

very rarely, if ever, have you heard a complaint from a Governor or a mayor or a local community about a lack of responsiveness when it comes to FEMA, no matter what the disaster is.

But having said all that, having been really proud of the way that FEMA has operated and all the agencies involved in disaster preparedness have operated over the last 7 years—7½ years, what we also know is, it only takes one. It just takes one big disaster that—for us to really see some severe impacts. What we’re always worried about is—are the things we don’t know, things we can’t anticipate, things that we haven’t seen before. And that is why it’s so important to make sure that every American, every family participate actively in getting prepared. And if we do that, then we’re going to

have the kind of resilience that we’re all looking for.

So thank you very much for the great work that all of you are doing. And we’re going to keep on being forward leaning throughout this hurricane season to make sure that we’re doing everything we can. We can’t control the weather, but we can control our responses to it. And you’ve got a Government here who’s ready to help.

Thanks, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the M1 Conference Room. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Knabb, Director, National Hurricane Center.

Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men’s Basketball Champion Villanova University Wildcats

May 31, 2016

The President. Hello, everybody! Hello. Everybody, please have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House. And I guess it is the blue-and-white house today—[laughter]—because we’re giving it up for the 2016 NCAA Champion Villanova Wildcats!

Now, you should know that we have some big ‘Nova fans here, from both sides of the aisle in Congress. We also want to acknowledge Villanova president, Reverend Peter Donohue, who is here. Athletic Director Mark Jackson, who capped off his first year as athletic director with a national championship—pretty good job. [Applause] Pretty good.

Unfortunately, perhaps the most important ‘Nova grad here, Dr. Jill Biden, could not be here. I think she may be teaching, but her husband Joe wanted me to remind you that he picked ‘Nova to win it all. [Laughter] This is the type of wise counsel that you are looking for from a Vice President. [Laughter] Unfortunately, I didn’t follow his counsel, and so my bracket was busted. [Laughter]

We have the best dressed man in college basketball—the George Clooney of coaches—[laughter]—Jay Wright. And today we cele-

brate a remarkable team that worked tirelessly to make Coach look good in terms of his job and not just his wardrobe. [Laughter] His tailor and stylist could not make it, but we do have his basketball players here. [Laughter]

So Coach Wright and this team treated us to as memorable a run and as memorable a championship game as I can remember. We’ll talk more about that game in a second, but these Wildcats were about more than just one moment or one shot. They had unbelievable defense. They had great clutch shooting. A senior class that won more games than any group in Wildcats history. They had a stable of talented players who were as happy hitting the deck for a loose ball as they were cutting down the nets.

You had Daniel Ochefu, a.k.a. “the Chef”—[laughter]—who became just the seventh player in program history to score 1,000 points and grab 900 boards—pretty good. Also not afraid to do the little things, we saw him grab that mop right in the middle of the game. [Laughter]

We had Josh Hart who led the Wildcats in scoring. Congratulations, Josh. Josh, where’d you go to school?

Guard Josh Hart. Sidwell Friends.

The President. Sidwell Friends School. Well, my daughter will be graduating from there next week, which makes me cry when I talk about it, so I'm not going to talk about it. [Laughter] But it was good to see a Sidwell kid do well.

Kris Jenkins—a.k.a. "Big Smoove"—[laughter]—had—[applause]. He learned how to shoot from his mom. Moms know what they're talking about. And then, there is Ryan Arcidiacono. Now, I just sped through that in case I didn't say it right. [Laughter] "Barack Obama" is tough, but "Arcidiacono"—man, that's a lot of vowels in there, so we're just going to call him Arch. [Laughter] A captain since his freshman year, wore the blue and white in more games than any Wildcat ever, and went out in style as the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four. So we are very, very proud of him. Give him a big round of applause.

But more than any individual honor, this team possessed something that the coaches preached from day one, and that's attitude. As Coach Wright says, "In life, you cannot control what happens to you, but you do control how you respond to it."

And that's how they bounced back from disappointing tournaments these past few years. That's how they rolled through the first three rounds by an average of 24 points, beat Kansas to punch their ticket to the Final Four. In Houston, they blew the doors off Oklahoma by a Final Four record 44-point margin.

All of which set up an unbelievable showdown with the Tar Heels—it might be maybe the best title game of all time. Just the last few seconds could be a documentary—you had an unbelievable double-clutch circus shot from Marcus Paige on UNC's team. A lot of teams would have had their spirit broken. Wildcats, they took control, they responded. And on a play called Nova, Kris took a pass from Arch and pulled up a few steps behind the line and shot this team into basketball lore. That was a good shot. [Laughter] You know, it was like a Christian Laettner shot. It was like a Jimmy-V.-running-up-and-down-the-court shot. Charles Barkley apparently jumped out of his seat,

which—[laughter]—he doesn't do very often these days. [Laughter]

Coach—legendary Coach Massimino, who led their Wildcats to their first title 31 years ago, obviously couldn't be prouder. Coach Wright, on the other hand, played it cool—[laughter]—just turned around, shook hands like nothing happened. [Laughter] But I know inside, he was pretty excited. [Laughter]

So this is a team for the ages, on and off the court. Their grades ranked in the top 10 percent nationally. [Applause] That's worth applauding. All five seniors graduated. In fact, ever since nineteen—the 1970s, the Wildcats have graduated every 4-year player. And that's the kind of record that you really want.

They're also involved in the Philadelphia community, serving meals for those in need, supporting the Special Olympics. A few days after their win, Arch and the Chef heard about a fan—a small boy battling cancer—who could use a boost. So without fanfare, they snuck into the boy's basement and hid in his playhouse to surprise him, which seems a little scary. [Laughter] But their hearts were in the right place.

And that's what we saw all year from this team: the heart of a champion. So congratulations to the Wildcats for an unbelievable season.

And with that, let me give the podium very quickly to Coach Wright.

Head Coach Jay Wright. Mr. President, after the championship, we had a big press conference, but nothing as big as this. This is—

The President. There's a lot of cameras around here.

Coach Wright. This is big time. And on behalf of our entire 'Nova family, I want to thank you and your staff for inviting us to the White House. This is a great day for Villanova University, and you invited all the politicians and everybody connected to Villanova. We love having them here. Thank you for doing that. And your staff has been incredible to us.

You're a great leader, and we want two of our leaders, Ryan Arcidiacono and Daniel Ochefu, to share with you the jersey—44th President of the United States—that we wore

this year at Pearl Harbor. And it was on Pearl Harbor Day, and we really want to thank you. And it says on there, “For your great leadership, your service to our country, you’re truly a great role model for our young men.” We want them to be great leaders like you. And we thank you for everything you do for our country, and we welcome you to the ‘Nova nation with your Villanova jersey.

The President. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:23 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his re-

Remarks in Elkhart, Indiana June 1, 2016

The President. Hello, everybody! Hello, hello, hello! Can everybody please give Kelly a big round of applause for the great introduction?

Oh, it is good to be back in Elkhart. Great to be back at Concord High School. Go Minutemen! I brought a couple of friends of with me: Your Senator, Joe Donnelly, is here; your mayor, Tim Neese, is here. I wanted to congratulate everyone graduating tomorrow. I just met a couple of the valedictorians, who seemed like outstanding young ladies. My older daughter Malia graduates next week. So if there are any parents here, I hope you can give me some pointers on how not to cry too much at the ceremony and embarrass her. *[Laughter]*

Audience member. Carry some tissues!

The President. That’s what I’m going to do! If you’ve got a chair, sit down. Relax. I’m going to—I’ve got some stuff to say here. I—*[applause]*.

Yes, so I’m not going to talk about the fact that my daughter leaving me is just breaking my heart. I’m not here to talk about that. I’m here to talk about the economy.

I don’t know that—if you’ve noticed, but this is an election year. *[Laughter]* And it’s a more colorful election season than most. It’s been a little unusual.

Audience member. One more term!

The President. No, I can’t do that. *[Laughter]* The Constitution prohibits it, but more importantly, Michelle prohibits it. *[Laughter]*

marks, he referred to Jill T. Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden; actor George T. Clooney; Daniel Ochefu, Kris Jenkins, Patrick Farrell, and Kevin Rafferty, forwards, Ryan Arcidiacomo and Henry Lowe, guards, and Roland Massimino, former head coach, Villanova University men’s basketball team; Marcus Paige, guard, University of North Carolina men’s basketball team; Felicia Jenkins, mother of Mr. Jenkins; former National Basketball Association players Christian D. Laettner and Charles Barkley; and 4-year-old Havertown, PA, resident Blaise Davis.

Now, one of the reasons we’re told this has been an unusual election year is because people are anxious and uncertain about the economy. And our politics are a natural place to channel that frustration. So I wanted to come to the heartland, to the Midwest, back to close to my hometown to talk about that anxiety, that economic anxiety, and what I think it means. And what I’ve got to say really boils down to two points, although I’m going to take a long time making these two points. *[Laughter]*

Number one, America’s economy is not just better than it was 8 years ago, it is the strongest, most durable economy in the world. That’s point number one.

Point number two: We can make it even stronger and expand opportunity for even more people. But to do that, we have to be honest about what our real challenges are, and we’ve got to make some smart decisions going forward.

Now, Elkhart is a good place to have this conversation, because some of you remember, this was the first city I visited as President. I had been in office just 3 weeks when I came here. We were just a few months into what turned out to be the worst economic crisis of our lifetimes. Our businesses were losing 800,000 jobs a month. Our auto industry was about to go under. Our families were losing their savings and their health insurance, and as Kelly pointed out, they were in danger of los-