

ful oppressors. In the face of overwhelming odds, they reclaimed their city and the right to worship as they choose.

And after their victory, the Maccabees found there wasn't enough oil to keep the flame in their temple alive. But they lit the oil that they had. And miraculously, the flame that was supposed to burn for just 1 night burned for 8. The Hanukkah story teaches us that our light can shine brighter than even we could imagine, with a little bit of faith and making sure that it's up to us to provide that first spark.

The menorahs that we're about to light remind us of our power to make miracles happen. It was one of four that were brought here from Israel, and was built by children in Yemin Orde, a village in Israel founded in 1953 to provide a safe haven to orphans and young immigrants after the Holocaust. More than 60 years later, Yemin Orde still gives children in Israel a shot at a brighter future. And tonight Atakalit Tesfaye, a graduate of Yemin Orde, will help us light the Hanukkah candles.

He will be joined by Dr. Adam Levine. Now, I just want to be clear, this is not—[laughter]—Adam Levine, People's magazine's Sexiest Man Alive—[laughter]—although he's a pretty sexy guy. [Laughter] This is actually Dr. Adam Levine, Time's Person of the Year. Along with his compatriots, Adam, who recent-

ly returned from Liberia, has been doing heroic work for Ebola patients, saving lives.

Yemin Orde is just one village. But the story of Hanukkah teaches us that there's no such thing as a futile act of courage or a small act of faith. One doctor can save a life. One school can help a child. That life, that child, may change a village. One person can be the spark that changes the world.

So, as we gather with family and friends, let's give thanks to the miracles that we've been blessed with in our own lives, miracles large and small—same ringtone. [Laughter] And during this Festival of Lights, let's commit ourselves to making new miracles and to sharing them with the world.

I'd now like to invite Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, from Manhattan, to lead us in the blessing and candle lighting. Rabbi.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:03 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jonathan A. Greenblatt, Director, White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation; former U.S. Agency for International Development contractor Alan P. Gross; Adam C. Levine, assistant professor of emergency medicine, Brown University; musician Adam Levine; and Angela Warnick Buchdahl, senior rabbi, Central Synagogue in New York City.

Statement on Signing the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 December 18, 2014

Today I have signed H.R. 5859, the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, into law. Signing this legislation does not signal a change in the administration's sanctions policy, which we have carefully calibrated in accordance with developments on the ground and coordinated with our allies and partners. At this time, the administration does not intend to impose sanctions under this law, but the Act gives the administration additional authorities that could be utilized if circumstances warranted.

My administration will continue to work closely with allies and partners in Europe and

internationally to respond to developments in Ukraine and will continue to review and calibrate our sanctions to respond to Russia's actions. We again call on Russia to end its occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, cease support to separatists in eastern Ukraine, and implement the obligations it signed up to under the Minsk agreements.

As I have said many times, our goal is to promote a diplomatic solution that provides a lasting resolution to the conflict and helps to promote growth and stability in Ukraine and regionally, including in Russia. In this context, we continue to call on Russia's

leadership to implement the Minsk agreements and to reach a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflict which respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We remain prepared to roll back

sanctions should Russia take the necessary steps.

NOTE: H.R. 5859, approved December 18, was assigned Public Law No. 113-272.

Statement on the Appointment of Avril D. Haines as Deputy National Security Adviser *December 18, 2014*

Today I have the pleasure of naming Avril Haines as my Deputy National Security Advisor. Avril has been a key member of my national security team since early in the administration, including in her previous role as the National Security Council's Legal Adviser and in her current capacity as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. A model public servant, Avril is respected across the Government for her intelligence, work ethic, and humility, which she has displayed in positions spanning the three branches of Government. I

have the utmost trust and confidence in Avril, and I know she will continue to play a critical role in my administration's efforts to keep our Nation secure and promote American interests and values around the world.

Just as we welcome Avril, I again wish to thank and commend Antony Blinken, whom the Senate confirmed on Tuesday as Deputy Secretary of State. I look forward to continuing to work with Tony in his new capacity, and I am confident that Avril will fill his shoes expertly.

The President's News Conference *December 19, 2014*

The President. Hello, everybody. We've really got a full house today, huh? Well, all I want for Christmas is to take your questions. [*Laughter*] But first let me say a little bit about this year.

In last year's final press conference, I said that 2014 would be a year of action and would be a breakthrough year for America. And it has been. Yes, there were crises that we had to tackle around the world, many that were unanticipated. We have more work to do to make sure our economy, our justice system, and our Government work not just for the few, but for the many. But there is no doubt that we can enter into the new year with renewed confidence that America is making significant strides where it counts.

The steps that we took early on to rescue our economy and rebuild it on a new foundation helped make 2014 the strongest year for job growth since the 1990s. All told, over a 57-month streak, our businesses have created

nearly 11 million new jobs. Almost all the job growth that we've seen have been in full-time positions. Much of the recent pickup in job growth has been in higher paying industries. And in a hopeful sign for middle class families, wages are on the rise again.

Our investments in American manufacturing have helped fuel its best stretch of job growth also since the 1990s. America is now the number-one producer of oil, the number-one producer of natural gas. We're saving drivers about 70 cents a gallon at the pump over last Christmas. And effectively, today, our rescue of the auto industry is officially over. We've now repaid taxpayers every dime and more of what my administration committed, and the American auto industry is on track for its strongest year since 2005. And we've created about half a million new jobs in the auto industry alone.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, about 10 million Americans have gained health insur-