

“them” and some people are deserving of poverty and some people are inevitably destined for incarceration and some people are less than I am because of who they love and women have a particular role that they have to play, and if they don’t, somehow, that’s contrary to the rules we’ve set—when you have that kind of an attitude, America goes backwards, and we don’t succeed.

So we’ve got a very stark set of choices right now that manifest themselves across the board. And I say this pretty objectively, because I’m not intrinsically partisan. And in fact, I’ve been felted at times by folks in my own party for not being sufficiently partisan. But I don’t think we come out of the womb Democrat or Republican. And I come from a State where the first Republican President was pretty good, a guy named Lincoln. And there have been times where the Democrats were on the wrong sides of issues.

But I will tell you, at this moment in history, the choices are stark, and facts, evidence, values are on our side. And the other side has gone off the deep end. And what you’re witnessing in the House fight right now is that even deeply conservative folks are not considered ideologically pure enough, and we would rather burn the house down than admit the possibility of a democratic process that requires compromise.

And we have to beat that kind of mindset. This is not something where we can just let it pass, because if we let it pass, then you’ve got people in charge who don’t believe in climate change, don’t just not want to do anything

about it, don’t believe in it. We start getting folks who are willing to run funny numbers on the budget that will slash education funding and funding for the disabled and seniors and suggest that somehow it’s justified by economic theories that you can’t find in the textbooks.

So I feel as much urgency about this upcoming election as I’ve felt about any election, and I am not on the ballot. And I’m going to be working just as hard this time as I was in 2012 and 2008. And you need to be too.

Because we’ve got some good people, and one of them, Scott, is back here. Scott Peters is a wonderful Congressman from San Diego. He’s been traveling with us in California. You should get to know him. He takes tough votes and does the right thing. And it’s not always easy. And it matters whether or not we’re going to be able to get more folks like Scott into the House and preserve the Senate. And I definitely need a Democratic successor, because the alternatives that we’re seeing right now are not what I have in mind for the future of America.

So, with that, let me take questions. But I just wanted people to understand the context in which we’re talking here. This is not sort of an abstract exercise. This is not a seminar. This is some serious business about things that we care deeply about.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. at the residence of U.S. Ambassador to Spain James Costos and Michael S. Smith. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Former White House Regional Communications Director Brandon D. Lepow

October 13, 2015

Seven years ago, like a lot of young people, Brandon Lepow got into politics because he believed he could change his country for the better. And in his time on the campaign trail and in the White House, both as a traveling aide and as a spokesman, he was tireless in that effort: hard-working, cheerful, one of the most

unfailingly kind and gracious people I’ve had the honor to know. He was someone that any American could be proud to have working on their behalf.

Last night we lost Brandon after a long battle with leukemia. It’s a testament to his dedication to others that, over the past few months,

more than 50 of his White House colleagues traveled to spend time with him and support his family as he underwent treatment in Texas. We all have heavy hearts today, and all of us, Michelle and I included, share our condolences and all our support with Brandon's family, his legion of friends, and his wonderful and courageous wife Theresa. Theirs is one of the

great love stories. They, in many ways, kept the rest of us going. And Theresa will always be a part of our family.

To know Brandon Lepow was to know that he didn't need to get into politics to change the world, after all. He made his 32 years count. And those of us who knew him are better for it.

Statement on the Retirement of President's Task Force on 21st-Century Policing Cochair Charles H. Ramsey *October 14, 2015*

I want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to Commissioner Charles "Chuck" Ramsey for his nearly five decades of leadership and service with some of this Nation's largest law enforcement agencies. From Chicago to DC to Philadelphia, Commissioner Ramsey has always supported our women and men in uniform and the communities they bravely serve and protect each and every day. While I've known about his outstanding work over the years, it was when I appointed Chuck as a Co-

chair of my Task Force on 21st-Century Policing that I was able to rely on his counsel and leadership. For several months earlier this year, he played a vital role in bringing together leaders from across the country to create a clear and concise report including key recommendations for building stronger trust between communities and the law enforcement agencies that protect them. I am extraordinarily grateful for Chuck's service and wish him an enjoyable and restful retirement.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Armed Forces Personnel to Cameroon *October 14, 2015*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On October 12, 2015, approximately 90 U.S. Armed Forces personnel began deploying to Cameroon with the consent of the Government of Cameroon. This deployment is in advance of the deployment of additional U.S. Armed Forces personnel to Cameroon to conduct airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations in the region. The total number of U.S. military personnel to be deployed to Cameroon is anticipated to be up to approximately 300. These forces are equipped with weapons for the purpose of providing their own force protection and security, and they will remain in Cameroon until their support is no longer needed.

I directed the deployment of U.S. forces in furtherance of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, and pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Orrin G. Hatch, President pro tempore of the Senate.