

So we welcome today's decision, and I've directed the Attorney General to work with other members of my Cabinet to review all relevant Federal statutes to ensure this decision, including its implications for Federal benefits and obligations, is implemented swiftly and smoothly.

On an issue as sensitive as this, knowing that Americans hold a wide range of views based on deeply held beliefs, maintaining our Nation's

commitment to religious freedom is also vital. How religious institutions define and consecrate marriage has always been up to those institutions. Nothing about this decision, which applies only to civil marriages, changes that.

The laws of our land are catching up to the fundamental truth that millions of Americans hold in our hearts: When all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free.

Statement on the Renomination of General Martin E. Dempsey To Be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld, Jr., To Be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

June 26, 2013

Today I am proud to announce my intention to renominate General Marty Dempsey as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Admiral Sandy Winnefeld as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These two superb officers have led our military and their families with great distinction, deep conviction, and absolute integrity over the past 2 years, and I am confident in saying that our Nation is safer and more secure today because of their visionary, dedicated, and tireless leadership.

General Dempsey often talks about trust as the foundational quality of the profession of arms: trust between leaders, those they lead, the institutions they represent, and the Nation they serve. These two distinguished military leaders have earned my trust and that of the American people. I am inspired by their dedicated service to our great Nation and the example they set for our women and men in uniform. I urge the Senate to reconfirm these outstanding officers as swiftly as possible.

The President's News Conference With President Macky Sall of Senegal in Dakar, Senegal

June 27, 2013

[President Sall spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter as follows.]

President Sall. Mr. President, Mr. Barack Obama, good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm extremely happy to welcome President Barack Obama for his first trip to Africa since his reelection in November last year.

So, Mr. President, I'd like to once again welcome you to Senegal and wish you a pleasant stay in Senegal. Your stay among us, Mr. President, is a source of pride for the Senegalese population and its Government.

Now, with this visit we are jointly pursuing an age-old tradition, a privileged tradition full of trust between Senegal and the United States of America. I'm extremely happy that you've chosen Senegal to be the first point of entry on this continent after having received me very warmly on the 20th of March in the Oval Office.

President Obama and myself, we have held talks on issues of common interest on the African Continent as well as at the international level. Of course, we discussed bilateral issues and my capacity as the current chairperson of the orientation committee of NEPAD.