

school, won a scholarship to Stanford. He showed kids from his neighborhood that they could make it. And if he seems a little brash, it's because you've got to have attitude sometimes if you are going to overcome some of this adversity. And the fact that he still goes back to inspire high schoolers for higher goals and making better choices, that's all-star behavior.

And he's not the only one giving back. Russell spends every Tuesday—even during the season—visiting sick kids at the Seattle Children's Hospital. Coach Carroll's A Better Seattle and A Better LA organization works to keep at-risk youth away from drugs and violence. Paul Allen's Family Foundation has given millions of dollars for medical research into traumatic brain injuries, which obviously is a concern in the NFL, but also is a concern to our troops and people all across the country. As a team, the Seahawks raised more than \$700,000 this year for causes like supporting our troops and strengthening our schools.

And that spirit of working hard and giving back has endeared this team to its fans in a way that most cities can't replicate. Now, part of it is you all have that stadium that is kind of cheating, because it's so loud. [Laughter] You hired some physicist to make it so. [Laughter] You know, it was—there are a lot of really smart people at Microsoft and up in those places that can design these things. [Laughter]

So we can't talk about the Seahawks without talking about the 12th Man. And—[applause]. Last season, "the 12s" set a record not once,

but twice, for the loudest crowd noise in history. [Laughter] Now, history is a long time, so that's really loud. [Laughter] So loud on multiple occasion, they've actually created minor earthquakes, which is disturbing. And you should think about that. [Laughter] After the Super Bowl, when they had the chance to celebrate, they let loose in true Seattle style. And while some got a little carried away, there's actually video of a huge group of Seahawks fans interrupting their celebration to wait for the walk sign before crossing an intersection. [Laughter] So that's Seattle for you. [Laughter]

So congratulations to the 12s, congratulations to the players, the coaches, the staff, the owners. Congratulations to the Seattle Seahawks and the whole city for an outstanding season. All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Richard K. Sherman and Byron S. Maxwell, cornerbacks, Earl V. Thomas, free safety, Kameron D. Chancellor, strong safety, Michael Bennett, Jr., and Joseph A. "Red" Bryant, defensive ends, Brandon J. Mebane, defensive tackle, Malcolm X. Smith, linebacker, William P. "Percy" Harvin and Douglas D. Baldwin, wide receivers, and Marshawn T. Lynch, running back, Seattle Seahawks; sports broadcaster and former NFL wide receiver Graduel "Cris" Carter; and Kevin and Beverly Sherman, parents of Mr. Sherman.

Remarks on Signing a Proclamation Establishing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

May 21, 2014

Thank you. Well, good afternoon, everybody. As somebody who lives in the neighborhood, I thought I might just drop by and see what all the fuss is about. [Laughter] I want to thank Sally for hosting me here today.

And I am thrilled to be with all of you because of your work, not to mention some of the art on the walls reminds me that one of the great blessings of being an American is that we

are blessed with some of the most beautiful landscapes and real estate on Earth. I think about the awe that I felt as a little boy the first time I saw the Grand Canyon. I think about the pride that I felt when I took my daughters to see Yellowstone. I think about the memories of what it's like to go on a hike without a security detail behind me. [Laughter] It's a wistful feeling. [Laughter]

But most of all, I think about our obligations to be good stewards to the next generation, to make sure that our children's children get the same chance to experience all of these natural wonders. So today I'm here to announce that I am using my executive authority to protect more of our pristine landscapes by designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region a national monument. [Applause] Good news. Now, I am grateful for the incredible partnership of so many residents of this region, including ranchers and tribal leaders and hunters and many of you here today, especially Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall and former Senator Jeff Bingaman, who were instrumental in helping preserve this treasured landscape. So—[applause].

Now, anyone who's ever seen the Organ Mountains that overlook Las Cruces, New Mexico, will tell you that they are a spectacular sight. Secretary Jewell told me as much after her visit there. You got massive rocks that jut up 9,000 feet in the air and stretch for 20 miles, like the organ pipes of a giant. And they're home to many of God's smaller creatures as well: deer and antelope roam; falcons, mountain lions. There are even plant species that don't grow anywhere else in the world.

But it's not just the natural beauty of this region that makes it invaluable to future generations. Its caves and peaks and cliffs bear the marks of millennia of history. From the rock art of some of the first native peoples living on the land to the trail traveled by some of the first overland mail carriers. Some of the most notorious adventures of the Wild West were written in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region.

More than 130 years ago, Billy the Kid took cover in the Robledo Mountains and literally left his mark, inscribing his name into what we now know as Outlaw Rock. You can see it today, and I want to make sure that future generations can see it as well. Legend has it that Apache Chief Geronimo hid in these same mountains and staged a miraculous escape from what is now called Geronimo's Cave.

Every year, tens of thousands of Americans visit the region to discover what still remains of

these landmarks and to explore what lies along its beautiful trails. Families go on vacation. Tribes return to uphold rich traditions. Archeologists dig for ancient artifacts. Scientists study a thriving environment. And all of it supports the local economy and jobs in the region.

So we're not just preserving history. Outdoor recreation at parks and forests and other public lands brings in tourism dollars, attracting new businesses and encouraging spending at lodgings and food establishments and, of course, park souvenirs. One recent study says that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks designation alone could double the number of visitors to the area and help grow the local economy by more than 70 percent.

It's impossible to put a price on towering peaks and pristine forests and America's cultural history, but we know that our national parks have an economic impact that extends beyond their boundaries. In 2012, hundreds of millions of recreational visits to public lands and waters generated over \$50 billion for local communities and supported nearly 900,000 jobs. So whether they're hiking or camping or fishing, visitors to our parks and public lands are not only enjoying the bounty of our natural resources, but also they're promoting jobs, and they're promoting growth. And continuing to set aside Federal land for outdoor recreation will drive critical revenue for those local communities and preserve our pristine lands for generations to come.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is the second national monument I've designated this year, the 11th overall. I've preserved more than 3 million acres of public lands for future generations. And I am not finished. So—[applause].

As I said in my State of the Union Address, I'm searching for more opportunities to preserve Federal lands where communities are speaking up. Because wherever I see an opening to get things done for the American people, I'm going to take it. I've said before: I want to work with anyone in Congress who is ready to get to work and shares those goals. But recently, they haven't gotten the job done.

Congress is sitting on dozens of bills that would help protect our precious land and wildlife. And by one count, there's a set of 10 land conservation bills that have been introduced a combined 52 times over the past 30 years, and they are still stuck. So I'm here to pick up a little bit of the slack. [Laughter] Because there is no time to waste to preserve our precious resources and give a shot in the arm to local economies like Las Cruces.

So I want to thank everybody again, not just here on stage, but all of those at the Department of the Interior who worked so hard on this project. And I want to thank all the public servants around the country for everything that you do to guide Americans through God-given wonders and keep our national landscapes

pristine, not just today, for—but for many years to come.

Thanks, everybody. And now I'm going to sign this proclamation. All right? Good.

Gather up, everybody. [Laughter]. Got to get all the pens in.

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

There we go. Done.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. at the Department of the Interior. The proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Deployment of United States Armed Forces Personnel to Chad

May 21, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Approximately 80 U.S. Armed Forces personnel have deployed to Chad as part of the U.S. efforts to locate and support the safe return of over 200 schoolgirls who are reported to have been kidnapped in Nigeria. These personnel will support the operation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area. The force will remain in Chad until its support in resolving the kidnapping situation is no longer required.

This action has been directed in furtherance of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority

to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate.

Remarks at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York

May 22, 2014

The President. Thank you. There must be some White Sox fans here somewhere. [Laughter] It is great to be here in Cooperstown. And I have to say that in addition to just wonderful people, those of you all across

America and around the world who have not been here, this is a gorgeous place. We came in by helicopter and had a chance to see the landscape, and it looks like a spectacular place to spend a few days, a week, however long you