

## Statement on the Death of Roger Ebert

April 4, 2013

Michelle and I are saddened to hear about the passing of Roger Ebert. For a generation of Americans, and especially Chicagoans, Roger was the movies. When he didn't like a film, he was honest; when he did, he was effusive, capturing the unique power of the movies to take us somewhere magical. Even amidst his own battles with cancer, Roger was as productive as

he was resilient, continuing to share his passion and perspective with the world. The movies won't be the same without Roger, and our thoughts and prayers are with Chaz and the rest of the Ebert family.

NOTE: The statement referred to Chaz Ebert, wife of Mr. Ebert.

## Letter on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Somalia

April 4, 2013

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2013.

On January 17, 2013, the United States Government announced its formal recognition of the Government of Somalia. The United States had not recognized a government in Somalia for the previous 22 years. Although the U.S.

recognition underscores a strong commitment to Somalia's stabilization, it does not remove the importance of U.S. sanctions, especially against persons undermining the stability of Somalia. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at an Easter Prayer Breakfast

April 5, 2013

*The President.* Thank you. Everybody, please have a seat. Thank you.

Well, good morning, everybody.

*Audience members.* Good morning.

*The President.* Welcome, once again, to the White House. It is always wonderful to see so many friends from all across the country. I want to thank you for joining us today. I want

to thank everybody for their prayers, but most importantly, I want to thank everybody for their good works through your ministries. It's making a difference in communities all across this Nation, and we could not be more proud to often have a chance to work with you.

To all the pastors in the house, I hope you've enjoyed some well-deserved rest after a very

busy Holy Week. I see some chuckles, so maybe not. [Laughter] Here at the White House, I'm pleased to say that we survived yet another Easter egg roll. [Laughter]

Now, if you've been to this breakfast before, you know that I always try to avoid preaching in front of people who do it for a living. That's sound advice. So this morning I'm just going to leave the sermon to others and offer maybe a few remarks as we mark this—the end of this Easter season.

In these sacred days, those of us as Christians remember the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made for each of us, how, in all His humility and His grace, He took on the sins of the world and extended the gift of salvation. And we recommit ourselves to following His example, to loving the Lord our God with all our hearts and all our souls and with all our minds, and to loving our neighbors as ourselves.

That's the eternal spirit of Easter. And this year, I had—I think was particularly special for me because right before Easter, I had a chance to feel that spirit during my trip to the Holy Land. And I think so many of you here know there are few experiences more powerful or more humbling than visiting that sacred earth.

It brings Scripture to life. It brings us closer to Christ. It reminds us that our Savior, who suffered and died, was resurrected, both fully God and also a man: a human being who lived and walked and felt joy and sorrow just like us.

And so for Christians to walk where He walked and see what He saw are blessed moments. And while I had been to Jerusalem before, where Jesus healed the sick and cured the blind and embraced the least of these, I also had a chance to go to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. And those of you who have been there know that entering the church is a remarkable experience, although it is a useful instruction to see how managing different sections of the church and different clergy—it feels familiar. [Laughter] Let's just put it that way. [Laughter]

And as I approached the Altar of the Nativity, as I neared the 14-pointed Silver Star that marks the spot where Christ was born, the Patriarch of Jerusalem welcomed me to, in his words, “the place where heaven and Earth met.”

And there, I had a chance to pray and reflect on Christ's birth and His life, His sacrifice, His resurrection. I thought about all the faithful pilgrims, who for 2,000 years have done the same thing: giving thanks for the fact that, as the Book of Romans tells us, “just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

I thought of the poor and the sick who seek comfort and the marginalized and the forsaken who seek solace and the grateful who merely seek to offer thanks for the simple blessings of this life and the awesome glory of the next. I thought of all who would travel to this place for centuries to come and the lives they might know.

And I was reminded that while our time on Earth is fleeting, He is eternal. His life, His lessons live on in our hearts and, most importantly, in our actions. When we tend to the sick, when we console those in pain, when we sacrifice for those in need, wherever and whenever we are there to give comfort and to guide and to love, then Christ is with us.

So this morning let us pray that we're worthy of His many blessings, that this Nation is worthy of His many blessings. Let us promise to keep in our hearts, in our souls, in our minds, on this day and on every day, the life and lessons of Christ, our Lord.

And with that, I'd like to ask Father Larry Snyder to deliver our opening prayer.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:28 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Theophilus III, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem; and Rev. Larry Snyder, president, Catholic Charities U.S.A. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden.