

So, on behalf of Michelle, Malia, Sasha, Grandma, and Bo, I'd like to wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

God bless you, and God bless America.

[At this point, the choir sang Christmas carols.]

*The President.* Well, everybody, I just want to say, can we give a huge round of applause to these outstanding performers? To our outstanding choir.

Neil, are we going out with a song?

*Actor Neil Patrick Harris.* Sure, let's sing one. You start it.

*The President.* No, no, no—[laughter]—I just wasn't sure. I know this program is taped so we can always edit this out. [Laughter] Was there something else that we were supposed to be singing? "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"—that's what I thought. Let's hit it!

*Mr. Harris.* It's a dandy tune.

*The President.* Let's hit it!

[The music for "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" began to play, and a Santa Claus character walked onto the stage.]

*The President.* Oh! Here he is!

*Mr. Harris.* It's Santa.

*The President.* Santa!

[“Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” was sung.]

*The President.* Merry Christmas, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. on the Ellipse at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Neil J. Mulholland, president and chief executive officer, National Park Foundation; and Grant City, NY, resident Tom Killeen. He also referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson.

## Statement on the Observance of Hanukkah

December 7, 2012

Michelle and I send our warmest wishes to all those celebrating Hanukkah around the world. This Hanukkah season, we remember the powerful story of the Maccabees, who rose up to liberate their people from oppression. Upon discovering the desecration of their temple, the believers found only enough oil to light the lamp for one night. And yet it lasted for eight.

Hanukkah is a time to celebrate the faith and customs of the Jewish people, but it is also

an opportunity for people of all faiths to recognize the common aspirations we share. This holiday season, let us give thanks for the blessings we enjoy and remain mindful of those who are suffering. And let us reaffirm our commitment to building a better, more complete world for all.

From our family to the Jewish community around the world, *Chag sameach.*

## The President's Weekly Address

December 8, 2012

Hello, everybody. Over the last few weeks, there's been a lot of talk about deadlines we're facing on jobs and taxes and investments. But with so much noise and so many opinions flying around, it can be easy to lose sight of what this debate is really about. It's not about which political party comes out on top or who wins or loses

in Washington, it's about making smart decisions that will have a real impact on your lives and the lives of Americans all across the country.

Right now middle class tax cuts are set to expire at the end of the year. Time's running out. And there are two things that can happen.