

arguing about the structural flaws in the Death Star? How many philosophers got their start arguing about whether Hans shot first? [Laughter] How many bookish teenagers have taken solace in the fact that the most charismatic guy on the planet is an archeologist named Indiana Jones? [Laughter]

George, I don't know if you've heard, but they might even make a brand new "Star Wars" movie soon. [Laughter] It's very low key; it's not getting a lot of promotion. [Laughter] But it's also pretty remarkable that nearly 40 years after the first star destroyer crawled across the screen, we are still obsessed with George's vision of a galaxy far, far away. And we'll be raising our children on his stories for a long, long time to come.

Rita Moreno. Seiji Ozawa. Cicely Tyson. Carole King. George Lucas. Each of these artists was born with something special to offer their country and the world. Each of them found a way to enrich our lives with their lives' work. For all the joy and the pleasure, all the insight and the understanding that they have brought to us over the years, we want to thank them, and we sure are proud to celebrate them as our 2015 Kennedy Center Honorees. Please give them a big round of applause.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson; actor James Earl Jones; musician Aretha Franklin; and Hank Steuver, television critic, the Washington Post.

Statement on the Observance of Hanukkah

December 6, 2015

Tonight Jews in America, Israel, and around the world come together to light the first candle of the Festival of Lights. At its heart, Hanukkah is about the struggle for justice in the face of overwhelming obstacles. It's a chance to reflect on the triumph of liberty over tyranny, the rejection of persecution, and on the miracles that can happen even in our darkest hours. It renews our commitment as Americans—as people who live by faith and conscience—to lead

the way and act as unyielding advocates for the fundamental dignity of every human being.

During these 8 days, let us be inspired by the light that can overcome darkness. As we recall the Maccabees' struggle to free a people from oppression, let us rededicate ourselves to being the engine of the miracles we seek. May the lights of the menorah brighten your home and warm your heart, and from my family to yours, *Chag Sameach*.

Address to the Nation on United States Counterterrorism Strategy

December 6, 2015

Good evening. On Wednesday, 14 Americans were killed as they came together to celebrate the holidays. They were taken from family and friends who loved them deeply. They were White and Black, Latino and Asian, immigrants and American-born, moms and dads, daughters and sons. Each of them served their fellow citizens, and all of them were part of our American family.

Tonight I want to talk with you about this tragedy, the broader threat of terrorism, and how we can keep our country safe.

The FBI is still gathering the facts about what happened in San Bernardino, but here is what we know. The victims were brutally murdered and injured by one of their coworkers and his wife. So far, we have no evidence that the killers were directed by a terrorist organization overseas or that they were part of a broader conspiracy here at home. But it is clear that the two of them have—had gone down the dark path of radicalization, embracing a perverted interpretation of Islam that calls for war against America and the West.