

time, but what you guys do is remarkable, and you are truly great athletes.

The second thing is, I can't tell you how proud I am of the young women here. There was a time when college women's athletics was relegated to second status. And all of you here are showing the incredible strides that we've made over the last couple of decades. And it means that Malia and Sasha and my nieces, they all know how important athletics is in their lives. And you guys have really paved the way. So we're really proud of you for that.

I want to congratulate all of you on your championship season. I hope that you guys enjoyed your time at the White House. I want to

wish all of you the best of luck in the time ahead. For those of you who are returning, coming back, good luck next season. And for those of you who are graduating, Godspeed.

All right? I hope you guys had a good time. Take care of yourselves. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Megan Bozek, Gisèle M. "Gigi" Marvin, Anne Schleper, and Lee Stecklein, defensemen, and Amanda Kessel, forward, 2014 U.S. women's hockey team. He also referred to his nieces Leslie Robinson and Savita and Suhaila Ng.

## Remarks on Signing a Proclamation Regarding Boundary Enlargement of the California Coastal National Monument

March 11, 2014

*The President.* As some of you know, in my State of the Union Address, I talked about taking any actions that I could to ensure that this incredible gift of American lands, the natural bounty that has been passed on to us from previous generations, is preserved for future generations. And I pledged to act wherever I could to make sure that our children, our grandchildren are going to be able to look upon this land of ours with the same wonder as we have.

Today I'm taking the important step by designating the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands as a national monument. I want to thank the lawmakers who supported this proclamation, including Representatives Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson, as well as Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

And I also want to recognize Larry Stornetta, who is here—there is Larry right here—whose family helped care for this land and sold part of the ranch so the public could access it.

We are talking about over 1,600 acres of incredible coastline in California that reflects the incredible diversity of flora and fauna. It is a place where scientists do research, where people who just want to experience the great outdoors can take advantage of it. It is a huge economic boost for the region. California tourism

obviously is important, and the California coastline, I think, is as big of an attraction as there is.

And so for us to make sure that this is going to be properly preserved, that it is going to be cherished, that the Federal protections will be available, I think is going to make all the difference.

And one of the great things about the way we've done our national monument designations is that we've made sure that all the stakeholders are involved throughout this process. We talk to local communities. We talk to local business interests. We talk to Native American tribes. We make sure that anybody who may have some impact, their voice is heard. And unanimously, in this part of the country, people believe that this is the right thing to do, and I certainly do.

So it's a great pleasure for me to be able to sign this designation. I want to congratulate all the people behind me who worked so hard to make this happen. And I told them that I'm always looking for an excuse to get outside. [Laughter] So I hope I get a chance to roam around this amazing landmark sometime in the future. All right?

And with that, I'm going to sign this proclamation.

[At this point, the President signed the proclamation.]

There's a special trick to this—[laughter].  
Audience member. Yes. We wondered how it worked.

The President. There we go. Congratulations. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lawrence Stornetta, owner, Stornetta Brothers Farms. Proclamation 9089 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Dinner in New York City March 11, 2014

Thank you, everybody. Well, let me start by just thanking Tony and Amie and the James family for hosting this wonderful dinner. And they have been great friends. I will say that the last time I saw them they were dancing well past their curfew. [Laughter] But I probably shouldn't say anything about that in front of the press. [Laughter]

I also want to acknowledge the new mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio, and his wonderful partner and powerhouse, Chirlane, who are here today. And we are so looking forward to the great work that they're going to do here in New York, and obviously, we want to be a partner with this city. As many of you know, I've got a deep, abiding love for New York. Having gone to school here and spent a bunch of time here and seeing all the energy and possibilities, I'm very, very excited and very invested in your success.

I also want to acknowledge one of the finest public servants in the country, who has a very thankless job, and that is, to try to make sure that we have a Democratic Senate, which means he has to travel constantly away from his gorgeous daughters and his wonderful wife: Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado. So I just wanted to acknowledge him as well.

Tony pretty much summed it up, so I don't have to really say much. [Laughter] I'll just put a little flesh on the bones. Over the last 5 years, our economy has recovered faster and stronger from the worst financial crisis and economic crisis since the Great Depression, better than any other developed country on Earth. And

you can take a look at the charts and see that because of the actions we took—because of the Recovery Act, because of the Fed—because of swift, coordinated action, we have bounced back.

We've created 8.5 million new jobs over the last 5 years. We've had 4 years of consecutive job growth as well as economic growth. We have seen an auto industry that was basically flatlining rebound in ways that very few people would have anticipated. The stock market is close to the highest that it's ever been; close to \$10 trillion of wealth has been recovered that was lost.

On the energy front, we've produced more energy than we ever have before. We're importing less. We have doubled clean energy production. And we've done all this while reducing carbon emissions that cause climate change faster than other developed countries, including Europe, including the entire continent of Europe.

Not only have we already provided health care for millions of people who didn't have it before—the latest report is we've got well over 4 million people who've already signed up through the exchanges; we've got 3 million young people who are staying on their parents' health care that didn't have that opportunity before; we've got millions more who are signed up for Medicaid, including here in New York City—but we've done all this while seeing the increase in health care costs go up at the slowest rate in 50 years.