

time, to limiting their emissions. And because the world's two largest economies came together, there's new hope that, with American leadership, this year, the world will finally reach an agreement to prevent the worst impacts of climate change before it's too late.

This is an issue that's bigger and longer lasting than my Presidency. It's about protecting our God-given natural wonders and the good jobs that rely on them. It's about shielding our cities and our families from disaster and harm. It's about keeping our kids healthy and safe. This is the only planet we've got. And years from now, I want to be able to look our chil-

dren and grandchildren in the eye and tell them that we did everything we could to protect it.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:05 p.m. on April 16 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on April 18. In the address, the President referred to U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 17, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 18.

Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing April 19, 2015

Twenty years ago today in Oklahoma City, two terrorists attacked their own country, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more. We will never forget the men and women who lost their lives in the bombing that day. The passing of time will never extinguish the pain we feel. But if those murderers hoped to terrorize the American people that day, to break our spirits or shatter the bonds that unite us, then they completely and utterly failed. We will be forever grateful to the first responders who risked their lives to save others, the law enforcement officers and prosecutors who brought the perpetrators to justice, and the or-

dinary men and women who set an "Oklahoma standard" for resilience that we still hold today.

It is with heavy hearts that Michelle and I send our condolences to the families of those we lost 20 years ago. And it is with great pride that we send our deepest gratitude to all those who have served as an example of America at its best.

NOTE: The statement referred to Terry L. Nichols, who was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK, on April 19, 1995.

Remarks Honoring the 2014 College Football Playoff National Champion Ohio State University Buckeyes April 20, 2015

The President. O—H!

Audience members. I—O!

The President. O—H!

Audience members. I—O!

The President. O—H!

Audience members. I—O! [*Laughter*]

The President. That last one was a little weak there. The—everybody, please have a seat. Welcome to the White House. And give it up for the 2014 college football National Champions, the Ohio State Buckeyes!

You may have noticed, we have a lot of Buckeye fans here today, including some Members of Congress. Representative Joyce Beatty was once a leader in the OSU community, and now she represents the OSU community here in Congress.

I want to thank the Ohio State University president, Michael Drake, who is here; Athletic Director Gene Smith; and of course, Coach Urban Meyer. So this is Ohio State Football's eighth National Championship. It's Coach

Meyer's third time winning it, with his second team, which is pretty impressive. I've only done it twice. [Laughter] And for the same team both times. [Laughter]

This was an historic year in college football. The country got to enjoy its first-ever college football playoffs. And I will say it: It was about time. I cannot claim full credit—[laughter]—I will point out that I pushed for a playoff system in 2008. [Laughter] I'd say I threw my weight around. Political—PolitiFact, which keeps track of whether politicians keep their promises, this is a promise kept by me. [Laughter] So you're welcome, America. It was a great playoffs. [Laughter]

It was an exciting season from start to finish. And to say that Ohio State's path to the title felt improbable at times would be an understatement. At one point last year, the Buckeyes were ranked as low as 23d in the Nation. But they kept on battling back, with the help of not one, not two, but three quarterbacks. First, they lost Braxton Miller, a Heisman contender, before the season even started. Then, J.T. Barrett, Big Ten Quarterback of the Year, steps in, has an extraordinary run, but then breaks his ankle against a certain team up north—I guess I'm not allowed to—[laughter]. I'm not allowed to—[applause]. And then, we learned that Cardale Jones is not your average third-string quarterback. [Laughter] Anybody with a nickname like Twelve Gauge has to be taken seriously. [Laughter] I told him that I could throw a football 75 yards also, but he didn't believe me. [Laughter] So he's—he clearly is a smart kid. [Laughter]

But the Buckeyes hit their stride when it mattered most, pitched a 59–0 shutout in the Big Ten Championship, earning their way into the playoff spot, beat top-ranked Alabama in the first round, then rolled up a decisive win against the Oregon Ducks for the eighth National Championship.

At critical moments throughout the season, we learned about the character of this football team. And we met the characters who made up the football team along the way. Like Joey Bosa, Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Joey—where's Joey? Right there. A consensus

All-American, led the conference in sacks in 2014, including the one that ended the double-overtime game against Penn State. Followed each one with his signature celebration: a shrug. [Laughter] Just saying. I use that move sometimes. [Laughter] Now, Joey's hair may be short now—and he looks good. I actually like it shorter.

Defensive lineman Joey Bosa. I look good for you.

The President. See, I appreciate that. [Laughter] But he assures us that the shrug would be back next year. [Laughter]

Wide receiver Evan Spencer was named team MVP in 2014 for his selfless play, great blocking and even a perfectly thrown touchdown pass to Michael Thomas in the Sugar Bowl. Evan, go ahead and wave. And in addition to rushing for over 1,800 yards behind an extraordinary offensive line—as good as we've seen in a very long time—and earning the championship game MVP, Ezekiel Elliott made the NCAA fashion police take a close look at their midriff policies. [Laughter] Where's Zeke? Thanks for tucking in your shirt today. We appreciate that. [Laughter]

Running back Ezekiel Elliott. You need to get that rule changed.

He said I needed to get the rule changed. Did you see that? [Laughter] Look, I already got the playoff, all right? [Laughter] I've got other stuff to do now. [Laughter]

But in all seriousness, this was a team of true character, of true resilience. As I said to them when I had a chance to shake the hands of all the players, everybody is going to go through ups and downs in life, and how folks handle it, how the quarterbacks on this team supported each other, that's what every organization wants to see—is people stepping up for each other. And not only did they do it on the field; they made Ohio proud off the field. Each year, the Buckeyes pay forward their good fortune with more than a thousand hours of community service and charitable efforts in Central Ohio: visiting young patients in hospitals, helping second graders improve their reading, building playgrounds, supporting the Special

Olympics, stocking shelves for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

So the love between this team and their community is mutual. I will say when you get a hundred thousand fans to show up to a practice—[laughter]—I think it's fair to say that your fans are a little crazy. [Laughter] But obviously it's working for them and it's working for this extraordinary team.

So, Coach Meyer, congratulations to you and the Ohio State University for your National Championship. Good luck this season coming up.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Thomas, wide receiver, Ohio State University football team.

Remarks Honoring the 2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion April 21, 2015

Hello, everybody! Please have a seat. Welcome to the White House on this beautiful day. And congratulations to Kevin Harvick, the 2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion. Hey! It is always wonderful to have the NASCAR family here. We've got huge fans in the White House, and we've got some big fans, including some Members of Congress who are here.

It's great to have Kevin's crew chief, Rodney Childers, who is here. We've also got Greg Zipadelli—almost messed it up there; it's like Obama, too many vowels—[laughter]—and the team from Stewart-Haas Racing. NASCAR's leadership is here as well. Brian France is here, and Mike Helton. Welcome back.

And even though the Budweiser Chevy got the White House parking pass this year, I am sure Tony Stewart doesn't mind adding another Owner's Championship to his collection. So congratulations to Tony.

I also want to offer my condolences to everybody in the NASCAR community on the passing of a legendary reporter and broadcaster, Steve Byrnes. And I know a lot of fans' thoughts and prayers today are with his wife Karen and his son Bryson.

We are here to celebrate, though, Kevin Harvick. This was an exciting year for the "Four Car." As the season started, Kevin had a new team, a new crew chief to adjust to. It usually takes a little time for a driver and a crew chief to find their groove, but Kevin and Rodney seemed to figure out each other in a hurry, sort of like when Joe Biden joined my team. [Laughter]

So they had an instant chemistry. And as Kevin can tell you, when you have a trusted

partner shouting world-class advice into your ear at every turn, you can't lose. [Laughter]

It wasn't long before Kevin and Rodney and the team behind Budweiser Chevy were firing on all cylinders. But the season was not without its ups and downs. By the second race in the season, Kevin had picked up his first checkered flag with Stewart-Haas. And then, came a tough stretch, the kind where most champion seasons are forged. There were blown tires, engine failures, cut oil lines, a slew of obstacles that held the "Four Car" from finishing any higher than 36th out of—in three out of four straight races.

But Kevin and Rodney stuck with it, and by the time the Chase rolled around, this team was ready. A win at Homestead capped a season where Kevin picked up five wins, led more laps than anybody on the grid, picking up his first Sprint Cup champion—Championship. And by the looks of it, with two quick wins and the points lead already in place, 2015 isn't shaping up to be too much different.

Kevin has also found the time to match his contributions on the track with his commitment to family and community away from racing. His wife DeLana and his son Keelan are constant presences on the track. And I know at one point, DeLana even had her own fire suit. I'm sure it looked better than it did on Kevin. And I'm sure that if Michelle decided we were going to start wearing matching outfits, it would be me who adapted to her style. [Laughter]

Together, Kevin and DeLana run the Kevin Harvick Foundation, which aims to help un-