

The point is, is that we're going to disagree on politics sometimes, but we don't have to be so viciously divided as a people. We all know what God and Grandma taught us to do. [Laughter] Whoever we are—Republican, Democrat, male, female, young, old, Black, White, gay, straight—we all share a common vision for our future. We want a better country for your generation and for your kids' generation, a place where, as Steve wrote, everybody has "a place at the table." I want that country to be one that shows the world what I know is still to be true, that we are still not a collection of just red States and blue States, we are still the United States of America.

So we've made it through some hard times, but we've laid a new foundation, Jay-hawks. We've got a new future to write. The young people here are going to write a new future for America. Let's get started right now.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Alyssa Cole, student, University of Kansas; former Sen. Robert J. Dole; and Julia Ozark, wife of Lawrence, KS, resident Steve Ozark.

Statement on the 42d Anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision in *Roe v. Wade* January 22, 2015

Forty-two years ago today, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that protects a woman's freedom to make her own choices about her body and her health and reaffirms a fundamental American value that government should not intrude in our most private and personal family matters.

I am deeply committed to protecting this core constitutional right, and I believe that efforts like H.R. 7, the bill the House considered today, would intrude on women's reproductive freedom and access to health care and unnecessarily restrict the private insurance choices

that consumers have today. The Federal Government should not be injecting itself into decisions best made between women, their families, and their doctors. I am also deeply committed to continuing our work to reduce unintended pregnancies, support maternal and child health, promote adoptions, and minimize the need for abortion.

Today, as we reflect on this critical moment in our history, may we all rededicate ourselves to ensuring that our daughters have the same rights, freedoms, and opportunities as our sons.

Statement on the United Nations General Assembly Meeting on the Rise of Anti-Semitism January 22, 2015

Earlier this week, in my State of the Union Address, I affirmed our commitment and responsibility as Americans to speak out against the deplorable resurgence of anti-Semitism in certain parts of the world. Today the United States is joining partners from around the world in doing just that. At the request of the United States and 36 other nations, the United Nations General Assembly will gather to discuss the growing scourge of anti-Semitism. It is

the first such meeting of the General Assembly and an important moment both in confronting this global challenge and in our ongoing work to promote the universal rights and fundamental freedoms memorialized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Anti-Semitic attacks like the recent terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris pose a threat that extends beyond the Jewish community. They also threaten the values we hold dear:

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pluralism, diversity, and the freedoms of religion and expression. Moreover, when the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Jews are repressed, the rights and freedoms of other minorities and other sectors are often not far behind. For all these reasons, combating anti-Semitism

is an essential responsibility for all of us. Every nation, every region, and every community must do its part. I call on the members of the U.N. General Assembly to lend their voice to this struggle and pledge the unwavering support of the United States as we wage this fight together.

Statement on the Death of Former Senator Wendell H. Ford *January 22, 2015*

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of former Senator Wendell Ford. A veteran, businessman, Governor, and four-term Senator, Wendell dedicated his life to the people of Kentucky. He believed deeply in fairness: everyone doing their part, everyone getting a fair shot. A formidable political strategist, he fought to make sure all Americans had equal access to the polls, championed paying workers a decent wage and extending a helping hand to

those looking for work, and mentored scores of young people who entered public service with Wendell's advice and support. Few in politics were as admired as he, and few have had as great an impact on his beloved Kentucky. Wendell leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of service and a Commonwealth and country that are stronger and fairer thanks to him. Michelle and I send our condolences to his wife Jean and all the members of the Ford family.

Statement on the Death of King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia *January 22, 2015*

It is with deep respect that I express my personal condolences and the sympathies of the American people to the family of King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz and to the people of Saudi Arabia. King Abdallah's life spanned from before the birth of modern Saudi Arabia through its emergence as a critical force within the global economy and a leader among Arab and Islamic nations. He took bold steps in advancing the Arab Peace Initiative, an endeavor that will outlive him as an enduring contribution to the search for peace in the region. At home, King Abdallah's vision was dedicated to the ed-

ucation of his people and to greater engagement with the world.

As our countries worked together to confront many challenges, I always valued King Abdallah's perspective and appreciated our genuine and warm friendship. As a leader, he was always candid and had the courage of his convictions. One of those convictions was his steadfast and passionate belief in the importance of the U.S.-Saudi relationship as a force for stability and security in the Middle East and beyond. The closeness and strength of the partnership between our two countries is part of King Abdallah's legacy. May God grant him peace.

Remarks to the United States Conference of Mayors *January 23, 2015*

Thank you! Hey! Good to see you, mayors. Good to see you. All right, everybody, have a seat, have a seat. I would have thought that would bring back bad memories for Kevin, playing that song. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Kevin for that introduction. I have to say that that introduction is longer than my remarks and more exciting. *[Laughter]* So I'm feeling a little outshone here by Kevin. But as everybody knows, Kevin has that