

Americans agree that anyone trying to buy a gun should at least have to prove that they're not a felon or somebody legally prohibited from owning one. That's just common sense.

Second, Congress should restore a ban on military-style assault weapons and a 10-round limit for magazines. Many assault rifles, when combined with high-capacity magazines, have one purpose and one purpose only: to fire as many bullets as possible as quickly as possible. These weapons have no place in our communities, and a majority of the American people agree with me.

Finally, Congress needs to make it easier, rather than harder, for law enforcement to do its job. We should get tougher on people who buy guns only to turn around and sell them to criminals. And at a time when many communities have been forced to make cuts to their police force, we should put more cops back on the job and back on the street.

Like most Americans, I believe the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to bear arms. We have a strong tradition of gun ownership in this country, and the vast majority of gun owners act responsibly. But I also believe most gun owners agree that we can respect the Second Amendment while keeping an irresponsible, law-breaking few from causing harm on a massive scale. That's what these reforms are designed to do.

None of this will be easy. Already, we're seeing pundits and politicians and special interest lobbyists calling any attempt at commonsense reform an all-out assault on liberty, not because that's true, but because that's how they

get higher ratings or make more money. And behind the scenes, they're doing everything they can to protect the status quo.

But this time, it can't be up to them. It's got to be up to you. If, like me, you want this time to be different, then I need your help to make it different. Ask your Member of Congress if they support universal background checks and renewing a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. And if the answer is no, ask them why not. Ask them why an A grade from the gun lobby is more important than keeping kids safe in a first grade classroom.

Since the tragedy in Newtown, I've gotten letters from all over the country, including many from our young people. One of them was from 8-year-old Rachel, who lives in Brooklyn, New York. She wrote: "Please do something so that bad people cannot get guns to kill other people. Children should be safe, especially in school."

Rachel is counting on us. Let's get this done for her and all the other children in this country, and let's make sure this country is a safer place for all children to learn and to grow.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:25 p.m. on January 18 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on January 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on January 19.

## Remarks at a Service Event at Burrville Elementary School January 19, 2013

*The President.* Hello, everybody! Well, this is a good-looking crew here. First of all, we just want to acknowledge Burrville Elementary School and the principal here, Tui Roper, who is doing outstanding work. If you see Tui, you may think she's a student, but no, she's the principal.

As I look around the room, I see friends from all across the country, people who have

been such great supporters of ours, but more importantly, everybody here—adults to children—understand the importance of giving back. And as we think about not so much Inauguration, but we think about the fact that this is Dr. King's birthday that we're going to be celebrating this weekend, I'm always reminded that he said, everybody wants to be first, everybody wants to be a drum major; but if you're

going to be a drum major, be a drum major for service, be a drum major for justice, be a drum major for looking out for other people.

And organizations like City Year, the Corporation for National Service, all these—all the great work that's being done day in, day out shows that there's a huge hunger on the part of young people to get involved and to get engaged. And it was interesting—we were talking to one of the young people, I was staining a shelf—

*The First Lady.* He did a fine job.

*The President.* And Michelle says I did a fine job. [Laughter] And one of the City Year folks, I was talking to them, I said, how'd you get involved? They said, our parents, every holiday, we'd always do service, and so I was taught at a very young age. So the fact that we've got some outstanding young people here today, I want to say thank you to the parents for showing early on to all our young people how gratifying and how fulfilling this is.

This is really what America is about. This is what we celebrate. This Inauguration we're going to be—it's a symbol of how our democracy works and how we peacefully transfer power, but it should also be an affirmation that we're all in this together and that we've got to look out for each other and work hard on behalf of each other.

So we're thrilled that all of you are here. We hope you guys are having a great time. I hear reports that the very young people did some really good work and some of the older folks like me, who it hurt getting our knees, kind of bending down a little bit, we were able to manage also, and somehow, Michelle looked stylish the whole time she was doing it.

So, Miche, you want to say a few words?

*The First Lady.* You all, thank you so much. It's wonderful to have such great turnout for this Day of Service. And I know that we have a lot of family members in the audience—and we always force our family, when they come up and do something really cool, they have to serve, and they do it happily. So I'm proud of our families for always being there for us. We love you guys.

So, as Barack said, this is a weekend of celebration, but through it all, we have to remember that the reason why we're here, why we're standing here, why we're able to celebrate this weekend is because a lot of people worked hard and supported us. And we've got a job to do. And this is a symbol of the kind of work that we need to be doing for the next 4 years and beyond.

[At this point, there was a loud crash.]

*The President.* That was a cameraman.

*The First Lady.* That was the press. This is press. [Laughter] It's okay, though, it's okay. Hope you didn't break it. [Laughter]

So, for all the young people, and we've got a lot of young people—City Year members, the students here at this school—you know, as Barack says, we're passing the baton onto you all. So the goal is, is that as you make your way through life, who are you pulling up behind you? And as long as you're pulling somebody up behind you, you're doing the right thing.

So thank you all. We're very proud of you and we're going to come down and shake some hands.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:46 p.m.

## Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Algeria January 19, 2013

Today the thoughts and prayers of the American people are with the families of all those who were killed and injured in the terrorist attack in Algeria. The blame for this tragedy rests with the terrorists who carried it out, and the United States condemns their actions

in the strongest possible terms. We have been in constant contact with Algerian officials and stand ready to provide whatever assistance they need in the aftermath of this attack.

We also will continue to work closely with all of our partners to combat the scourge of ter-