

June 19 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

from buildings and swam across the Spree to claim their most basic right of freedom.

The wall belongs to history. But we have history to make as well. And the heroes that came before us now call to us to live up to those highest ideals: to care for the young people who can't find a job in our own countries and the girls who aren't allowed to go to school overseas; to be vigilant in safeguarding our own freedoms, but also to extend a hand to those who are reaching for freedom abroad.

This is the lesson of the ages. This is the spirit of Berlin. And the greatest tribute that we can pay to those who came before us is by carrying on their work to pursue peace and justice not only in our countries, but for all mankind.

Vielen Dank. God bless you. God bless the peoples of Germany. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:29 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Gail S. Halvorsen, USAF (Ret.).

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Michael B. Froman as United States Trade Representative

June 19, 2013

I am pleased that the Senate took bipartisan action today to confirm Michael Froman as the United States Trade Representative. Mike has been my closest adviser on a broad range of international economic issues and will continue to play a key role on my economic team. He's trusted and well respected by our partners around the world, and for the last several years, he's been a driving

force behind our international economic agenda.

In his new position, Mike will stay focused on our primary economic goals: promoting growth, creating jobs, and strengthening the middle class. And he will continue to help open new markets for American businesses, level the playing field for American workers, farmers, and ranchers, and fully enforce our trade rights.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Berlin, Germany

June 19, 2013

Chancellor Merkel. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all, also on behalf of Professor Sauer, to this dinner here at Charlottenburg Palace. And obviously, I would like to bid a very special and very warm welcome to our guest of honor, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, and his wife Michelle—a very warm welcome to you.

And let me say that I am personally very grateful to be able to welcome you here tonight because this affords me again to thank you for the wonderful reception, for the wonderful evening we had. And I'm able to say this also on behalf of the whole—of the Federal Republic of Germany, because I am aware obviously that this was an honor that was granted to me on behalf of my country when, 2 years

ago, you gave us this wonderful and gracious reception in the Rose Garden of the White House. And we still have very fond memories. This was indeed a very moving moment, and we greatly appreciated the warmth of your hospitality and also the friendship that you showed through this evening. Thank you, yet again.

Barack Obama, I think what was possible today also, again, was to show you how many people here in Germany feel a great sense of admiration towards you, because, in many ways, you personally embody the image of the United States as a country of unlimited possibility. And I think that that was something that also came out very strongly in your speech today that you gave at the Brandenburg Gate, and I think it is a feeling that many people not