

about 4 or 5, and they started putting her to work, put a broom in her hand. But when somebody asked Myrna what lessons she learned after 50 years working at the same company, she said, "Be honest, be helpful, accept your mistakes and improve upon them, be good to people, keep a good sense of humor, have the best work ethic possible, and handle the good times and get over the bad." That's a pretty good recipe for success right there. That's who we are. [Applause] That's who we are. Thank you, Myrna.

I mean, that pretty much sums up everything. [Laughter] That's who we like to understand America to be, who we are as Americans. We're honest and helpful. We work hard. We're good to others. We handle the good times, and we get over the bad times. If we keep that in mind, if we just all keep Myrna's advice in mind, keep plugging away, keep fighting, we'll build an even better America than we've got right now.

Audience member. We're praying!

The President. And I know you're going to—we can pray too; we'll add that in there. [Laughter]

If we work to create more jobs, if we give every American the tools that they need for those jobs, if we make sure that hard work pays off and that responsibility is rewarded, then once

again, America is going to be the place where you can always make it if you try. And we'll all prosper together. And we'll make sure that America remains the greatest nation on Earth.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Duncan A. McTaggart, contract administrator, Peter A. Bowe, president and chief executive officer, Robert E. Croom, general manager, Martin E. Barnes, Jr., executive vice president and chief operating officer, and Myrna L. LaBarre, executive assistant, Ellicott Dredges, LLC; Ing Manuel Ordonez Galan, a former customer of Ellicott Dredges, LLC, who named a dredge after former President William J. Clinton; Ray Lewis, former linebacker, National Football League's Baltimore Ravens; Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake of Baltimore, MD; Ruth Cummings, mother of Rep. Elijah E. Cummings; and former Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, father of Rep. John P. Sarbanes. He also referred to the memorandum on modernizing Federal infrastructure review and permitting regulations, policies, and procedures, which was signed on May 17 and is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq May 17, 2013

To the Congress of the United States:

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 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2013.

Obstacles to the continued reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

May 17 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
May 17, 2013.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2014 *May 17, 2013*

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Justice, State, and Transportation, as well as Other International Programs, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Federal Trade Commission. These amendments do not affect the proposed FY 2014 Budget totals. These amendments are necessary to reflect correctly policies assumed in the FY 2014 Budget.

Also included is a new Department of Defense (DOD) General Provision that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to receive and retain payment in-kind for the settlement of the longstanding A-12 aircraft contract litigation. This litigation has been ongoing for over two decades.

The final decision about the pace of the drawdown in Afghanistan was not made at the time the FY 2014 Budget request was developed. As a result, the Budget included a placeholder for DOD FY 2014 Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding, equivalent to

the amount provided in the President's FY 2013 Budget. The Administration noted in the FY 2014 Budget that after determining the required force levels in Afghanistan, a Budget amendment updating the OCO request would be submitted to the Congress. The enclosed DOD amendments also include the necessary updates to the OCO request, which funds military operations in Afghanistan and other activities that primarily support Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition, this transmittal contains FY 2014 amendments for the Legislative Branch. As a matter of comity and tradition, these appropriations requests for the Legislative Branch are transmitted without change.

The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I again urge the Congress to consider my FY 2014 Budget, which takes a balanced approach to further deficit reduction and replaces sequestration.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

The President's Weekly Address *May 18, 2013*

Hi, everybody. Over the past few months, I've laid out a series of commonsense ideas to reignite the true engine of our economic growth: a rising, thriving middle class.

The way I see it, there are three areas where we need to focus: one, making America a magnet for good jobs; two, making sure our work-

ers have the education and skills they need to do those jobs; and three, making sure your hard work leads to a decent living.

I've also been visiting cities across the country that are doing some interesting and creative things along these lines. So on Friday, for example, I stopped by a factory in Baltimore