

bring home the Gold at the London Olympics or Breanna leading our under-19 team to a championship just a few days ago.

When they're not hitting the books or representing their country, they find time to get involved in the community. Last year, players visited the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for children with serious illnesses, joined the Walk for Autism. Geno just held his 11th annual charity golf tournament. And while you may be rivals with Baylor on the court, you joined together off the court to raise over \$30,000 for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund.

And so that's why we're so happy to have you all back to the White House. These are just some incredible athletes. They've made their mark as one of the great sports dynasties of our time, but they're also just really outstanding young women. You couldn't be prouder of them. I know some parents may be here, and I know you could not be prouder of them. And I told them—and I always say this—as the father

of two young, beautiful, athletic, and tall daughters—[laughter]—it just always puts a smile on my face whenever I see such class acts represent their school and their country so well.

So congratulations, UConn. Good luck as you get ready for the fall. I told them to take a little time off, but they said Coach won't let them. [Laughter] But I'm overruling him; take a weekend. [Laughter] Just relax a little bit.

So congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Marciella Auriemma, mother of Luigi "Geno" Auriemma, head coach, University of Connecticut women's basketball team; and Heather Buck, center/forward, Caroline Doty, Kelly Faris, Bria Hartley, guards, and Breanna Stewart and Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, forwards, University of Connecticut women's basketball team.

## Statement on Senate Confirmation of B. Todd Jones as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives July 31, 2013

Todd Jones is a tough and tested law enforcement professional with decades of experience, and his confirmation to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is both welcome and long overdue. For nearly 7 years, Senate Republicans had refused to confirm an ATF Director, not because they thought the nominees weren't qualified, but because they put politics ahead of the agency's law enforcement mission.

I applaud Senator Reid, Senator Leahy, Senator Klobuchar, and the bipartisan group of

Senators who broke through that gridlock to give Todd Jones the up-or-down vote he deserved. But while Todd's confirmation will help ATF apply the tools it needs to protect our communities from dangerous criminals and reduce gun violence, we can't stop there. I will continue to stand with the majority of Americans who support commonsense reforms to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of criminals. And I will continue to do everything in my power to keep our children and our communities safe.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With President Abd Rabuh Mansur Hadi of Yemen August 1, 2013

*President Obama.* I want to welcome President Hadi to the White House. This visit, I think, reinforces the strong partnership and cooperation that's developed between the

United States and the Government of Yemen.

President Hadi obviously faces enormous challenges, but because of his leadership, he's

been able to initiate a national dialogue that can potentially bring the parties all together in Yemen and produce a constitution and a transition to a fully democratic government that can serve the interests of the people.

So far, the work that this national dialogue has produced is historic for Yemen. It has been inclusive. It's included all parties, including those who traditionally have opposed a central government. It includes women. It includes young people. And this should all lead to elections next year. I want to congratulate President Hadi for the good work that he's done.

President Hadi also faces significant economic challenges. And during these discussions, we reaffirmed our commitment to work with others in the international community to support Yemen during this transition period as it makes the kinds of economic reforms that can produce jobs and growth and prosperity for the Yemeni people.

And finally, I thanked President Hadi and his Government for the strong cooperation that they've offered when it comes to counterterrorism. Because of some of the very effective military reforms that President Hadi initiated when he came into this office, what we've seen is Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula—or AQAP—moved back out of territories that it was controlling.

And President Hadi recognizes that these threats are not only transnational in nature, but also cause severe hardship and prevent the kind of prosperity for the people of Yemen themselves.

So I look forward to continuing to work with President Hadi and the people of Yemen for the benefit of both our countries. And I very much want to congratulate him on the strong start that he's made on the national dialogue. I think it can produce the kinds of opportunities for growth and prosperity, particularly for the very young population of Yemen that I know President Hadi cares so deeply about.

So thank you very much for the visit.

*President Hadi.* Thank you very much. I'm very happy to meet with Your Excellency Pres-

ident Obama here in the White House. And I consider our partnership as critical for both our countries.

Our work together insofar as countering terrorism is concerned and also against Al Qaida is expressive, first and foremost, of Yemeni interests, because as a result of the activities of Al Qaida, Yemen's development basically came to a halt whereby there is no tourism, and the oil companies—the oil-exploring companies had to leave the country as a result of the presence of Al Qaida. So our cooperation against those terrorist elements are actually serving the interests of Yemen.

I actually spoke with His Excellency President Obama about the future of Yemen and about the national dialogue that includes 565 delegates that come from all walks of life, including women, youth, political parties, and indeed rivals that used to fight one another whom nowadays are actually sitting at the same dialogue table connecting them. This is considered a new experience in the whole region.

Basically, in this national dialogue, we look forward to building a new constitution seeking good governance, partnership of all members of the society in the country, whereby we achieve security and democracy, good governance, building a new future for the country, justice, and the division of authority and wealth.

And this national dialogue actually proved that 75 percent of the population of Yemen are young; that is, less than 45 years of age. They're seeking the change: a dignified lifestyle, democracy that is justice, equality in the country.

We have confidence that our people have actually abandoned weapons, and this is considered a new phase in history in the region, in the Middle East.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Hadi spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.