

better, his workers do better also. And then, most importantly, there's "Free lunch Friday." [Laughter] Who doesn't like "Free Lunch Friday," right?

So look, I want to read something Steve said. He said: "You can't always do everything that everyone would like. But if you treat everybody like family, that's good for us." If you treat everybody like family, that's good for us.

What's true for Steve's business is true for America. If you treat everybody like family, that's good for us. Not just me, not just you, not just Democrats, not just Republicans, not just old folks or young folks, not just Black folks or White folks—it's good for us.

We're not going to solve every problem in one fell swoop. But if we make things a little better for our fellow Americans, we're going

to leave something better for us and for our kids. And if we're walking down that road together, we're going to get there faster.

That's what we're fighting for, everybody. That's what we're fighting for, Wisconsin. That's what's Tammy is fighting for and Ron is fighting for. That's what we all have to fight for.

Happy Fourth of July, everybody. God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:34 p.m. in the Recreational Eagle Center. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen T. Colbert, former host, Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" program; former Gov. John E. "Jeb" Bush of Florida; and former White House Senior Adviser David M. Axelrod.

The President's Weekly Address July 4, 2015

Happy Fourth of July, everybody. Like many of you, Michelle, Sasha, Malia, and I are going to spend the day outdoors, grilling burgers, hot dogs, watching the fireworks with our family and friends. It's also Malia's birthday, which always makes the Fourth extra fun for us.

As always, we've invited some very special guests to our backyard barbecue: several hundred members of our military and their families. On this most American of holidays, we remember that all who serve here at home and overseas represent what today is all about. And we remember that their families serve too. We are so grateful for their service and for their sacrifice.

We remember as well that this is the day when, 239 years ago, our founding patriots declared our independence, proclaiming that all of us are created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, including the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A couple of centuries later, we've made ourselves into a big, bold, dynamic, and diverse country. We're of all races, we come from all places, we practice all faiths and believe in all sorts of different ideas. But our allegiance to

this declaration—this idea—is the creed that binds us together. It's what, out of many, makes us one.

And it's been the work of each successive generation to keep this founding creed safe by making sure its words apply to every single American. Folks have fought, marched, protested, even died for that endeavor, proving that as Americans, our destiny is not written for us, but by us.

We honor those heroes today. We honor everyone who continually strives to make this country a better, stronger, more inclusive, more hopeful place. And we the people pledge to make their task our own, to secure the promise of our founding words for our own children and our children's children.

And finally, what better weekend than this to cheer on Team U.S.A. Good luck to the U.S. Women's National Team in the World Cup Final!

Thanks, everybody. From my family to yours, have a safe and happy Fourth of July.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:35 p.m. on July 2 in Room 188 of the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse Recreational

Eagle Center in La Crosse, WI, for broadcast on July 4. The transcript was made available by the

Office of the Press Secretary on July 3, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on July 4.

Remarks at an Independence Day Celebration July 4, 2015

Everybody having a good time? Everybody, give it up for Bruno Mars! And the band!

Michelle and I just want to say to everybody here, we love you. On this day, we thank everyone who does so much each and every day to defend our country, to defend our freedom. We are grateful to our Armed Services. We are grateful to our military families. We are grateful to our veterans.

Without you, we could not enjoy the incredible blessings that we do in this greatest country on Earth. And we are so appreciative to all of you. We hope you are having a good time. The weather is cooperating. And Michelle and I, Malia, Sasha, we could not be more privileged to have gotten to know so many of you

and to know all the sacrifices that you make on our behalf each and every day.

So we just want to wish you the happiest Fourth of July and remind ourselves that freedom is not free. It's paid by all the folks who are here today and all the folks who are around the world. We want to thank those who aren't with their families on this holiday season because they're posted overseas. We want to especially remember them.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:56 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to musician Bruno Mars.

Remarks on United States Efforts To Combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Terrorist Organization and an Exchange With Reporters at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia July 6, 2015

The President. Good afternoon, everybody. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday weekend, especially our men and women in uniform. This Fourth of July we were honored to once again welcome some of our incredible troops and their families to share Fourth of July and fireworks at the White House. And it was another chance for us, on behalf of the American people, to express our gratitude for their extraordinary service around the world every single day.

And that includes the work that brings me here today, our mission to degrade and ultimately destroy the terrorist group ISIL. This is a cause, a coalition, that's united countries across the globe, some 60 nations, including Arab partners. Our comprehensive strategy against ISIL is harnessing all elements of American power, across our Government: military, intelligence, diplomatic, economic, devel-

opment, and perhaps most importantly, the power of our values.

Last month, I ordered additional actions in support of our strategy. I just met with my national security team as part of our regular effort to assess our efforts—what's working and what we can do better. Secretary Carter, Chairman Dempsey, I want to thank you and your team for welcoming us and for your leadership, including General Austin, who's leading the military campaign. And I want to summarize briefly where we stand.

I want to start by repeating what I've said since the beginning. This will not be quick. This is a long-term campaign. ISIL is opportunistic, and it is nimble. In many places in Syria and Iraq, including urban areas, it's dug in among innocent civilian populations. It will take time to root them out, and doing so must