

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for Julia A. Pierson as Director of the United States Secret Service and an Exchange With Reporters March 27, 2013

The President. Okay, Joe. You got the floor.

[At this point, Vice President Joe Biden administered the oath of office to Director Pierson.]

Vice President Biden. Congratulations.

The President. Great job.

Director Pierson. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you so much. Well, listen, I have to say that Julia's reputation within the Service is extraordinary. She's come up through the ranks. She's done just about every job there is to do at the Secret Service.

Obviously, she's breaking the mold in terms of Directors of the agencies, and I think that people are all extraordinarily proud of her. And we have the greatest confidence in the wonderful task that lies ahead and very confident that she is going to do a great job. So we just want to say congratulations.

As Joe Biden pointed out, this person now probably has more control over our lives than anyone else—[laughter]—except for our spouses. And I couldn't be placing our lives in better hands than Julia's.

Remarks on Gun Violence March 28, 2013

Thank you, everybody. Thank you, Katerina, for sharing your story. Reema was lucky to have you as a teacher, and all of us are fortunate to have you here today. And I'm glad we had a chance to remember her.

Katerina, as you just heard, lost one of her most promising students in Virginia Tech, the shootings there that took place 6 years ago. And she and dozens of other moms and dads, all victims of gun violence, have come here today from across the country, united not only in grief and loss, but also in resolve and in courage and in a deep determination to do whatever

Vice President Biden. And my agents are excited that we picked her.

The President. Absolutely. You're going to do a great job.

Director Pierson's Qualifications

Q. How did you make your decision?

The President. She has extraordinary qualifications, and I think a lot of people who have worked with Julia know how dedicated, how professional, how committed she is, and, I think, are absolutely certain that she's going to thrive in this job. All right?

Thank you, guys.

NCAA Basketball Tournament

Q. How are you feeling about your bracket, sir?

The President. Busted. [Laughter] I think my women's bracket is doing much better than my men's bracket.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:16 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jill T. Biden, wife of Vice President Biden.

er they can, as parents and as citizens, to protect other kids and spare other families from the awful pain that they have endured.

As any of the families and friends who are here today can tell you, the grief doesn't ever go away. That loss, that pain sticks with you. It lingers on in places like Blacksburg and Tucson and Aurora. That anguish is still fresh in Newtown. It's been barely 100 days since 20 innocent children and 6 brave educators were taken from us by gun violence, including Grace McDonnell and Lauren Rousseau and Jesse Lewis, whose families are here today.