

Independent; whether you're conservative on some issues, liberal on others. If you participate and you take the time to be informed about the issues, and you actually turn out and your peers turn out, you change the country. You do. It may not always happen as fast as you'd like, but you'll change it.

So I'll keep on talking about this even after I leave the Presidency. I'm—this is—you got me started. I went on a rant, didn't I? [Laughter]

All right. So I'm counting on you guys. Don't let me down, all right? Don't let the country down. You guys are going to be delivering the message to your peer group that this is the greatest country on Earth, but only because we have great citizens who are willing to invest their time and energy and effort to become in-

formed on the issues, to argue about it in a respectful way, and to try to collectively solve the many challenges that we face.

The good news is, is that there are no challenges, as JFK said, that "man creates that man can't solve." I would add women to that. [Laughter]

All right? Good luck, guys. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:53 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Flint, MI, resident Mari Copeny; President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; Sen. Bernard Sanders, in his capacity as a Democratic Presidential candidate; and former Gov. Howard B. Dean of Vermont, in his capacity as a 2004 Democratic Presidential candidate.

## Statement on the Observance of Orthodox Easter

April 29, 2016

Michelle and I extend our best wishes to members of the Orthodox Christian community here in America and around the world as they observe Holy Friday and the Feast of the Resurrection.

For Orthodox Christians, this is a time to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, to rejoice in the victory of the resurrection, and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in accordance with God's will.

We lift up in prayer the members of the Orthodox community who have been persecuted for their faith and subjected to unspeakable

acts of violence, and we seek the release of those who have been kidnapped. We remember those who have been driven from their homelands and who have seen their religious institutions desecrated or destroyed. And we stand in solidarity with Orthodox Christians and people of all faiths and pledge to continue our work to ensure that all people are able to live in peace, justice, and freedom.

During this season of hope, we remember that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We wish all who celebrate a blessed Easter.

## Remarks at the White House International Jazz Day Concert

April 29, 2016

*The President.* Well, good evening, everybody!

*Audience members.* Good evening.

*The President.* Welcome to the White House! Good-looking crowd. For 5 years, International Jazz Day's main event has been celebrated around the world, from Istanbul to Osaka to Paris. So we couldn't be prouder that this year jazz comes back home to America. I want to thank UNESCO, its Director General, Irina Bokova, and the Thelonious Monk Insti-

tute for helping us to put on this unbelievable event. I also want to thank someone who has been a great friend to me and Michelle: UNESCO Ambassador, legendary jazz musician, and all-around cool cat, Herbie Hancock. And our emcee for the evening, who some people think has a pretty good voice, Morgan Freeman.

In 1964, Dizzy Gillespie ran for President—this is a true story—and he said, "When I am