

Mar. 7 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

Senator Levin is a true champion for all those who serve, and his tireless work will be missed not just in his home State of Michigan, but by military families across our country. Michelle

and I wish Carl, Barbara, and their family all the best, and I look forward to working with Carl over the next 2 years as we continue tackling some of our Nation's toughest challenges.

Statement on International Women's Day

March 8, 2013

On International Women's Day, we celebrate the many milestones on the road to gender equality and recommit ourselves to fight for the rights and opportunities of women and girls around the world.

Empowering women isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. When women succeed, nations are more safe, more secure, and more prosperous. Over the last year, we've seen women and girls inspiring communities and entire countries to stand up for freedom and justice, and I'm proud of my administration's efforts to promote gender equality worldwide.

As a nation, we've launched new efforts to promote women's economic empowerment and political participation, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and to

strengthen our commitment to helping more women participate in peace-building and conflict resolution. We are promoting food security initiatives that recognize the rights and needs of women farmers and ensuring that women and girls are at the center of global health programs. And we will continue to focus on empowering women and girls at home and abroad.

We've also worked with a wide range of partners, from the United Nations and civil society groups to the private sector, to advance this important agenda. Because when it comes to creating a world in which our sons and daughters can reach their potential, we each have a role to play. And we can make even more progress together.

The President's Weekly Address

March 9, 2013

Hi, everybody. As I've said before, my top priority as President is making sure we do everything we can to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth: a rising, thriving middle class.

Yesterday we received some welcome news on that front. We learned that our businesses added nearly 250,000 new jobs last month. The unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent: still too high, but now lower than it was when I took office.

Our businesses have created jobs every month for 3 years straight, nearly 6.4 million new jobs in all. Our manufacturers are bringing jobs back to America. Our stock market has rebounded. New homes are being built and sold at a faster pace. And we need to do everything we can to keep that momentum going.

That means asking ourselves three questions every day: How do we make America a magnet for new jobs? How do we equip more of our people with the skills those jobs require? And how do we make sure that your hard work leads to a decent living?

And that has to be our driving focus, our north star. And at a time when our businesses are gaining a little more traction, the last thing we should do is allow Washington politics to get in the way. You deserve better than the same political gridlock and refusal to compromise that has too often passed for serious debate over the last few years.

And that's why I've been reaching out to Republicans and Democrats to see if we can untangle some of the gridlock. Earlier this week, for example, I met with some Republican Sen-