

Apr. 8 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:45 p.m. in the Chase Family Arena of the Sports Center. In his remarks, he referred to Nicole and Ian Hockley, parents of Dylan Hockley, who was

killed in the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, on December 14, 2012; and First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra of Newtown, CT.

Statement on the Death of Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom

April 8, 2013

With the passing of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, the world has lost one of the great champions of freedom and liberty, and America has lost a true friend. As a grocer's daughter who rose to become Britain's first female Prime Minister, she stands as an example to our daughters that there is no glass ceiling that can't be shattered. As Prime Minister, she helped restore the confidence and pride that has always been the hallmark of Britain at its best. And as an unapologetic supporter of our transatlantic alliance, she knew that with

strength and resolve, we could win the cold war and extend freedom's promise.

Here in America, many of us will never forget her standing shoulder to shoulder with President Reagan, reminding the world that we are not simply carried along by the currents of history, we can shape them with moral conviction, unyielding courage, and iron will. Michelle and I send our thoughts to the Thatcher family and all the British people, as we carry on the work to which she dedicated her life: free peoples standing together, determined to write our own destiny.

Statement on Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 8, 2013

I join people here in the United States, in Israel, and around the world in observing Holocaust Remembrance Day. Today we honor the memories of the 6 million Jewish victims and millions of others who perished in the darkness of the Shoah. As we reflect on the beautiful lives lost and their great potential that would never be fulfilled, we also pay tribute to all those who resisted the Nazis' heinous acts and all those who survived.

On my recent trip to Israel, I had the opportunity to visit Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial, and reaffirm our collective responsibility to confront anti-Semitism, prejudice, and intolerance across the world. On this *Yom Hashoah*, we must accept the full responsibility of remembrance—as nations and as individuals—not simply to pledge “never again,” but to commit ourselves to the understanding, empathy and compassion that is the foundation of peace and human dignity.

Remarks at PBS's “In Performance at the White House: Memphis Soul”

April 9, 2013

Everybody, please have a seat. And give it up for our musical director, Booker T. and the Memphis Soul all-stars. I just want everybody to know that it is now my second term, so rather than “Hail to the Chief,” we're going with that from here on out. *[Laughter]* Little change in tradition.

Now, before we get started, I am going to exercise some Presidential prerogative to say a few words about two very special people who are here tonight. This will humiliate them, but I'm going to go ahead and do it anyway. Jess Wright and Kenny Thompson both work on