

NOTE: The statement referred to Dilip Joseph, medical adviser, Morning Star Development, who was kidnapped in eastern Kabul Province, Afghanistan, on December 5; and PO1 Nicolas

D. Checque, USN, Naval Special Warfare Development Group, who was killed in the rescue operation.

Remarks at “Christmas in Washington” December 9, 2012

Well, good evening, everybody, and let’s give it up for our host, the tallest elf I’ve ever seen: Conan O’Brien. [Laughter] We’re also grateful to all the outstanding performers, the choirs, the glee clubs who are sharing their tremendous talents with us.

Tonight is a chance to get in the Christmas spirit; to spread some joy and sing along with artists who have much better voices than we do. [Laughter] But it’s also a chance to make a real difference in the lives of some very brave young people being treated at Children’s National Medical Center. Many of these kids and their parents are going through tough times right now, and your support helps give them a reason to hope, not just during the holidays, but all year round.

And that’s really what Christmas is all about. Each of us is incredibly blessed in so many ways. But those blessings aren’t just meant to be enjoyed, they’re meant to be used and shared with those who have less. The Christian

faith teaches us that on this day a child was born so that we might have eternal life. And at the heart of many of the world’s great religions is the idea that we’re all better off when we treat our brothers and sisters with the same love and compassion that we want for ourselves.

So yes, tonight is about Conan and Diana Ross and Santa and all the other talented folks on this stage. But it’s also about the Americans who are spending this holiday in a hospital bed or a shelter or protecting our freedom on a battlefield far from home. Let’s keep them in our prayers and follow Christ’s calling to love one another as He has loved all of us.

Merry Christmas, everybody. God bless you, and God bless these United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:37 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Conan C. O’Brien, host, TBS’s “Conan” program.

Remarks at the Detroit Diesel Corporation Plant in Redford, Michigan December 10, 2012

The President. Hello, Redford! Oh, it is good to be back in Michigan. How is everybody doing today?

Now, let me just start off by saying we have something in common: Both our teams lost yesterday. [Laughter] I mean, I would like to come here and talk a little smack about the Bears, but we didn’t quite get it done. But it is wonderful to be back. It is good to see everybody in the great State of Michigan.

A few people I want to acknowledge: First of all, the mayor of Detroit here, Dave Bing is in the house. We’ve got the Redford Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz. We’ve got some

outstanding Members of Congress who are here; please give them a big round of applause.

I want to thank Martin for hosting us. I want to thank Jeff and Gibby for giving me a great tour of the factory. I’ve got to say: I love coming to factories.

Audience member. I love you!

The President. I love you.

So in addition to seeing the best workers in the world, you’ve also got all this cool equipment. [Laughter] I wanted to try out some of the equipment, but Secret Service wouldn’t let me. [Laughter] They said, “You’re going to drop something on your head, hurt yourself.”