

Leadership Conference and former president of the National Baptist Convention, he inspired Americans across our country with the courage of his convictions and the depth of his faith.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice, we

remember the legacy of trailblazers like T.J. Jemison and commit ourselves to carrying that legacy forward in the years to come. Our Nation is a better place because of Reverend Jemison's struggle and sacrifice, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and loved ones.

## Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony November 27, 2013

Good afternoon, everybody, and happy Thanksgiving.

The office of the Presidency, the most powerful position in the world, brings with it many awesome and solemn responsibilities. This is not one of them. *[Laughter]* But though—the White House turkey pardon is a great tradition. And I know Malia loves it, as does Sasha.

Generally speaking, Thanksgiving is a bad day to be a turkey. Especially at a house with two dogs. So I salute our two guests of honor, Caramel and Popcorn, for their bravery. They came all the way from outside Badger, Minnesota, to be with us. They, like my Chief of Staff, are Vikings fans. I'm not sure that they know that—

*[At this point, the turkeys gobbled.]*

Uh-oh. *[Laughter]* Yes. See? I'm not sure they know that my Bears are heading to Minnesota on Sunday, but in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I'm going to give them a break. *[Laughter]*

We are also excited to have students from Badger High School here. Where they are—where are you guys? *[Applause]* There they are, right there. And finally, let me say thank you to John Burkel, chairman of the National Turkey Federation. Give him a big round of applause.

Now, 80 turkeys on John's farm competed for the chance to make it to the White House and stay off the Thanksgiving table. It was, quite literally, the "Hunger Games." *[Laughter]* And then, after weeks of vocal practice and prepping for the cameras, the two tributes,

Caramel and Popcorn, went head to head together for America's vote as top gobbler.

The competition was stiff, but we can officially declare that Popcorn is the winner, proving—*[applause]*. There you go. Proving that even a turkey with a funny name can find a place in politics. *[Laughter]* As for Caramel, he's sticking around, and he's already busy raising money for his next campaign. *[Laughter]* Yes.

On a more serious note, later today Michelle, Malia, Sasha, and I will bring a couple less fortunate turkeys to a great organization that works to help out our neighbors here in DC who need it most. And I want to thank Jaindl's Turkey Farm in Orefield, Pennsylvania, for donating those dressed birds for the fifth year in a row. This is a reminder that this is a season to not only be thankful for the incredible blessings that we have, but also to remember the neediest and generously serve those who are not as fortunate.

This is a quintessentially American holiday, and during this time, we give thanks to our friends and our family, for citizens who show compassion to those in need, and for neighbors who help strangers they've never met. We give thanks for the blessings of freedom and opportunity that previous generations worked so hard to secure for. And we give thanks for the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform who serve our Nation around the world. For those of you who are watching, you keep us safe, you make us proud, and you remind us of our own obligations to build on the work of our predecessors and leave something better for our own kids.

So, on behalf of the Obama family, I want to wish everybody a very happy Thanksgiving. Tomorrow, as we gather with our own friends and family, we'll count ourselves lucky that there's more to be thankful for than we can ever say and more to be hopeful for than we can ever imagine.

And now, before these turkeys get away: With the power vested in me, I want to grant Popcorn a full reprieve. Come on. [Laughter] I want to—Popcorn, you have a full reprieve

from cranberry sauce and stuffing. We wish you well. And we're going to give Caramel a break as well.

All right? So—[laughter]. Congratulations, everybody. All right. Happy Thanksgiving, everybody. See you, Popcorn. Give them a big round of applause. All right, get out of the rain. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. on the North Portico at the White House.

## Statement on the Observance of Hanukkah November 27, 2013

Michelle and I send warm wishes to all those celebrating Hanukkah.

For the first time since the late 1800s—and for the last time until some 70,000 years from now—the first day of Hanukkah falls on Thanksgiving. It's an event so rare some have even coined it "Thanksgivukkah." As we gather with loved ones around the turkey, the menorah, or both, we celebrate some fortunate timing and give thanks for miracles both great and small.

Like the Pilgrims, the Maccabees at the center of the Hanukkah story made tremendous sacrifices so they could practice their religion in peace. In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, they reclaimed their historic home-

land. But the true miracle of Hanukkah was what came after those victories almost 2,200 years ago: The Jewish Temple was cleansed and consecrated, and the oil that was sufficient for only 1 day lasted for 8. As the first Hanukkah candle is lit, we are reminded that our task is not only to secure the blessing of freedom, but to make the most of that blessing once it is secure.

In that spirit, Michelle and I look forward to joining members of the Jewish community in America, in the State of Israel, and around the world as we work together to build a future that is bright and full of hope. From my family to yours, *Chag sameach*.

## The President's Weekly Address November 28, 2013

Hi, everybody. On behalf of all the Obamas, Michelle, Malia, Sasha, Bo, and the newest member of our family, Sunny, I want to wish you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. We'll be spending today just like many of you, sitting down with family and friends to eat some good food, tell some stories, and watch a little football, and most importantly, count our blessings.

And as Americans, we have so much to be thankful for. We give thanks for the men and women who set sail for this land nearly four centuries ago, risking everything for the

chance at a better life, and the people who were already here, our Native American brothers and sisters, for their generosity during that first Thanksgiving. We give thanks for the generations who followed, people of all races and religions, who arrived here from every country on Earth and worked to build something better for themselves and for us.

We give thanks for all our men and women in uniform and for their families, who are surely missing them very much today. We're grateful for their sacrifice too.