

And so I am very pleased to congratulate this outstanding team behind me, not only for winning a championship, but for being great representatives of not only the WNBA, but of basketball as a whole.

And with that, I think Diana has a few words that she's going to say. And I just want to warn—last year, somebody slipped off the podium wearing high heels. [*Laughter*] So I want you—so I just—before anything else happens. She saved herself. I was impressed because she was coming off the second riser. But it was a little stressful. So, all right, Diana, come on.

Guard Diana L. Taurasi. Well, on behalf of the Phoenix Mercury and the WNBA, we want to give you a 2014 WNBA Championship jersey.

The President. Nice!

Ms. Taurasi. It's an XL. [*Laughter*] So we might have to get on the Atkins. But thank you very much for having us, Mr. President.

[*At this point, the President was presented with a team jersey.*]

The President. Thank you so much.

Ms. Taurasi. It's an honor.

The President. Thank you. You bet. Thank you. Let's strike this podium.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:31 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brittney Griner, center, Candice Dupree and Penelope J. Taylor, forwards, DeWanna Bonner, guard/forward, and Erin V. Phillips, former guard, Phoenix Mercury.

Statement on the Death of Amelia Boynton Robinson

August 26, 2015

Amelia Boynton Robinson was a dedicated and courageous leader in the fight for civil rights. For most of her 104 years, Amelia committed herself to a simple, American principle: that everybody deserves the right to vote. Fifty years ago, she marched in Selma, and the quiet heroism of those marchers helped pave the way for the landmark Voting Rights Act. But for the rest of her life, she kept marching: to make sure the law was upheld and barriers to the polls torn down. And America is so fortunate she did. To honor the

legacy of an American hero like Amelia Boynton requires only that we follow her example: that all of us fight to protect everyone's right to vote. Earlier this year, in Selma, Michelle and I had the honor to walk with Amelia and other foot soldiers of the civil rights movement. She was as strong, as hopeful, and as indomitable of spirit—as quintessentially American—as I'm sure she was that day 50 years ago. And we offer our thoughts, our prayers, and our enduring gratitude to everyone who loved her.

Remarks Following a Tour of the Faubourg Lafitte Neighborhood in New Orleans, Louisiana

August 27, 2015

Okay, I'm going to have a chance to make a longer set of remarks later, but I just wanted to point out where we are. The Faubourg Lafitte area in Tremé is part of one of the most historic districts in New Orleans and Louisiana and America. A lot of folks think this is where jazz really first started taking root. It is obviously close to downtown and the French Quarter, one of the most important

historic African American communities in the country.

And like so much of this area, it was devastated during the storm. But what you're seeing here is an example of the incredible Federal, State, local partnerships that have helped to revitalize this community—not just with this housing, which is all new and was helped—funded through a program called Hope IV—but

also a new school in that direction, a new community center in that direction. And part of our goal has always been to make sure not just that we recovered from the storm, but also that we started dealing with some of the structural inequities that existed long before the storm happened.

And I'm going to say nice things about him later, but I'm going to make sure to say that none of this would have happened had it not been for the outstanding leadership of Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who has been just an unbelievable partner throughout this entire process. We're really proud of what he's doing. You can see the results here.

Now, just because the houses are nice doesn't mean our job is done. This is a community, obviously, that still has a lot of poverty. This is an area where young people still, too often, are taking the wrong path before they graduate from high school. This is a community that still needs resources and still needs help.

But the fact that we can make this many strides 10 years after a terrible, epic disaster, I think, is an indication of the kind of spirit that we have in this city. And it's reflected in our Mayor. So we're proud of you.

Okay, guys, we're going to see you later.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Efforts in New Orleans

August 27, 2015

I am here at the Sanchez Community Center, and we've got some outstanding State officials, local officials; Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana; some folks like Thad Allen, who were involved in the early recovery efforts here in Katrina; philanthropies like the Red Cross and the Rockefeller Foundation; and local community leadership like the Foundation for Louisiana and the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center.

And what we've been doing is just looking at the lessons that have been learned over the course of the last decade and sharing a sense of pride for the excellent coordination that's taken place between Federal, State, and local governments in the rebuilding process, but also some humility and some sense of urgency about the work that still needs to be done.

So we had a chance to talk about the progress that's been made around protecting New Orleans and protecting the Louisiana coast and water management. And behind me, you can see all kinds of charts and maps that indicate that we now have one of the best water management systems and storm management systems in the world right here in New Orleans, thanks to the work of State and local authorities as well as the Army Corps of Engineers.

We talked about the need to continue to restore wetlands and the natural barriers that can mitigate the harm from significant storms.

So that's infrastructure resilience. We also talked about community resilience and human resilience. And what's, I think, been critically important over the last decade is to recognize that it's one thing to stop water from pouring in, it's another thing to make sure that individuals and families have the resources and the structure to rebuild after a tough storm hits. And that means that attention has to be paid to housing; attention has to be paid to employment; attention has to be paid to preparedness; attention has to be paid to equity. And the city of New Orleans, with the help of some private sector as well as public dollars, has been doing some terrific work in making sure that the rebuilding process integrates all those concerns.

And we also talked about lessons learned going forward and how we can share the data that's been learned over the last decade with other communities. So, for example, Robin Barnes of Greater New Orleans, Inc., who specializes in helping small businesses and economic development, actually has worked with us on the Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts, because New Orleans is increasingly becoming