

suffering and in celebration. We give thanks for the many blessings in our lives and renew our commitments to follow Christ's example by

loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves. We wish all who celebrate a blessed Easter.

## The President's Weekly Address

April 19, 2014

Hi, everybody. For millions of Americans, this time of year holds great meaning.

Earlier this week, we hosted a Passover Seder at the White House and joined Jewish families around the world in their retellings of the story of the Exodus and the victory of faith over oppression.

And this Sunday, Michelle, Malia, Sasha, and I will join our fellow Christians around the world in celebrating the resurrection of Christ, the salvation he offered the world, and the hope that comes with the Easter season.

These holy days have their roots in miracles that took place long ago. And yet they still inspire us, guide us, and strengthen us today. They remind us of our responsibilities to God and, as God's children, our responsibilities to one another.

For me and for countless other Christians, Holy Week, and Easter are times for reflection and renewal. We remember the grace of an awesome God, who loves us so deeply that He gave us his only Son so that we might live through Him. We recall all that Jesus endured for us—the scorn of the crowds, the agony of the cross—all so that we might be forgiven our sins and granted everlasting life. And we recommit our-

selves to following His example, to love and serve one another, particularly “the least of these” among us, just as He loves every one of us.

The common thread of humanity that connects us all—not just Christians and Jews, but Muslims and Hindus and Sikhs—is our shared commitment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. To remember, I am my brother's keeper, and I am my sister's keeper. Whatever your faith, believer or nonbeliever, there's no better time to rededicate ourselves to that universal mission.

For me, Easter is a story of hope, a belief in a better day to come, just around the bend. So to all Christians who are celebrating, from my family to yours, happy Easter. And to every American, have a joyful weekend.

Thanks, God bless you, and may God bless this country we love.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:55 a.m. on April 18 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on April 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 18, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 19.

## Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll

April 21, 2014

*The President.* Well, hello, everybody. Is everybody having fun? Happy Easter. This is the biggest event that we have at the White House all year long, and it is our most fun event, because we have a chance to see families from all across the country coming through here. My main and only job, other than officiating over the roll at some point, is to introduce, alongside the Easter Bunny, the person who makes

this all possible—we love her dearly—my wife, the First Lady, Michelle Obama.

*The First Lady.* Thank you, honey. Hey, everybody. Happy Easter Egg Roll Day. Isn't this exciting? It is so wonderful to have so many of you here today. We are celebrating the 136th Easter egg roll. The theme of this year's roll is “Hop Into Health [Healthy],<sup>o</sup> Swing Into Shape.” Yes, I love it.

<sup>o</sup> White House correction.

And it's going to be a great day. We have beautiful weather because the Easter egg roll is blessed. And we're going to have fun stuff going on. We've got the egg roll. We've got some storytelling. We've got entertainment. We've got wonderful athletes and performers like Cam and so many others. We've got obstacle courses and yoga and face painting and egg hunts. It's just going to be terrific. As Barack said, we love this event. This is the largest event that we do here on the South Lawn. We're going to have more than 30,000 people on the lawn today.

And we're just thrilled that this theme is focusing on one issue that is near and dear to my heart, and it's making sure that our young people are active and healthy. So while you're here, parents, look around. You're going to learn how to make healthy snacks that the kids will actually eat. I'm going to be over there on the chef's stage doing some demonstrations.

And I want to make sure that kids know that healthy eating and being active can be fun, because what today is about is having a whole lot of fun. And I hope you all do that, because we want our kids to be the healthiest and the strongest they can be so they can do well in school and live up to all of their

God-given potential. Isn't that right, parents?

*The President.* Right. Hey!

*The First Lady.* That's what we want for you all.

And we want to thank the Easter Bunny, as always, for being here. And I would be remiss if I didn't thank the hundreds of volunteers who make today possible. Thank you to our volunteers—

*The President.* Yay, volunteers!

*The First Lady.* —who have been out here setting up the South Lawn, who are going to make sure you guys get through these activities and have a great time.

So you all just enjoy. That's all you have to do from this point on, is have fun. And we'll be down there to participate in the egg roll. The President is going to read. I'm going to read a little bit. So we'll meet you down on the South Lawn, okay?

*The President.* All right.

*The First Lady.* All right. Have a great time. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:34 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In her remarks, the First Lady referred to Camren Anthony Sherman, a 12-year-old singer from Philadelphia, PA.

## Remarks at the Snohomish County Fire District 25/Oso Fire Department Firehouse in Arlington, Washington April 22, 2014

Well, good afternoon, everybody. I just had a chance to tour some of the damage from last month's mudslide and, most importantly, had a chance to spend some time with the families whose loved ones have been lost. I also had a chance to thank some of the amazing first responders, the firefighters, police officers, search-and-rescue crews, and members of the Washington National Guard who have been working around the clock to help this community recover from this devastating incident.

Governor Inslee, Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Congresswoman DelBene, Congressman Larsen, and the rest of the elected officials who are here, they've been relentless in making sure that Oso had the resources that it needs. And from the day of the tragedy, I've instructed my team to make sure that they get what they need to make sure that the search-and-rescue mission is going forward the way it should.

A FEMA Incident Management Assistance Team was on the ground immediately after the