

or of letting us represent them.” And Tom never lost that sense of wonder.

It’s interesting—as I read that passage, what he wrote—the first time I visited Capitol Hill, Tom Foley was Speaker. I was a very young man and I was doing community work, and I remember seeing that Capitol and having that same sense of wonder. And I think now about Tom Foley being here doing that work and inspiring what might have ultimately led me to be interested in public service as well.

When we’re standing outside these magnificent buildings, we have that sense of wonder and that sense of hope. And sometimes, the longer you’re here, the harder it is to hang on to that. And yet Tom Foley never lost it—never lost that sense of wonder, never lost the

sense of gratitude. What a privilege, he felt it was, to serve. And he never forgot why he came here: on behalf of this Nation and his State and the citizens that he loved and respected so much.

And so, as a country, we have to be grateful to him. And to Heather and to the people of the great State of Washington, thank you so much for sharing Tom with us.

God bless Tom Foley. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:11 p.m. in the National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Heather S. Foley, wife of former Speaker Foley; and former Rep. Robert H. Michel.

## Statement on the First Anniversary of Hurricane Sandy *October 29, 2013*

One year ago, Hurricane Sandy’s landfall devastated communities up and down the East Coast, a tragedy that demanded massive rescue, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Today we remember our fellow Americans who lost their lives to that storm, and we comfort the families who grieve them still. And while there are still homes to rebuild and businesses to reopen, the last year has also served as a reminder of the strength and resilience of the American people. We’ve seen first responders act with heroism, strangers lend a helping hand, and entire communities come together to heal. There’s more work to do, but that’s the spirit with which we’ll continue to do it for our fellow Americans who still need a hand.

Over the past year, my administration has fought for these communities throughout the response, and the Federal Government will remain by their side as our fellow citizens re-

build. We’ve provided billions of dollars of assistance to hundreds of thousands of people and small-business owners through direct aid, grants, and loans. We’ve helped thousands of families stay in their homes, communities cut through redtape, and bureaucracy to receive the help they need and worked with State and local officials to open 97 percent of public beaches before Memorial Day, sending a strong message to the country that the shore was open for business. Through a Federal commitment to a long-term rebuilding effort, our roads, bridges, hospitals, and businesses are coming back stronger than before.

That’s who we are as Americans: We take care of our own; we leave nobody behind. And as long as our fellow Americans continue to travel the long and sometimes difficult road to recovery, their country will stay with them every step of the way.

## Remarks at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts *October 30, 2013*

[*Governor Deval L. Patrick of Massachusetts made brief opening remarks, concluding as follows.*]

*Gov. Patrick.* So, Mr. President, welcome to the capital of Red Sox Nation. And welcome