

program comes up for reauthorization on March 28th. As part of this process, we consulted with the Congress, the private sector, and privacy and civil liberties groups and developed a number of alternative approaches.

Having carefully considered the available options, I have decided that the best path forward is that the Government should not collect or hold this data in bulk. Instead, the data should remain at the telephone companies for the length of time it currently does today. The Government would obtain the data pursuant to individual orders from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) approving the use of specific numbers for such queries if a judge agrees based on national security concerns. Legislation will be needed to permit the Government to obtain this information with the speed and in the manner that will be required to make this approach workable.

I believe this approach will best ensure that we have the information we need to meet our intelligence needs while enhancing public confidence in the manner in which the information is collected and held. My team has been in touch with key Congressional leadership—including from the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees—and we are committed to working with them to see legislation passed as soon as possible. Given that this legislation will not be in place by March 28 and given the importance of maintaining this capability, I have directed the Department of Justice to seek a 90-day reauthorization of the existing program including the modifications I directed in January. I am confident that this approach can provide our intelligence and law enforcement professionals the information they need to keep us safe while addressing the legitimate privacy concerns that have been raised.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Maria Contreras-Sweet as Administrator of the Small Business Administration

March 27, 2014

With the bipartisan confirmation of Maria Contreras-Sweet as the next Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the American people will have a fierce champion who understands what it means to start a small business and who has a proven track record of helping other small businesses succeed.

As the founder of ProAmérica Bank, Maria helped provide loans to small businesses that needed them, especially within the Latino community. Maria also served the citizens of California as secretary of business, transportation, and housing, becoming the first Latina cabinet secretary in California history and playing a critical role in ensuring that entrepre-

neurs and small-business owners across her State had access to the capital they needed to start and grow their businesses.

As we work to keep our economy growing, Maria will be charged with looking for more ways to support small businesses. Two years ago, I elevated the role of Small Business Administrator to a Cabinet-level position to make sure small businesses have the seat at the table they deserve. I'm confident that as the newest member of my Cabinet, Maria will to do an outstanding job working with me, with America's small-business owners, and with my entire administration to increase economic growth and expand opportunity for all.

Statement on the Death of Former Senator Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.

March 28, 2014

Jeremiah Denton bravely served his country as a naval aviator in Vietnam and went on to represent the people of Alabama in the U.S. Senate. After his aircraft was shot down

by enemy fire in North Vietnam, he spent nearly 8 years as a prisoner of war. One of the highest ranking officers to be taken prisoner in Vietnam, he endured torture, starvation,

and years of solitary confinement with extraordinary fortitude. The valor that he and his fellow POWs displayed was deeply inspiring to our Nation at the time, and it continues to inspire our brave men and women who

serve today. As Senator, he served as a strong advocate for our national security. He leaves behind a legacy of heroic service to his country, and Michelle and I send our condolences to the Denton family.

Remarks on Presenting the Department of State's International Women of Courage Award to Maha Al Muneef of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia March 29, 2014

The President. For the press, I just wanted to let everybody know Dr. Al Muneef was a recipient of the International Women of Courage Award that the State Department annually presents to women who are doing extraordinary work around the world advocating on behalf of women, children, and families. She was not able to attend because of family health issues, but we were aware of the fact that we'd be able to see her here today to personally present the award.

I'm doing this on behalf of Michelle Obama, who normally is the presenter, and I know that Dr. Al Muneef is disappointed that it's me instead of Michelle, appropriately so. [Laughter] But Dr. Maha Al Muneef has been able to not only set up services here in the Kingdom, but also, more importantly in some ways, been able to pass laws providing protections for women and children for domestic abuse and to provide a safe space and shelter for those who are suffering from domestic abuse.

And so to see the kind of progress that's been made, her ability to work with the Kingdom to persuade many that this is an issue that

is going to be important to the society over the long term, I think makes this award fully justified. And so we're very, very proud of you and grateful for all the work you're doing here, and I'm looking forward to seeing you do even more wonderful things in the future.

Dr. Al Muneef. Thank you very much, and I'm really honored and thrilled to have this award. Thank you very much, and welcome to Saudi Arabia. And I hope this is—[inaudible]—the first step, and we're moving forward on the women's issues in Saudi Arabia. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you so much. Thank you. And she has wonderful children who are here. And so the—

Dr. Al Muneef. They're taking pictures.

The President. All—she's very proud of them. Oh, there they are. They're taking pictures.

Dr. Al Muneef. They're taking pictures.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:56 a.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Riyadh hotel.

Remarks Honoring the 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox April 1, 2014

The President. Hello, everybody!

Audience members. Hello!

The President. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. I've got a few things to say here.

First of all, it's great to see you as we kick off the 2014 baseball season. Now, I thought I invited the Red Sox here today, but there must be a mistake, because I don't recognize all these clean-shaven guys. [Laughter] There's

one guy, a couple guys, who decided they thought the beard was working for them.

But beards or no beards, it is an honor to welcome the 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox to the White House. I have to say, you all have some fanatical fans. [Laughter] And many of them occupy my administration and the White House. Look at my White House Photographer. He's been thinking