

Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott *December 1, 2015*

Rosa Parks held no elected office. She was not born into wealth or power. Yet, 60 years ago today, Rosa Parks changed America. Refusing to give up a seat on a segregated bus was the simplest of gestures, but her grace, dignity, and refusal to tolerate injustice helped spark a civil rights movement that spread across America. Just a few days after Rosa Parks' arrest in Montgomery, Alabama, a little-known, 26-year-old pastor named Martin Luther King, Jr., stood by her side, along with thousands of her fellow citizens. Together, they began a boycott. Three-hundred and eighty-five days later, the Montgomery buses were desegregated, and

the entire foundation of Jim Crow began to crumble.

Like so many giants of her age, Rosa Parks is no longer with us. But her lifetime of activism—and her singular moment of courage—continue to inspire us today. Rosa Parks reminds us that there is always something we can do. It is always within our power to make America better. Because Rosa Parks kept her seat, thousands of ordinary commuters walked instead of rode. Because they walked, countless other quiet heroes marched. Because they marched, our Union is more perfect. Today we remember their heroism. Most of all, we recommit ourselves to continuing their march.

Statement on the Death of Former National Security Adviser Samuel R. “Sandy” Berger *December 2, 2015*

Sandy Berger was one of our Nation's foremost national security leaders. From his service in President Carter's State Department to President Clinton's National Security Advisor, Sandy devoted himself to strengthening American leadership in an uncertain world. Today, his legacy can be seen in a peaceful Balkans, our strong alliance with Japan, our deeper relationships with India and China. Around the globe, families and children are living healthier, more secure lives because, as a private citizen, Sandy was a humanitarian who helped the world respond to crises and feed the hungry. With his trademark passion, wisdom, and good humor, he is remembered fondly within the

ranks of the National Security Council, where those he mentored carry on his work. I'm grateful to Sandy because, as President, I've benefited personally from his advice and counsel. Our thoughts are with Sandy's beloved family, including his wife Susan, his children Deborah, Alexander, and Sarah, and five cherished grandchildren. May they find some comfort in knowing that the America he loved is stronger because of his service.

NOTE: The statement referred to Deborah Berger Fox, Alexander Berger, and Sarah Berger Sandelius, children of former National Security Adviser Berger.

Statement on Steps Taken by the United Kingdom and Germany To Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Terrorist Organization *December 2, 2015*

I welcome the vote by the United Kingdom to join coalition partners striking ISIL targets in Syria. The special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is root-

ed in our shared values and mutual commitment to global peace, prosperity, and security. Since the beginning of the counter-ISIL campaign the United Kingdom has been one of our