

*Jan. 22 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2015*

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