

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-

rorism in the region, which has claimed too many innocent lives. This attack is another reminder of the threat posed by Al Qaida and other violent extremist groups in North Africa. In the coming days, we will remain in close

touch with the Government of Algeria to gain a fuller understanding of what took place so that we can work together to prevent tragedies like this in the future.

## Remarks at an Inaugural Reception January 20, 2013

[Vice President Joe Biden was introduced by his wife, Jill T. Biden. He then made brief remarks, concluding as follows.]

*Vice President Biden.* Ladies and gentlemen, it's my great honor to introduce you to a magnificent, a truly magnificent First Lady, Michelle Obama, and the guy she hangs out with, my friend, President Barack Obama.

Hey, hey. [Laughter] I thought you weren't coming out. [Laughter] I thought you weren't coming. I thought you'd changed your mind. [Laughter]

*The First Lady.* Hi, everybody. Excuse our tardiness. But you know what, when Stevie Wonder has a few words to say to you—[laughter]—you don't rush Stevie Wonder. [Laughter] So pardon our delay, but thank you. Thanks so much, Jill. Thank you for that kind introduction. But more importantly, thank you for your leadership and service.

I love Joe Biden. I love Jill a little bit more. [Laughter] But I want to thank you both for making this journey so much more fun. Our families have bonded, and this has just been a phenomenal 4 years. And I'm ready to do 4 more with both of you.

*The President.* Four more.

*The First Lady.* Four more.

And—but most of all, I want to thank all of you here tonight for everything—everything—that you've done to bring this Inauguration to life. This weekend has been such a wonderful celebration for our people and for the future. And we know that none of it could have happened without all of you. And that's why it was so important for all of us to be here and to spend some time with you.

So this weekend, as we look ahead to the next 4 years, we should absolutely take some

time to truly enjoy this next few days. Right? I mean, the last one was kind of fast. [Laughter] So we've all agreed that we're going to take some time to just breathe in and enjoy it.

But let's also remember that this Inauguration is about more than all of the events that we will all enjoy this weekend. It's about more than swearing in a President. It's about more than what we accomplish together over the next 4 years. It's also about the opportunities we have to make a real difference in people's lives. I mean, the truth is it's about our opportunity to continue to lift up our families, to help more of our children achieve their dreams, and to put our country on a solid foundation not just for these next few years, but for generations to come.

So tonight let us rededicate ourselves to that work. Let us keep building on the progress that we've made. And let's keep working and fighting and pushing forward—

*The President.* Forward.

*The First Lady.* Forward.

*The President.* Forward.

*The First Lady.* —forward to make the real changes that's happened.

And that's what this man, my husband, has been doing for these last 4 years. And let me tell you, it has just been a true thrill to watch this handsome, charming—[laughter]—individual grow into the man and the President that he is. We have seen him every single day: his integrity, his character, his sense of humor—[laughter]—his compassion, his courage. And no matter what the obstacles, we have seen him be so steady facing the challenges that lie ahead and, as always, held true to one unwavering belief, and that is that we love this country and we can all work together to change it.