring charge in the final game, was named, not surprisingly, Finals MVP. And they won it on the heart and grit of Taj McWilliams-Franklin. "Mama" Taj played the final game on a sprained knee and still managed to secure the paint and pull down four rebounds.

So there's no question that these are some outstanding basketball players. But they also find the time to raise money for breast cancer research, help local students with reading. I hear they clean up pretty well for their Catwalk for a Cure fashion show. *[Laughter]*

So this team does it all, and they do it in style. And I appreciate the Lynx taking time to stop by today, because they're in the middle of their season right now. And they've picked up right where they left off: on top of the Western Conference by a wide margin. Coach just told me that they've now secured home court advantage throughout the playoffs. With three games to go, best record in the league, they're leading the league in points, rebounds, assists. So you've got the idea: They're pretty good. And I have a feeling that we might end up seeing them back here before long.

And finally, I was saying to these folks as I was backstage, as the husband of a tall, good-looking woman—*[laughter]*—and as the father of two tall, fabulous girls, it is just wonderful to have these young ladies as role models. There's something about women's athletics. We know for a fact that when girls are involved in athletics, they do better across the board: They're more confident, they do better in school, they have less social problems. We know all the statistics, but what's also true is that our women athletes just present themselves so well and are

such great ambassadors for the game. And as I was pointing out, you don't see them on SportsCenter doing stupid stuff. [Laughter] They play the game the right way. They compete fiercely, but they're good—great sports-women. And so they're just wonderful examples for my daughters and my niece and for so many parents. I think we all feel really, really great about what the WNBA has accomplished, but what this team in particular has accomplished.

So I want to say thank you to all of you. Congratulations. I'm going to invite Coach to come up and just say a few words.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Roger Griffith, executive vice president, Maya A. Moore and Rebekkah Brunson, forwards, Lindsay M. Whalen and Seimone Augustus, guards, and Taj McWilliams-Franklin, forward/center, Minnesota Lynx.

## Remarks at an Obama Victory Fund 2012 Fundraiser in New York City September 18, 2012

Hello, everybody! Hello! Hello, New York! Thank you. Thank you so much. If you have a chair, go ahead and use it. If you don't, don't. [Laughter]

It is wonderful—hey, guys, good to see you. It is wonderful to be with all of you. I just had a chance to take some pictures with you, and I have to tell you they all turned out wonderfully. [Laughter] I mean this is a good-looking group, very photogenic. Yes, you especially. [Laughter]

It's wonderful to be here. We've got some people who've supported me since I actually ran for Senate in this ballroom. And then we've got some folks who supported us in '08, and then we've got some new friends. And to all of you, I just want to say how grateful I am and how wonderful it is to be back in New York.

Now, we just came off two conventions, one in Tampa and one in Charlotte. And Michelle Obama was pretty good, you know? And then you had Bill Clinton, who somebody said should be secretary of explaining stuff. [Laughter] And what was striking, I think, coming out of those two conventions was the clarity about how important this choice is.

Seven weeks from today, we're going to be making a decision about the future of our country. And a lot of you brought your kids here today.

[At this point, a baby cried.]

Yes, right on cue. [Laughter] And that is entirely appropriate, because the decisions that we're going to make in this election are going to have an impact not just on us, it's going to have an impact on them and their kids for decades to come.

[The baby cried again]

It's true. [Laughter]

The fact is that on almost every issue, we have a deep difference not just between two candidates or two political parties, but a deep difference in terms of how we think about growing our economy and how we think about what ensures prosperity and security over the long term.

The other side, they have their convention, and they talked a lot about what they think is wrong with the country, but they didn't really tell you much about how they'd make it right. They asked for your vote, but they didn't really have a plan. And the reason they didn't want to talk about their plan much was because the plan they're offering is the same one they've offered for the last 30 years, which is if we give a lot of tax cuts, particularly skewed towards people who really don't need tax cuts, and if we roll back regulations on clean air and we roll back regulations on consumer protection and we roll back regulations that ensure that insurance companies treat you properly, that