

America. So recognize the dignity in every human being. Treat one another with respect. Remember that when we harness the talents of every man and every woman from every race and every religion and every creed, no nation can ever match us.

And finally, we need your resolve, the same spirit reflected in your class motto: "Surrender to Nothing." And if you seek an example, you don't need to look far, because not long ago, two midshipmen sat where you sat—from the class of 2006—and they inspire us today.

Here at the Academy, Brad Snyder was the captain of the swim team. He deployed to Afghanistan, and while rushing to the aid of his teammates, he stepped on an IED and lost both his eyes. With the support of family and friends, Brad learned to feel his way and move again. And before long, he was back in the swimming pool, where he said, "I'm free." Then, just 1 year later, Brad competed at the London Paralympics and won three medals, including two golds.

And when Michelle and I welcomed our U.S. Olympians to the White House, Brad joined us standing tall, right in front. And he said: "Overcoming adversity is a decision. You can let that beat you, or you can make the decision to move forward."

Here at the Academy, Matt Lampert was on the rowing team. He deployed to Afghanistan with his Marine special ops team. And as they entered a compound, an IED exploded, and Matt lost both his legs. He endured a long and painful recovery. But with his new legs, he learned to walk again. He practiced, he trained, and then, he passed his physical tests and deployed to Afghanistan again, a double amputee, back in the fight.

The President's Weekly Address May 25, 2013

Hi, everybody. This week, I've been speaking about America's national security: our past, our present, and our future.

And Matt recently completed his tour. He is back home and is looking ahead to many years of service. Reflecting on his journey—his mission to return to his unit—he said he was determined, "however long it was going to take."

So, class of 2013, I cannot promise you a life of comfort and ease, for you have chosen an ancient path—the profession of arms—which carries all the perils of our modern world. And just as classes before you could not know that they would find themselves at Coral Sea or Midway or Fallujah or Helmand, we cannot know sitting here today where your service will carry you.

But I do know this. As you say farewell to Bancroft Hall, as you make your way down Stribling Walk one last time, you're becoming the newest link in a storied chain. As I look into your eyes today, I see the same confidence and the same professionalism, the same fidelity to our values of those who have served before you—the Jones and Nimitz and Lejeune and Burke, and yes, the Snyder and the Lampert—Americans who surrendered to nothing.

And I'm absolutely confident that you will uphold the highest of standards and that your courage and honor and your commitment will see us through and that you will always prove yourselves worthy of the trust our Nation is placing in you today.

So congratulations, class of 2013. God bless our Navy, and God bless our Marine Corps. God bless our Armed Services. God bless these United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. John M. Paxton, USMC, Assistant Commandant, and Ken Niumatalolo, head football coach, U.S. Naval Academy.

On Thursday, I outlined the future of our fight against terrorism: the threats we face, and the way in which we will meet them. On Fri-

day, I went to Annapolis to celebrate the extraordinary young men and women of the United States Naval Academy's class of 2013, the sailors and marines who will not only lead that fight, but who will lead our country for decades to come. And on Monday, we celebrate Memorial Day. Unofficially, it's the start of summer, a chance for us to spend some extra time with family and friends, at barbecues or on the beach, getting a little fun and relaxation in before heading back to work.

It's also a day on which we set aside some time, on our own or with our families, to honor and remember all the men and women who have given their lives in service to this country we love. They are heroes, each and every one. They gave America the most precious thing they had: "the last full measure of devotion." And because they did, we are who we are today: a free and prosperous nation, the greatest in the world.

At a time when only about 1 percent of the American people bear the burden of our defense, the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform isn't always readily apparent. And that's partly because our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen are so skilled at what they do. It's also because those who serve tend to do so quietly. They don't seek the limelight. They don't serve for our admiration or even our gratitude. They risk their lives, and many give their lives, for something larger than themselves or any of us: the ideals of liberty and justice that make America a beacon of hope for the world.

That's been true throughout our history, from our earliest days, when a tiny band of revolutionaries stood up to an empire, to our 9/11 generation, which continues to serve and sacrifice today.

Every time a threat has risen, Americans have risen to meet it. And because of that cour-

age—that willingness to fight and even die—America endures. That is the purpose of Memorial Day: to remember with gratitude the countless men and women who gave their lives so we could know peace and live in freedom.

And we must do more than remember. We must care for the loved ones that our fallen servicemembers have left behind. We must make sure all our veterans have the care and benefits they've earned and the jobs and opportunity they deserve. We must be there for the military families whose loved ones are in harm's way, for they serve as well. And above all, we must make sure that the men and women of our Armed Forces have the support they need to achieve their missions safely at home and abroad.

The young men and women I met at the Naval Academy this week know the meaning of service. They've studied the heroes of our history. They've chosen to follow in their footsteps: to stand their watch, man a ship, lead a platoon. They are doing their part. And each of us must do ours.

So this weekend, as we commemorate Memorial Day, I ask you to hold all our fallen heroes in your hearts. And every day, let's work together to preserve what their sacrifices achieved: to make our country even stronger, even more fair, even more free. That's our mission, it's our obligation, and it is our privilege, as the heirs of those who came before us and as citizens of the United States of America.

Thanks.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 5 p.m. on May 24 in the Green Room at the White House for broadcast on May 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 24, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on May 25.

Remarks Following a Tour of Tornado Damage in Moore, Oklahoma *May 26, 2013*

Good afternoon, everybody. Obviously, a picture is worth a thousand words, and what we're seeing here, I think, gives you some

sense of what the people of Moore and the people of Oklahoma have been dealing with over these last several days.