

July 15 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

Points of Light Chairman Neil M. Bush. We're going to Dad first.

President Obama. —going Dad first? Do we have the mike? Here we go.

Former President George H.W. Bush. My remarks are simply to say something nice about Neil, my son. [Laughter]

President Obama. [Inaudible]

Former President Bush. No, it's not hard to do, and he's been very active in this whole concept of volunteering, helping others. And so it's my privilege then to introduce Neil, and first, of course, thank President and Mrs. Obama for this wonderful hospitality. It's like coming home for Barbara and me. With the rest of you just coming to this magnificent house and being greeted by this superb hospitality knows no bounds.

So thank you all very much. Now, Neil.

[*Points of Light Chairman Bush and Chief Executive Officer Michelle Nunn each made brief remarks.*]

President Obama. Well, thank you very much, Michelle, for your outstanding work. To

all the Points of Light Award recipients, we're proud of you, congratulations, and keep up the great work. You inspire us and make us want to do that much more. Especially when you see young people who are already making such a difference and such an impact, it gives you enormous confidence that America, for all its challenges, will always meet them because we've got this incredible character.

And with that, what I want to do is once again thank President and Mrs. Bush for their outstanding leadership. We are so grateful to both of you. I want to thank Neil for his leadership, and I want to make sure that everybody enjoys a reception. And I suspect the food may be pretty good. So—[laughter].

So thank you very much, all of you, for being here. All right? Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Floyd Hammer, president, Outreach Inc.; and former President Nelson R. Mandela of South Africa.

Statement on Senate Action on Executive Branch Nominations July 16, 2013

I'm pleased that the Senate took action today to move forward on the nominees who have waited far too long for a vote. Over the last 2 years, I've nominated leaders to fill important positions required to do the work of the American people, only to have those positions remain unfilled, not because the nominees were somehow unqualified, but for purely political reasons. I want to thank the Senators from both parties—including Leader Reid,

Leader McConnell, and Senator McCain—who have worked together to find a path forward and give these nominees the votes they deserve. In the weeks ahead, I hope the Congress will build on this spirit of cooperation to advance other urgent middle class priorities, including the need to take action to pass commonsense immigration reform and keep interest rates on student loans low for families trying to afford a higher education.

Remarks on Senate Confirmation of Richard A. Cordray as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau July 17, 2013

The President. Please have a seat. Well, for decades, the middle class in this country was the engine that powered the economy, and

that allowed us to all grow together. Hard work paid off. Responsibility was rewarded. It was that basic bargain that made this country great: