

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.

I am pleased that Ambassador Martin Indyk will lead the U.S. negotiating team as U.S. Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations. Ambassador Indyk brings unique experience and insight to this role, which will allow him to contribute immediately as the parties

begin down the tough, but necessary, path of negotiations.

NOTE: The statement referred to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel; and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Lebanon

July 29, 2013

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2013.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizballah that include in-

creasingly sophisticated weapons systems, undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at the Amazon Chattanooga Fulfillment Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee

July 30, 2013

Hello, Chattanooga! Hey! Well, it is good to be back in Tennessee. It's great to be here at Amazon.

I want to thank Lydia for the introduction and sharing her story. Give Lydia a big round of applause. So this is something here. I just finished getting a tour of just one little corner of this massive facility, size of 28 football fields. Last year, during the busiest day of the Christmas rush, customers around the world ordered more than 300 items from Amazon every second, and a lot of those traveled through this building. So this is kind of like the North Pole

of the South right here. Got a bunch of good-looking elves here.

Now, before we start, I want to recognize your general manager, Mike Thomas; my tour guide and your vice president, Dave Clark; you've got the mayor of Chattanooga, Andy Berke; and you've got one of the finest gentlemen I know, your Congressman, Jim Cooper. So thank you all for being here.

So I've come here today to talk a little more about something I was discussing last week, and that's what we need to do as a country to secure a better bargain for the middle class: a