

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.

Statement on the Nomination of General Philip M. Breedlove To Be Supreme Allied Commander Europe *March 28, 2013*

Today I am proud to announce my intention to nominate General Philip Breedlove as the next Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and Commander of U.S. European Command. For over three decades, General Breedlove has served with distinction in assignments at all levels of the U.S. Air Force and around the globe, from Washington to Germany, Italy, Spain, and South Korea. As Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the Commander of NATO's Allied Air Command, General Breedlove has established trust and deep relations with our NATO allies and

partners, assets he will draw upon in taking on this important new role on behalf of the United States and the alliance.

If confirmed by the Senate, General Breedlove will replace Admiral Jim Stavridis as the Supreme Allied Commander in late Spring. Admiral Stavridis has played an absolutely essential role in strengthening the NATO alliance to meet the challenges of the 21st century, to include enhancing our collective capabilities and partnerships. I am grateful for his steadfast service on behalf of our country and NATO.

Statement on the Decision of Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston, Massachusetts, Not To Seek Reelection *March 28, 2013*

Boston is the vibrant, welcoming, and world-class city it is today because of Tom Menino. For more than two decades, Mayor Menino has served the city and every one of its residents with extraordinary leadership, vision, and compassion. His efforts to revitalize neighborhoods, schools, and businesses, better integrate police officers into their communities and reduce gun violence, reach out to the

homeless and marginalized, and engage young people in the life of their city has charted Boston on a course for a better future. No two people wear their hearts on their sleeve for the City of Boston and its people as openly as Tom and Angela Menino. And as they depart City Hall next year, Boston will be a better place to live, work, and raise a family because of the Meninos' proud service to the city they love.

Statement on the 15th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement *March 28, 2013*

As Easter approaches, we mark the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday agreement. The people of Northern Ireland and their leaders have traveled a great distance over the past 15 years. Step by step, they have traded bullets for ballots, destruction and division for dialogue and institutions, and pointed the way toward a shared future for all. There is urgent work still to be done, and there will be

more tests to come. There are still those few who prefer to look backward rather than forward, who prefer to inspire hate rather than hope. The many who have brought Northern Ireland this far must keep rejecting their call. From building cross-community trust to bringing opportunity to hard-to-reach communities in Belfast and beyond, every citizen and every political party needs to work together in service