

Jan. 8 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2014

since President Johnson dedicated us to this economic and moral mission, one constant of

our character has not: We are one Nation and one people, and we rise or fall together.

Statement on Representative Carolyn McCarthy's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

January 8, 2014

As a Representative of the people of New York in the U.S. Congress, Carolyn McCarthy has earned a reputation for principled and compassionate leadership. In particular, she's been at the forefront of the issue that brought her to Washington 17 years ago: reducing and preventing gun violence. She was also instrumental in the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall

Street Reform Act to prevent future financial crises and has been a leading advocate for improving education, especially college affordability. Like many across the Nation, Michelle and I admire Carolyn's determination and personal strength. We thank her for her service and send her and her family our warmest regards.

Statement on Representative Douglas C. "Mike" McIntyre's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

January 8, 2014

In his 17 years representing the people of North Carolina in the U.S. Congress, Mike McIntyre has been a strong advocate for our men and women in uniform and a key voice on issues that shape the lives of Americans in rural communities. He's also been an active participant in the annual National Prayer Breakfast, a reflection of his deep faith. Michelle and I

thank Congressman McIntyre for his service, and we wish him, his wife Dee, and their two sons the very best in the future.

NOTE: The statement referred to Dee Strickland McIntyre, wife of Rep. McIntyre, and their sons Joshua and Stephen.

Remarks on the Promise Zones Initiative

January 9, 2014

Good job. Thank you. Well, everybody, have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. And that was one of the best introductions I've ever had. *[Laughter]* So we're so proud of Kiara for that introduction and for sharing your story, and you're just so poised. And I know Geoff Canada is just out there all excited—*[laughter]*—and proud, so—and I know your mom is proud. I know she is. She should be.

Kiara and the rest of these young people grew up in a 97-square-block section of Harlem. It's a place where the odds used to be stacked against them every single day. Even just graduating from high school was a chal-

lenge. But with the help of some very dedicated adults and a program called the Harlem's Children's Zone, they're right on track to go to college. Together, students, teachers, administrators, parents, community, they're changing the odds in this neighborhood. And that's what we're here to talk about today: changing the odds for every American child so that no matter who they are, no matter where they are born, they have a chance to succeed in today's economy.

Now, the good news is that, thanks to the hard work and sacrifice of the American people all across the country over the last 5 years, our economy has grown stronger. Our busi-