

Statement on the Crash of a United States Air Force C-130J Aircraft in Jalalabad, Afghanistan

October 2, 2015

Michelle and I extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the six U.S. airmen and five contractors who lost their lives in a military plane crash in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, yesterday. In addition to the Americans we mourn, we also are saddened that Afghan civilians lost their lives in this incident. As we mark this terrible loss of life, we are reminded of the sacrifice brave Americans and our Afghan partners make each and every day in the name of freedom

and security. Their willingness to serve so selflessly will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims' families and loved ones during this difficult hour. May God bless their souls.

NOTE: The statement referred to Capt. Jonathan Golden, USAF; Capt. Jordan Pierson, USAF; S. Sgt. Ryan Hammond, USAF; SrA Quinn Johnson-Harris, USAF; SrA Nathan Sartain, USAF; and A1C Kcey E. Ruiz, USAF.

The President's Weekly Address

October 3, 2015

Hi, everybody. Yesterday we learned that our businesses created another 118,000 new jobs in September. That makes 67 straight months of job creation and 13.2 million new jobs in all. But we'd be doing even better if we didn't have to keep dealing with crises in Congress every few months. And especially at a time when the global economy is softening, our own growth could slow if Congress doesn't do away with harmful austerity measures.

Now, on Wednesday, more than half of Republicans in Congress voted to shut down the Government for the second time in 2 years. Fortunately, there were enough votes in both parties to pass a last-minute bill to keep the Government open for another 10 weeks. Unfortunately, that gimmick only sets up another shutdown threat 2 weeks before Christmas.

Look, that's not the way America should operate. It just kicks the can down the road without solving any problems or doing any long-term planning for the future. And that's why I will not sign another shortsighted, short-term spending bill like the one Congress sent me this week.

Here's why. A few years ago, both parties agreed to put in place what have proven to be harmful, automatic cuts that make no distinction between spending we don't need and

spending we do. Those cuts have actually kept our economy from growing faster. Even worse, they're actually undermining the middle class.

And here's one example. If we don't undo these mindless cuts, then next year, we'll be funding our kids' education at the same levels per pupil we did in the year 2000. Compared to my budget, that would be like cutting Federal funding for 4,500 schools, 17,500 teachers and aides, 1.9 million students. That's not good for our kids or our economy. It's a prescription for American decline. And it shouldn't happen. We should invest in things like education today, or we're going to pay the price tomorrow.

So Congress should do its job, stop kicking the can down the road, and pass a serious budget rather than flirt with another shutdown. A serious budget is one that keeps America strong through our military and law enforcement; that keeps America generous through caring for our veterans and our seniors; that keeps America competitive by educating our kids and our workers.

That's what I want to work with serious people in both parties to achieve. Because that's how we'll build on the progress of 13 million new jobs and help the middle class get ahead.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:45 p.m. on October 2 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on October 3. In the address, the President referred to H.R. 719, Continuing Appropriations

Act, 2016, which was approved September 30 and assigned Public Law No. 114–53. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 2, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on October 3.

Statement on the 50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act *October 3, 2015*

Fifty years ago, at the foot of the Statute of Liberty, President Johnson signed the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The new, bipartisan law ended an unfair quota system, prohibited discrimination based on country of origin, and officially recognized our immigration system's role in reuniting families and attracting skilled workers, all of whom help fuel our economy. The Republicans and Democrats who came together to pass the INA were driven by a desire to expand opportunity for all and to live up to our heritage as a nation of immigrants. They understood that immigration contributes to our economic growth by allowing

hard-working, entrepreneurial individuals from around the world to pursue the American dream.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of this transformational law, we honor the courage of those who fought to make our system better. We celebrate the generations of immigrants who have shaped this country and helped make America great. And we recommit ourselves to fighting for commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform legislation that meets the needs of the 21st century, grows the economy for everybody, and lives up to our highest ideals.

Statement on Civilian Casualties at the Doctors Without Borders Hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan *October 3, 2015*

On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest condolences to the medical professionals and other civilians killed and injured in the tragic incident at a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz. The Department of Defense has launched a full investigation, and we will await the results of that inquiry before making a definitive judgment as to the circumstances of this tragedy. I have asked the Department of Defense to keep me apprised of

the investigation and expect a full accounting of the facts and circumstances. Michelle and I offer our thoughts and prayers to all of the civilians affected by this incident, their families, and loved ones. We will continue to work closely with President Ghani, the Afghan Government, and our international partners to support the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces as they work to secure their country.

Remarks at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland *October 4, 2015*

Thank you. Please. Craig, thanks for that introduction, but more importantly, thank you for the outstanding work that you and your team do all across the country every single day.

For those of you who know Craig, you know that he is cool under pressure, no doubt because he got his start—started his career—as a firefighter. I want to thank Congressman Steny