

rica; and Mayor Sarah Z. Mendoabor of Tappita, Liberia. He also referred to the Islamic

State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization; and H.R. 83.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Vivik H. Murthy as United States Surgeon General

December 15, 2014

I applaud the Senate for confirming Vivek Murthy to be our country's next Surgeon General. As "America's Doctor," Vivek will hit the ground running to make sure every American has the information they need to keep themselves and their families safe. He'll bring his lifetime of experience promoting public health to bear on priorities ranging from stopping new diseases to helping our kids grow up

healthy and strong. Vivek will also help us build on the progress we've made combating Ebola, both in our country and at its source. Combined with the crucial support for fighting Ebola included in the bill to fund our Government next year, Vivek's confirmation makes us better positioned to save lives around the world and protect the American people here at home.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack at the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan

December 16, 2014

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms today's horrific attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan. Our hearts and prayers go out to the victims, their families, and loved ones. By targeting students and teachers in this heinous attack, ter-

rorists have once again shown their depravity. We stand with the people of Pakistan and reiterate the commitment of the United States to support the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and to promote peace and stability in the region.

Statement on the Observance of Hanukkah

December 16, 2014

Over the 8 nights of Hanukkah, Jews across America, Israel, and the world will remember an ancient triumph of freedom over oppression and renew their faith in the possibility of miracles large and small.

Even in the darkest, shortest days of winter, the Festival of Lights brims with possibility and hope. The courage of the Maccabees reminds us that we too can overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. The candles of the menorah remind us that even the small-

est light has the power to shine through the darkness. And the miracle at the heart of Hanukkah—the oil that lasted for 8 nights instead of only 1—reminds us that even when the future is uncertain, our best days are yet to come.

May this Hanukkah embolden us to do what is right, shine a light on the miracles we enjoy, and kindle in all of us the desire to share those miracles with others. From my family to yours, *Chag Sameach*.