

That's what opportunity for all means. [Applause] That's what it means.

Now, next week, Members of Congress have a fresh chance to show which side they're on. They're going to get a yes-or-no vote on raising the minimum wage all across this country. And they've got to make a clear choice: Talk the talk about valuing hard-working families, or walk the walk and actually value hard-working families. You've got a choice: You can give America the shaft, or you can give it a raise.

Here in Michigan, your Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, your Representatives, John Dingell and John Conyers and Gary Peters, they are already on board. But every American deserves to know where their elected representatives stand on this choice. So those of you—if you're going back home for spring break or something or—did that already happen, spring break?

*Audience members.* Yes!

*The President.* I'm sorry. [Laughter] Everybody is all, aw, yeah. [Laughter] Well, I hope you had a good time. [Laughter] But if you have the chance to talk to a Congressman who's not supporting it, you need to ask him, do you support raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour? And if they say yes, then you should say thank you because elected officials do not hear that very often. When they do the right thing, you should reward them.

*Audience member.* Thank you, President Obama!

*The President.* You're welcome. Thank you. [Applause] Thank you. [Laughter]

Now, if they say no, you shouldn't yell at them. Be polite. Ask them why not. Ask them to reconsider. Tell them to join the rest of the country. For once, instead of just saying no, say yes. It's time for \$10.10. It's time to give America a raise.

As I'm looking out at all of you I'm reminded, 4 years ago I had the privilege of delivering

the commencement address at the university, over in the big stadium. And I said our democracy, it's always been noisy, it's always been messy. We have big arguments. But in the end, we've always had the ability to look past our differences and our disagreements and forge a common future. And we've got common values: hard work, responsibility, pursuing your individual dreams.

What the argument is right now about is whether we also affirm the values that make sure we're giving everybody a chance; making sure our fellow citizens can also pursue their dreams; that we're not just looking out for ourselves all the time, but we're also looking out for the person next to you. That's also what America is about. That's what we have to do again.

We've got more jobs to create. We've got more kids to educate. We've got more clean energy to create. We've got more troops to bring home. We've got more veterans to care for. We've got an immigration system we've got to fix. We've got to build a middle class. We've got to give opportunity for everybody who strives for it. We've got to make sure everybody—Black, White, Latino, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, with or without a disability, folks in the inner city, folks outside the borders of the city—everybody has got a chance. America is a place for everybody. That's what we're fighting for. That's what I need you to get out there and talk about.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. in the Intramural Sports Building. In his remarks, he referred to Mira Friedlander, student, University of Michigan; Glenn A. Robinson III and Jordan D. Morgan, forwards, Nikolas T. Stauskas, guard, and John Beilein, head coach, University of Michigan men's basketball team; Devin Gardner, quarterback, University of Michigan football team; and Rep. Joseph L. Barton.

## Remarks on the Shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, From Chicago, Illinois April 2, 2014

Hello, everybody. I just got off the phone with Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Sandy Winnefeld to get the latest report on the situation in Fort Hood. Obviously, we're

following it closely. The situation is fluid right now. But my national security team is in close contact with not just the Defense Department, but the FBI. They are working with folks on the ground to determine exactly what happened to make sure that everybody is secure. And I want to just assure all of us that we're going to get to the bottom of exactly what happened.

Any shooting is troubling. Obviously, this reopens the pain of what happened at Fort Hood 5 years ago. We know these families. We know their incredible service to our country and the sacrifices that they make. Obviously, our thoughts and prayers were—are with the entire community. And we are going to do everything we can to make sure that the community at Fort Hood has what it needs to deal with the current situation, but also any potential aftermath.

We're heartbroken that something like this might have happened again. And I don't want

to comment on the facts until I know exactly what has happened, but for now, I would just hope that everybody across the country is keeping the families and the community of Fort Hood in our thoughts and in our prayers. The folks there have sacrificed so much on behalf of our freedom. Many of the people there have been on multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. They serve with valor, and they serve with distinction. And when they're at their home base, they need to feel safe. We don't yet know what happened tonight, but obviously, that sense of safety has been broken once again. And we're going to have to find out exactly what happened.

The Pentagon will undoubtedly have further briefings for you as we get more details about what happened. All right?

Thanks, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:46 p.m. at Chicago Cut Steakhouse.

## Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner in Chicago April 2, 2014

So, first of all, Grace and Craig have been just incredible friends and supporters for a really long time. And I just want to say thank you. And thanks, guys, for letting us crash your house. [*Laughter*]

I do think that the story Grace told is partly about roots and family and where do you start off. And I have to tell you, as I look around this room, I'm reminded of all the pieces of myself that are connected to individuals in this room. There are people who have been friends of mine for a couple of decades now. There are folks here who have been with me when nobody gave me a chance to even get to the U.S. Senate, much less the Presidency. There are people here who have been to Michelle and my wedding and have been at Mom N Tots watching our kids waddle around. [*Laughter*]

And so to have friends like this, to be home like this, even when the weather is like this—[*laughter*—is invigorating, and it reminds you of why you got into this business in the first place. Because you got a lot of people here

who have taught me a lot about community and friendship and family, and for that reason, I'm just really grateful, and I just want to say thank you to all of you.

I want to acknowledge our outstanding Governor of the great State of Illinois, Pat Quinn. I want to thank Henry Muñoz, who, although stuffed in a corner at the moment—[*laughter*—actually has been working tirelessly on behalf of Democrats. It is a thankless job, but he does it with good humor and grace, and he is a great friend, so we're so glad that he came up here.

I was a little bit late. Some of you may have heard there was another shooting at Fort Hood. We don't know the details, but we're monitoring the situation carefully. So I'm not going to give a long speech. I want to spend most of the time that I'm here answering questions and hearing from all of you.

Let me just say a couple of general points. First of all, the economy has bounced back in a way that is not only there yet, but when you