

ments, all the nonprofits here for the work that you're already doing on the ground. We are going to scale this up. We are going to make this happen. Most of all, I want to thank Erick and some of the other folks who have experienced success, because—I told Erick before we came out here—when folks see him doing well, that gives them hope, and it reminds us that we can't afford to let such incredible talent be wasting away. We've got to get those folks back in the game, and that's what I'm committed to doing, and I know Joe is as well.

So thank you very much. I'm now going to sign our new Federal commitment. I appreciate you. And after this, I think you guys still have some more work to do. All right?

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

The President's Weekly Address *February 1, 2014*

Hi, everybody. This week, I delivered my State of the Union Address. Today here's the 3-minute version.

After 4 years of economic growth with 8 million new private sector jobs, our unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in more than 5 years. And with the economy speeding up, companies say they intend to hire more people this year.

But while those at the top are doing better than ever, average wages have barely budged. Inequality has deepened. Too many Americans are working harder and harder just to get by. And too many still aren't working at all.

Our job is to reverse those trends. It's time to restore opportunity for all people: the idea that no matter who you are, if you work hard and live up to your responsibilities, you can make it if you try.

The opportunity agenda I laid out on Tuesday has four parts. This week, I took them on the road. Job one is more new jobs: jobs in construction and manufacturing, jobs in innovation and energy. In Wisconsin, I talked with plant workers at GE about part two: training more Americans with the skills to fill those new

There you go. All right. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:39 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Erick Varela, apprentice electrician, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.; Oak Park, IL, resident Misty DeMars and her husband Leighton Taylor; Gregory Merrity, insurance adviser, GoHealth; Mayor Rahm I. Emanuel of Chicago, IL; Andrew N. Liveris, president, chairman, and chief executive officer, Dow Chemical Co.; Ursula M. Burns, chairman and chief executive officer, Xerox Corp.; and Randall L. Stephenson, chairman and chief executive officer, AT&T Inc. The memorandum is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

jobs. In Tennessee, I talked with students about part three: guaranteeing every child access to a world-class education, from early childhood, through college, and right into a career. And with steelworkers in Pittsburgh and retail workers in Maryland, I laid out part four: making sure hard work pays off for men and women, with wages you can live on, savings you can retire on, and health insurance that's there for you when you need it.

These ideas will strengthen the middle class and help more people work their way into the middle class. Some of them will require Congress. But wherever I can take steps to expand opportunity for more families on my own, I will. I'm going to ask business leaders, education leaders, and philanthropic leaders to partner with us to advance these goals.

And every single day, I'm going to fight for these priorities: to shift the odds back in favor of more working and middle class and to keep America a place where you can always make it if you try.

Thanks. Have a great weekend, and enjoy the Super Bowl.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:05 p.m. on January 31 in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for broadcast on February 1. The

transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 31, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on February 1.

Statement on the Death of Joan Adams Mondale *February 3, 2014*

Michelle and I send our deepest condolences to former Vice President Walter Mondale and his family on the passing of Joan Adams Mondale. America first came to know Joan through her husband; she was his devoted partner in public service, from Minnesota to Washington. A lifelong patron of the arts, Joan filled the Vice Presidential mansion with works by dozens of artists, including many unknowns, and later did the same at the U.S. Embassy in Japan during her husband's tenure as Ambassador. Through her contributions to the Feder-

al Council on the Arts and Humanities and the Kennedy Center, she passionately advocated for the role of art in the life of our Nation and the promotion of understanding worldwide. Our thoughts and prayers are with Vice President Mondale and his family today as we remember with gratitude "Joan of Art" and her service to our Nation.

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary as a statement by the President and the First Lady.

Remarks at Buck Lodge Middle School in Adelphi, Maryland *February 4, 2014*

Hello, everybody. Thank you so much. Well, can everybody please give Nelson a big round of applause for the outstanding job that he did? So Nelson just told me backstage he plans to be on—plans on being a Navy SEAL. So I was really nice to him now so he doesn't mess with me later. [*Laughter*] We are very proud of him, proud of all the students who are here today.

I want to thank Principal Richardson for the great job that he's doing. And I want to thank all the wonderful teachers who are here at Buck Lodge Middle School. Go Vikings!

I brought along some people who very much care about the future of these young people. We've got America's Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, in the house. We've got the FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and two of his fellow Commissioners who are here, doing great work. Congressman Steny Hoyer is in the house. County Executive Rushern Baker is here. And we've got some business leaders who've made some very big commitments today, because they know that your education is

the very best investment that all of us can make in America.

Now, last week, in my State of the Union Address, I spent some time talking about opportunity for everybody, which is at the heart of this country, the idea that no matter who you are, no matter what you look like—if you have a chair feel free to sit down. [*Laughter*] That wasn't actually my line, but I thought—[*laughter*]. But at the core of America, the essence of it, what makes us exceptional, is this idea: No matter what you look like, where you come from, what your last name is, if you're willing to work hard, if you're willing to live up to your responsibilities, you can make it here in America.

But each generation has to work hard to make sure that dream of opportunity stays alive for the next generation. And the opportunity agenda that I laid out last week will help us do that. It's focused on four areas: number one, more new jobs; number two, training folks with the skills to fill those jobs; number three, making sure our economy rewards hard work with