

Well, I could not imagine a more deserving group of honorees. We are thrilled to have them here.

Fear not, the party is not over. [Laughter] My understanding is the food here at the White House is not bad. [Laughter] And we may get some nice tunes from our Marine Band; they can play anything, so feel free to make requests. [Laughter]

But to all the honorees, thank you again for enriching our lives in so many different ways. We're going to have an opportunity to see you and your families and take some pictures with the honor-

ees. In the meantime, enjoy the reception. And thank you all. I hope you've enjoyed it. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:16 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to author Marilynne Robinson, actor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith, and sportswriter Frank Deford, recipients of the National Humanities Medal; and musician and composer Allen Toussaint, and authors Ernest J. Gaines and Joan Didion, recipients of the National Medal of Arts. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the reading of the citations.

## Statement on the Resignation of Janet A. Napolitano as Secretary of Homeland Security

*July 12, 2013*

I want to thank Secretary Napolitano for her outstanding work on behalf of the American people over the last 4 years. At the Department of Homeland Security, Janet's portfolio has included some of the toughest challenges facing our country. She's worked around the clock to respond to natural disasters, from the Joplin tornado to Hurricane Sandy, helping Americans recover and rebuild. Since day one, Janet has led my administration's effort to secure our borders, de-

ploying a historic number of resources, while also taking steps to make our immigration system fairer and more consistent with our values. And the American people are safer and more secure thanks to Janet's leadership in protecting our homeland against terrorist attacks. I've come to rely on Janet's judgment and advice, but I've also come to value her friendship. And as she begins a new chapter in a remarkable career of public service, I wish her the best of luck.

## Statement on Signing Legislation Concerning the Participation of Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization

*July 12, 2013*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1151, an Act concerning participation of Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The United States fully supports Taiwan's membership in international organizations where statehood is not a requirement for membership and encourages Taiwan's meaningful participation, as appropriate, in organizations where its membership is not possible. My Administration has publicly supported Taiwan's participation at the ICAO and will continue to do so. Consistent with my

constitutional authority to conduct foreign affairs, my Administration shall construe the Act to be consistent with the "one China" policy of the United States, which remains unchanged, and shall determine the measures best suited to advance the overall goal of Taiwan's participation in the ICAO. I note that sections 1(b) and 1(c) of the Act contain impermissibly mandatory language purporting to direct the Secretary of State to undertake certain diplomatic initiatives and to report to the Congress on the progress of those