

So I'll just close with a story of a guy named Ramone, because we're rooting for guys like Ramone. Ramone spent 8 years in the military, served in Afghanistan, served in Iraq. Ramone here? Raise your hand, Ramone.

So Ramone is somebody who fought for our freedom, fought for our security. But sometimes, we give lip service to supporting our troops, and then when they come home, they get lost. So when Ramone came home, he had a hard time finding a job because it was a tough economy. He didn't want to be a burden on his family, so he moved into a homeless shelter, took whatever work he could get. And then, one day in 2012, a VA counselor that he'd been working with handed him an application from Ford. Ford was hiring for new shifts.

Imagine what Ramone felt the day he knocked on his grandpa's door—his grandfather who had spent 25 years building Mustangs in Dearborn—and Ramone was able to tell his grandfather he got a job at Ford. And now Ramone has got his own place. And now Ramone has got a good job right on the line here in Wayne. And every day, he's doing just what his grandfather did. And he's proud. He's punch-

ing in and building some of the best cars in the world.

If you want to know what America is about, about grit and determination and hard work and sacrifice and looking out for one another and not giving up, think about Ramone. Think about Detroit. Think about the auto industry. Think about the Midwest. Think about Michigan. Think about America.

When our assembly lines grind to a halt, we work together, we get them going again. We don't give up. We get up, we fight back. We come back stronger than before. Thanks to the hard work of people like you, America is coming back. And I'm going to be on your side every step of the way.

Thank you, Michigan. God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Mia Dew, employee, and William C. Ford, Jr., executive chairman, Ford Motor Co.; and Matthew Stafford, quarterback, and Calvin "Megatron" Johnson, wide receiver, National Football League's Detroit Lions. He also referred to Mr. Ford in his capacity as vice chairman of the Detroit Lions.

## Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Paris, France

*January 7, 2015*

I strongly condemn the horrific shooting at the offices of Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris that has reportedly killed 12 people. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this terrorist attack and the people of France at this difficult time. France is America's oldest ally and has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States in the fight against terrorists who threaten our shared security and the world. Time and again, the French people

have stood up for the universal values that generations of our people have defended. France and the great city of Paris where this outrageous attack took place offer the world a timeless example that will endure well beyond the hateful vision of these killers. We are in touch with French officials, and I have directed my administration to provide any assistance needed to help bring these terrorists to justice.

## Statement on the Observance of Orthodox Christmas

*January 7, 2015*

Michelle and I wish all Orthodox Christians in the United States and in the diverse Orthodox communities throughout the world a

blessed and joyous Christmas. During this season of peace and fellowship, we have been saddened to see that, around the world, some

Orthodox communities face difficult times and an uncertain future. We underscore the United States commitment to promoting the freedom of religion that is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and

that is the birthright of every person, everywhere. We join the Orthodox community this holiday season in celebration and in prayer for greater peace and justice throughout the world.

## Remarks at the Nueva Villas at Beverly Housing Development in Phoenix, Arizona

January 8, 2015

Well, listen, I just had a chance to hear from Edmundo and David—you guys don't have to go anywhere—[laughter]—about this development. Nueva Villas was originally a private development, but the timing obviously was tough because it happened right as the housing market here in Arizona and across the country was plummeting. And because of the great work that this nonprofit has done, but also because of assistance from HUD, what the community has been able to do is, through a nonprofit, purchase some of these homes that were empty and vacant, hire local residents to help reconstruct them, and now they're able to make homes available to working families. A family of four that maybe makes \$40,000 or \$60,000 a year has a chance to buy a beautiful home in a terrific neighborhood.

The market is stabilizing. And what's even better, some of the money that they then get as a consequence of the sale to these new families, they're able to use to rehab and move in even more families. And so it's a program that's working well. It's one example of some of the steps that we've taken in order to strengthen the housing market.

The thing I'm going to be announcing today is a new policy in which the fees that are charged by the FHA for loans are going to be reduced and could save a family like this, one that's buying through FHA a home, could save them as much as \$900 a year, which obviously

makes a big difference if their payment is 900 bucks a month. It could be a full month's payment that they're saving, and that could make all the difference for a family that is owning its first home.

And over time, this is going to potentially have an impact over millions of families all across the country. It should help further accelerate growth in the housing market and stabilizing prices in areas like Arizona that have a long way to come back. And it's just one more example of the kinds of steps that we can take to build on the progress that's already been made. Housing has come back, but we can do even better. There are still families out there that could benefit from great homes like this one, and we want to make sure that everybody has that access to that piece of the American Dream.

So we're really thrilled by—that we're able to make this announcement. I couldn't be prouder of Secretary Castro for the work that HUD is doing in helping make a home like this available to families who need it. As you can see here, the neighborhood, it is really looking great.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. outside a model home. In his remarks, he referred to Edmundo Hidalgo, president and chief executive officer, and David Adame, chief economic development officer, Chicanos Por La Causa.

## Remarks at Central High School in Phoenix

January 8, 2015

*The President.* Hello, Arizona! Well—hey! Happy New Year, Arizona. Go Bobcats!

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* I love you back.