

Statement on the Death of Former Representative Corrine C. “Lindy” Boggs July 27, 2013

Michelle and I send our thoughts and prayers to the family and loved ones of Lindy Boggs. Her legacy as a champion of women’s and civil rights over her nine terms in office as

the first woman elected to the United States Congress from Louisiana will continue to inspire generations to come.

Remarks Honoring the 2012 World Series Champion San Francisco Giants July 29, 2013

Well, everybody, please have a seat. Welcome to the White House on this beautiful afternoon. And congratulations to the San Francisco Giants on their second World Series title in 3 years. They’re making this a habit. [*Laughter*]

I want to start by recognizing all the fans of the Orange and Black with us today, including San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee is in the house. One of your number-one fans in Washington, Leader Nancy Pelosi is here, season ticket holder. All the Members of Congress that we’ve got here today, we’re glad you guys are here.

And we want to recognize as well Larry Baer and GM Brian Sabean for building yet another championship team. Give them a big round of applause. And of course, we’ve got somebody who keeps on looking younger every time I see him, the Say Hey Kid, Willie Mays in the house. And of course, we’ve got a big—give a big congratulations to Manager Bruce Bochy, who just last week joined greats like John McGraw and Joe Torre as one of only 21 managers to win 1,500 games. That is an incredible honor. Give Bruce a big round of applause. Congratulations.

Now, it wasn’t that long ago that these guys were already here celebrating their last World Series title. Some things apparently don’t change. The Giants still won behind stellar pitching and smothering defense and timely hitting. And even though they used a different closer down the stretch, this one still had a “beard to fear.” [*Laughter*]

On the other hand, some things do change. In 2010, it took five games to close out the

World Series. This year it only took four. There are some new faces standing behind me, some new nicknames. You got the Reverend. You’ve got Blockbuster. We’ve even got new haircuts. Where’s Tim? [*Laughter*] There he is. See, you don’t even recognize him anymore. [*Laughter*]

And of course, there were new moments to write into the history books as well. During the regular season, Matt Cain threw the franchise’s first perfect game with a record-tying 14 strikeouts. Posey returned from injury—I wish I was that young, you just kind of snap back—comes back, hits .336, with 24 home runs and earns the National League MVP.

In the playoffs, the Giants dropped the first two games to the Reds, forcing them to run off three straight wins to stay alive. And then against the Cardinals, they had to come back from a 3-to-1 hole to win in seven games. In all, this team faced elimination a total of six times in the playoffs. It’s no wonder that your own fans still refer to Giants baseball as torture. [*Laughter*]

But in the World Series, they decided to take it a little easier on Giants fans. In game one, Pablo Sandoval came out swinging, with a record-tying three homeruns on his way to becoming the World Series MVP. Three games later, brooms were out; it was time for more fireworks over North Beach and another parade down Market Street.

And with these two championships, this team has added another chapter to the storied legacy of players like Mays and McCovey and Perry. And I think it’s time to add a few more names to that list: Lincecum and Cain and Posey and Kung Fu Panda. [*Laughter*]

So as the Giants prove every day, baseball can be even bigger than All-Stars and Cy Young winners. The Junior Giants program uses baseball to teach integrity and leadership and teamwork to more than 20,000 children. The team recently won a national award for their support of the LGBT community. Two years ago, the Giants became the first professional sports franchise to record an “It Gets Better” video to help bullied youth.

I’m proud to announce that next season, they’re planning to turn the centerfield bleachers at AT&T Park into what’s believed to be the first-ever edible garden in a major American sports facility. With rows of kale and strawberries and eggplant, the Giants are going to help encourage local youth to eat healthy, even at the ballpark.

I should add, even Michelle would say it’s okay to have a hotdog once in a while though. [Laughter] I don’t want everybody to get carried away and think they have to have kale every time they go to the ballpark. [Laughter]

So today we are proud to honor the Giants not only for being champions on the diamond, but also being champions for the entire San Francisco community as well. They represent their city proudly, and they do a great job at it.

And on that note, let’s hear it one more time for the World Champion San Francisco Giants.

[At this point, San Francisco Giants President and Chief Executive Officer Laurence M. Baer thanked the President, and Manager Bruce Bochy and catcher Gerald D. “Buster” Posey presented a World Series ball and bat to the President. The President then concluded his remarks as follows.]

I got a World Series ball and bat, and you should know that I can’t read any of their signatures. [Laughter] But it’s greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brian R. Sabean, senior vice president and general manager, Willie H. Mays, Jr., assistant to the president and former center fielder, Sergio Romo, Timothy L. Lincecum, and Matt Cain, pitchers, Hunter A. “Reverend” Pence, outfielder, Marcos “Blockbuster” Scutaro, second baseman, Pablo E. “Kung Fu Panda” Sandoval, third baseman, Willie L. McCovey, senior adviser and former first baseman, and Gaylord J. Perry, former pitcher, San Francisco Giants; and Joseph P. Torre, former manager, New York Yankees.

Statement on the Resumption of Peace Negotiations Between Israel and the Palestinian Authority July 29, 2013

I am pleased that Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have accepted Secretary Kerry’s invitation to formally resume direct final status negotiations and have sent senior negotiating teams to Washington for the first round of meetings. This is a promising step forward, though hard work and hard choices remain ahead.

During my March visit to the region, I experienced firsthand the profound desire for peace among both Israelis and Palestinians, which reinforced my belief that peace is both possible and necessary. I deeply appreciate Secretary Kerry’s tireless work with the parties

to develop a common basis for resuming direct talks and commend both Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas for their leadership in coming to the table.

The most difficult work of these negotiations is ahead, and I am hopeful that both the Israelis and Palestinians will approach these talks in good faith and with sustained focus and determination. The United States stands ready to support them throughout these negotiations, with the goal of achieving two states living side by side in peace and security.