

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.

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-

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.

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