

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.

So, ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome the love of my life and our President for the next 4 years, Barack Obama.

The President. Hello, everybody. Good evening. Now, first of all, I love Michelle Obama. And to address the most significant event of this weekend, I love her bangs. [Laughter] She looks good. She always looks good.

You know, as President, you make a lot of important decisions. Probably the most important decision is who is going to be your partner during the course of your Presidency. And there have been some decisions I got right, some maybe folks might question. But one decision I know was absolutely correct, absolutely spot on, was my choice of Vice President. I could not have a better partner than Joe Biden. And Joe Biden couldn't have a better partner than Dr. Jill Biden. We love these folks. Give them a round of applause.

Now, some of you may have heard the story of Andrew Jackson's Inaugural reception. Party-goers got so rowdy, they broke several thousands of dollars' worth of White House china. [Laughter] So my first big thank you tonight is to the National Building Museum for hosting us here. [Laughter]

I also want to thank the Source for their outstanding entertainment, the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters, and a guy who has been known to make pretty good music, Mr. Stevie Wonder.

I'm delivering another speech tomorrow, so tonight I'm going to be pretty brief, because there are a limited amount of good lines and you don't want to use them all up tonight. [Laughter] My main purpose tonight is just to say thank you.

And as I look out on the room, we've got people from every walk of life, every corner and nook and cranny of this country—every State, every city, every suburb—people who have invested so much heart, soul, time, money, energy. One of the things that made this campaign unique was the degree of investment and ownership people had in this common project of ours, because you understood this was not just about a candidate, it was not just about Joe Biden or Barack Obama. This was

about us, who we are as a nation, what values we cherish, how hard we're willing to fight to make sure that those values live not just for today, but for future generations.

All of you here understood and were committed to the basic notion that when we put our shoulders to the wheel of history, it moves. [Applause] It moves. It moves forward. And that's part of what we celebrate when we come together for Inauguration.

Yesterday Americans in all 50 States took part in a National Day of Service. Tomorrow hundreds of thousands will join us in the National Mall. And what the Inauguration reminds us of is the role we have as fellow citizens in promoting a common good even as we carry out our individual responsibilities: the sense that there's something larger than ourselves that gives shape and meaning to our lives.

The theme of this year's Inauguration is "Our People and Our Future." And throughout my career, what's always given me energy and inspiration and hope, what's allowed me to stand up when I've been knocked down, are folks like you: the decency, the goodness, the resilience, the neighborliness, the patriotism, the sense of duty, the sense of responsibility of the American people. You have inspired me throughout.

And so whenever I think about the challenges that Joe and I and Jill and Michelle face, we know that we stand amongst friends and colleagues and fellow citizens and that the work is not just ours, that we are working together.

So I just want to say thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. And I want all of you to know that even as we celebrate over the next couple of days—and feel free to stay up as late as you want. Tomorrow is not a school night. Make sure to bundle up, although it won't be as cold as it was 4 years ago. [Laughter] Make sure you know that what we're celebrating is not the election of or swearing-in of a President; what we're doing is celebrating each other and celebrating this incredible Nation that we call home.

And after we celebrate, let's make sure to work as hard as we can to pass on an America that is worthy not only of our past, but also of our future.

God bless you, guys. I love you. We'll see you tomorrow.

Inaugural Address *January 21, 2013*

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Vice President Biden, Mr. Chief Justice, Members of the United States Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

Each time we gather to inaugurate a President, we bear witness to the enduring strength of our Constitution. We affirm the promise of our democracy. We recall that what binds this Nation together is not the colors of our skin or the tenets of our faith or the origins of our names. What makes us exceptional—what makes us American—is our allegiance to an idea articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Today we continue a never-ending journey to bridge the meaning of those words with the realities of our time. For history tells us that while these truths may be self-evident, they've never been self-executing; that while freedom is a gift from God, it must be secured by His people here on Earth. The patriots of 1776 did not fight to replace the tyranny of a king with the privileges of a few or the rule of a mob. They gave to us a republic, a government of and by and for the people, entrusting each generation to keep safe our founding creed.

And for more than 200 years, we have.

Through blood drawn by lash and blood drawn by sword, we learned that no union founded on the principles of liberty and equality could survive half slave and half free. We

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:55 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to musician Stevie Wonder. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the full remarks of Vice President Biden and Mrs. Biden.

made ourselves anew, and vowed to move forward together.

Together, we determined that a modern economy requires railroads and highways to speed travel and commerce, schools and colleges to train our workers.

Together, we discovered that a free market only thrives when there are rules to ensure competition and fair play.

Together, we resolved that a great nation must care for the vulnerable and protect its people from life's worst hazards and misfortune.

Through it all, we have never relinquished our skepticism of central authority, nor have we succumbed to the fiction that all society's ills can be cured through government alone. Our celebration of initiative and enterprise, our insistence on hard work and personal responsibility, these are constants in our character.

But we have always understood that when times change, so must we; that fidelity to our founding principles requires new responses to new challenges; that preserving our individual freedoms ultimately requires collective action. For the American people can no more meet the demands of today's world by acting alone than American soldiers could have met the forces of fascism or communism with muskets and militias. No single person can train all the math and science teachers we'll need to equip our children for the future, or build the roads and networks and research labs that will bring new jobs and businesses to our shores. Now more than ever, we must do these things together, as one Nation and one people.

This generation of Americans has been tested by crises that steeled our resolve and