

And finally, we must honor these men by recognizing that they were members of a generation that has borne the burden of our security in more than a decade of war. Now our troops are coming home, and by the end of this year, our war in Afghanistan will finally be over.

In an era when fewer Americans know someone in uniform, every American must see these men and these women—our 9/11 generation—as the extraordinary citizens that they are. They love their families. They excel at their jobs. They serve their communities. They are leaders. And when we truly welcome our veterans home, when we show them that we need them—not just to fight in other countries, but to build up our own—then our schools and our businesses, our communities and our Nation, will be more successful, and America will be stronger and more united for decades to come.

Sergeant First Class Daniel Ferguson. Staff Sergeant Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez. Sergeant Timothy Owens. Like the 576 Fort Hood soldiers who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, they were taken from us much too soon. Like the 13 Americans we lost 5 years

ago, their passing shakes our soul. And in moments such as this, we summon once more what we've learned in these hard years of war. We reach within our wounded hearts. We lean on each other. We hold each other up. We carry on. And with God's amazing grace, we somehow bear what seems unbearable.

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." May God watch over these American soldiers, may He keep strong their families whose love endures, and may God continue to bless the United States of America with patriots such as these.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. in front of the III Corps Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, III Corps commander, Fort Hood; Spc. Ivan A. Gomez, USA, suspected gunman in the April 2 shooting at Fort Hood; Mike Myers, friend, Billy Lynn Humphrey Owens, wife, and Loredana Owens, daughter, of Sgt. Timothy W. Owens, USA, who was killed in the April 2 shooting; and Kristen Haley, fiancée of shooting victim Sfc. Daniel M. Ferguson, USA.

## Statement on Senate Action To Block Wage Equality Legislation April 9, 2014

Today Senate Republicans overwhelmingly blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act, preventing it from even receiving an honest debate, let alone a simple yes-or-no vote. The Paycheck Fairness Act is commonsense legislation that would strengthen the 1963 Equal Pay Act and reinforce our country's commitment to the principle of equal pay for equal work. Yesterday I took two actions that will make it easier for working women to earn fair pay, and my

administration will continue to do everything we can to make sure that every hard-working American earns the respect and wages that they deserve on the job. But Republicans in Congress continue to oppose serious efforts to create jobs, grow the economy and level the playing field for working families. That's wrong, and it's harmful for our national efforts to rebuild an economy that gives every American who works hard a fair shot to get ahead.

## Remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Dinner in Houston, Texas April 9, 2014

*The President.* Thank you. Everybody, sit down. Have a seat, have a seat. Have a seat.

Thank you. Well, first of all, I just want to thank John Eddie and Sheridan for building