

and Chairman Hinojosa for being here. And I am here today with my father, with my mother, who, along with my grandmother, raised my brother Joaquin and I as a single parent after the age of 8. And I'm here with the two ladies who have stolen my heart, my wife Erica and my daughter Carina.

To be your nominee, President Obama, is simply a blessing to me. I am here alone at the podium right now, but I stand on the shoulders of so many folks over the generations who have worked very hard and dreamt the American Dream and have reached it. And I feel blessed to have reached it as well. And especially to the great many folks in San Antonio, I want to say a huge *muchísimas gracias*—thank you very much—for your support.

And my brother Joaquin and I grew up on the West Side of San Antonio, taking public transportation and living in rental homes as we grew up. And it was there that both of us got a sense of what is possible in America and an understanding that just because you were of modest means does not mean that your aspirations or your opportunity ought to be limited. And it certainly means that you can have the talent to succeed and achieve the American Dream.

After 5 years as mayor of my hometown, I know this much: We are in a century of cities. America's cities are growing again, and housing is at the top of the agenda. I look forward to being part of a department that will help ensure that millions of Americans all across the country have the chance to get good, safe, affordable housing and to reach their American dreams. And if confirmed, I stand ready to assist you, Mr. President, your administration, and local officials across the country to ensure

that we do housing right and that because of it, more Americans achieve their dreams. Thank you very much.

The President. So I'm hoping for a quick confirmation. I think listening to these two individuals gives you a pretty good sense of why I'm nominating them for these positions. They're going to do outstanding work. I have—I told Shaun it's very rare where an announcement about an OMB confirmation gets people choked up. [Laughter] You're really milking that thing, man. [Laughter]

And I do want to point out that the mayor was remiss just in one last element in his remarks. I'm assuming that he's pulling for the Spurs to win the next two games.

Secretary-designate Castro. That's right. Go Spurs, go! [Laughter]

The President. Go Spurs, go. All right. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:43 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-designate of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell; Liza Gilbert, wife, and Milo and Lucas Donovan, sons, of Director-designate Donovan; and Carina V. Castro, daughter of Secretary-designate Castro. Director-designate Donovan referred to David G. Ellen, executive vice president and general counsel, Cablevision Systems Corporation, in his former capacity as president of the Harvard Law Review succeeding the President's tenure in that role; and Beth Cobert, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget. Secretary-designate Castro referred to his parents Jesse Guzman and Rosie Castro.

The President's Weekly Address May 24, 2014

Hi, everybody. It's Memorial Day weekend, a chance for Americans to get together with family and friends, break out the grill, and kick off the unofficial start of summer. More importantly, it's a time to remember the heroes whose sacrifices made these moments possible:

our men and women in uniform who gave their lives to keep our Nation safe and free.

From those shots fired at Lexington and Concord more than two centuries ago to our newest generation of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, our history shines with

patriots who answered the call to serve. They put their lives on the line to defend the country they love. And in the end, many gave that “last full measure of devotion” so that our Nation would endure.

Every single one of us owes our fallen heroes a profound debt of gratitude. Because every time we cast our votes or speak our minds without fear, it’s because they fought for our right to do that. Every chance we get to make a better life for ourselves and our families is possible because generations of patriots fought to keep America a land of opportunity, where anyone—of any race, of any religion, from any background—can make it if they try. Our country was born out of a desire to be free, and every day since, it’s been protected by our men and women in uniform, people who believed so deeply in America, they were willing to give their lives for it.

We owe them so much. So this Memorial Day, we’ll gather together, as Americans, to honor the fallen, with both public ceremonies and private remembrances. And I hope all Americans will take a moment this weekend to think of those who have died in service to our Nation. Say a prayer in their memories and for their families. Lay a flower where they’ve come to rest. Reach out to servicemembers, military families or veterans in your community, or

families who have lost a loved one, and let them know that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Most of all, let’s keep working to make sure that our country upholds our sacred trust to all who have served. In recent weeks, we’ve seen again how much more our Nation has to do to make sure all our veterans get the care that they deserve. And as Commander in Chief, I believe that taking care of our veterans and their families is a sacred obligation. It’s been one of the causes of my Presidency. And now that we’ve ended the war in Iraq, and as our war in Afghanistan ends as well, we have to work even harder as a nation to make sure all our veterans get the benefits and opportunities that they have earned. They’ve done their duty, and they ask nothing more than that this country does ours, now and for decades to come.

Happy Memorial Day, everybody. May God watch over our fallen heroes, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:20 a.m. on May 22 in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for broadcast on May 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 23, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on May 24.

Statement on the Presidential Election in Ukraine *May 25, 2014*

On behalf of all Americans, I congratulate the people of Ukraine for making their voices heard by voting in their Presidential election today. Despite provocations and violence, millions of Ukrainians went to the polls throughout the country and even in parts of eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatist groups sought to disenfranchise entire regions, some courageous Ukrainians still were able to cast their ballots. We commend the resolve of all those who participated, as well as the efforts of the Ukrainian Government to conduct these elections in the face of those threats.

Throughout the last few months, the Ukrainian people have repeatedly demonstrated

their desire to choose their leaders without interference and to live in a democracy where they can determine their own future free of violence and intimidation. This election is another important step forward in the efforts of the Ukrainian Government to unify the country and reach out to all of its citizens to ensure their concerns are addressed and aspirations met.

The United States looks forward to working with the next President, as well as the democratically elected Parliament, to support Ukraine’s efforts to enact important political and economic reforms. We also continue to support Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, condemn