

sage that both countries will remain committed to pursuing a cooperative partnership between the two sides based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. Our two sides will continue to work together to strengthen and enhance our dialogue mechanisms, including the strategic and economic dialogues, the strategic security dialogue, and the high-level consultation on people-to-people exchange.

We will enhance our business cooperation and engage in large-scale cooperation in economy and finance to use it as a means to tackle the difficulties we have and resolve the differences and disagreements between us. Our two

countries will enhance exchange and consultation on regional and international affairs, in particular to enhance our cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Well, I believe we have a common will on all those important issues. I look forward to an honest discussion with you today, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. at the Peace Palace. In his remarks, Premier Wen referred to Vice President Xi Jinping of China. Premier Wen spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Death of Former Senator Warren B. Rudman November 20, 2012

With the passing of Warren Rudman, the United States has lost a decorated war veteran and one of our country's great public servants. Over almost 20 years representing the people of New Hampshire, first as attorney general and then in the Senate, Warren was the embodiment of Yankee sensibility and New England independence. As an early advocate for fis-

cal responsibility, he worked with Republicans and Democrats alike to call attention to our Nation's growing deficit. And as we work together to address the fiscal challenges of our time, leaders on both sides of the aisle would be well served to follow Warren's example of common-sense bipartisanship. Michelle and I send our thoughts and prayers to the Rudman family.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony November 21, 2012

Well, good afternoon, everybody.

[*At this point, the turkey gobbled.*]

[*Laughter*] They say that life is all about second chances. And this November, I could not agree more. [*Laughter*] So in the spirit of the season, I have one more gift to give, and it goes to a pair of turkeys named Cobbler and Gobbler. The American people have spoken, and these birds are moving forward.

[*The turkey gobbled.*]

I love this bird. [*Laughter*]

Now, I joke, but for the first time in our history, the winners of the White House turkey pardon were chosen through a highly competitive online vote. And once again, Nate Silver

completely nailed it. [*Laughter*] The guy is amazing. He predicted these guys would win.

I want to thank everyone who participated in this election. Because of your votes, the only cobbler anyone's eating this Thanksgiving will come with a side of ice cream. And for that, our winning turkey can thank his stellar campaign team led by Steve Willardsen, who is the chairman of the National Turkey Foundation and raised this beautiful bird at Miller Farm in Harrisonburg, Virginia. So here's Steve.

And as always, if for some reason Cobbler cannot fulfill his duties as the Official White House Turkey, Gobbler will be waiting in the wings.

From here, these two—[*laughter*—]—from here these two lucky birds will be swept up in a whirlwind of fame and fortune that will

ultimately lead them to Mount Vernon, where they will spend their twilight years in the storied home of George Washington. And later today Michelle, Malia, Sasha, and I will be taking two turkeys who were not so lucky to a local food bank here in Washington, DC. I want to thank Jaindl Turkey Farms in Pennsylvania for donating these birds—or those birds—and I'd like to ask every American to do what they can to help families who are in need of a real Thanksgiving this year.

Tomorrow, in the company of friends and loved ones, we will celebrate a uniquely American holiday. And it's a chance for us to spend time with the people we care about and to give thanks for the blessings that we enjoy and to think about just how lucky we are to live in the greatest nation on Earth.

But it's also a time to remember those who are less fortunate. And this year, that's particularly true for our neighbors in the Northeast who have lost their homes and their possessions and even their loved ones to Hurricane Sandy.

In the last few weeks, I had a chance to visit both New Jersey and New York. And while I've seen entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble and heartbreaking loss and devastation, I have yet to find a broken spirit.

Countless stories of courage and compassion and resilience have emerged in the aftermath of the storm. But one that comes to mind today is about a tree on Staten Island. It's a giant blue spruce that came crashing down in the front yard of Joseph Ingenito, whose home in New Dorp Beach flooded during the hurricane. Today, if you go to Joseph's street, you'll see a lot of damage and debris scattered all over the block. But you'll also see the top of that tree, standing tall in front of his house, decorated with ornaments that survived the storm, along with anything else his neighbors could find, including empty cups and surgical masks and safety goggles. It's a Christmas tree, and it's there to remind the neighborhood that there will still be holidays to celebrate and hap-

py moments to share. And life will go on, and we will rebuild.

And so tomorrow we give thanks, not only for the things that we have or the people we love, but for the spirit that sees us through the toughest times and holds us together as one American family, guided along our journey by the hope of a better day.

And I hope that over this holiday weekend, we're also thinking about our extraordinary men and women overseas who are serving far away from home in harm's way. But the reason they're there is because they give thanks, too, for the extraordinary life that we have here in the United States of America.

So may God bless those brave men and women in uniform who are away from their families this holiday season. May God bless the American people. May you all have a very happy Thanksgiving.

And with that, I think we are going to bestow the official pardon on—wait, which—is he Gobbler or Cobbler? Cobbler. That's it.

Come on.

[The President walked with his daughters toward the turkey.]

All right, I've got to give the special dispensation.

[The President made a hand gesture and pardoned the turkey.]

You are hereby pardoned. Congratulations, Cobbler. You're going to have a great life.

Everybody, give Cobbler a big round of applause.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nate Silver, statistician and polling analyst, New York Times; H. Steven Willardsen, chairman, National Turkey Federation; and Staten Island, NY, resident, Joseph Ingenito.