

very proud of this relationship, very proud of our personal friendship, and of the President's vision to alleviate the suffering of the region and his steadfast commitment to Muslims across the world to fight this extremist threat.

President Obama. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II of Jordan, who is a student at Georgetown University. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Newly Elected Governors *December 5, 2014*

Well, it is a great pleasure to welcome these newly elected Governors to the Oval Office. They represent a wide variety of States, but they all have a common interest, and that is, making sure that their constituents—who are also my constituents—are able to gain opportunity, work hard, prosper, feel secure. And that happens best when we work together, whether we're talking about Democrats and Republicans and Independents working together or whether we're talking about State, Federal, and local officials working together.

So I'm looking forward to having a great conversation with them on how we can build on some of the progress that's already been made. This morning we had a great jobs report showing over 300,000 new jobs created. We now have seen 57 straight months of private-sector job growth and the most jobs created this year since the 1990s. That's due to a lot of factors, but the main reason is because we've got great businesses and great workers. But what we want to make sure is that government is not an impediment, but is instead an acceler-

ant of that kind of job growth, and I know that all the Governors here feel the same way.

So I'm looking forward to talking to them about how we can help on education, transportation, the health and safety of their people. And my main message to them is that we're here to help. The good news about Governors is, they usually don't have time to be ideological because people expect them to deliver. And that's very much my attitude going into my last 2 years of office. So I look forward to having an opportunity to get to know all of them individually, but also to be able to deliver on behalf of their people. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:58 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Gov. William M. Walker of Alaska; and Governors-elect Bruce V. Rauner of Illinois, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., of Maryland, Charles D. Baker of Massachusetts, Thomas W. Wolf of Pennsylvania, Gina M. Raimondo of Rhode Island, and Gregory W. Abbott of Texas.

Statement on the First Anniversary of the Death of Former President Nelson R. Mandela of South Africa *December 5, 2014*

On this first anniversary of the passing of Nelson Mandela, Michelle and I send our thoughts and prayers to the Mandela family and all South Africans. One year ago, the world lost a leader whose struggle and sacrifices inspired us to stand up for our fundamental principles,

whose example reminded us of the enduring need for compassion, understanding, and reconciliation, and whose vision saw the promise of a better world. As we pause today to remember the legacy of Madiba, I hope we can all take a moment to reflect on how Mandela's life has

inspired our own and will impact the paths of generations to come, including the next generation of world leaders, as while Mandela left be-

hind a world more just and free, there is much more work to be done. On this day, and on every day, we honor his spirit and his memory.

The President's Weekly Address *December 6, 2014*

Hi, everybody. Just in time for the holiday season, we now have another piece of good news about the pace of our economic recovery. Last month, our businesses created 314,000 new jobs. And that's not a fluke. It keeps up the solid pace of job creation we've seen all year long. November was the 10th month in a row we've added more than 200,000 jobs. So far this year, our economy has created 2.65 million new jobs. That's the most of any year since the 1990s, even with a full month to go. All told, our businesses have created 10.9 million new jobs over the past 57 months. And that's the longest streak of private-sector job creation on record.

We also know that the upswing in job growth this year has come in industries with higher wages. Overall, wages are on the rise. And that's some very welcome news for millions of hard-working Americans. Because even though corporate profits and the stock market have hit alltime highs, the typical family isn't bringing home more than they did 15 years ago. And that still has to change. And a vibrant jobs market gives us the opportunity to keep up this progress and begin to undo that decades-long middle class squeeze.

But first, we need the outgoing Congress to pass a budget and keep our Government open. A Christmas shutdown is not a good idea. Then, when the new Congress convenes in January, we need to work together to invest in the things that support faster growth in higher paying jobs.

Building new roads and bridges creates jobs. Growing our exports creates jobs. Reforming our outdated tax system and our broken immigration system creates jobs. Raising the minimum wage would benefit nearly 28 million American workers, giving them more money to spend at local businesses, and that helps those businesses create jobs.

America, we still have a lot of work to do together. But we do have real, tangible evidence of our progress: 10.9 million new jobs, 10 million more Americans with health insurance. Manufacturing has grown. Our deficits have shrunk. Our dependence on foreign oil is down. Clean energy is up. More young Americans are graduating from high school and earning college degrees than ever before. Over the last 4 years, this country has put more people back to work than Europe, Japan, and every advanced economy combined.

The United States of America continues to outperform much of the world. And we are going to keep it up until every American feels the gains of a growing economy where it matters most: in your lives.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 1:15 p.m. on December 5 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on December 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 5, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on December 6.

Statement on the Death of Luke Somers *December 6, 2014*

The United States strongly condemns the barbaric murder of Luke Somers at the hands of Al Qaida terrorists during a rescue operation

conducted by U.S. forces in Yemen in partnership with the Yemeni Government. On behalf of the American people, I offer my deepest