

their own destinies, and that's such a powerful thing to experience."

So you listen to somebody like Lindsay, who understands she's in charge of her own destiny and is now able to transmit that to the next generation, and how can you not be optimistic about this country's future? How can you not be optimistic about the future of all of the nations represented here?

And, Lindsay, I want you to know that I heard you. I didn't forget you. And I want everybody in this auditorium and all the folks back home in your respective communities to know that this whole time, I've heard you. I have seen you. And I hope I've done right by you. And I hope I've set a direction that others will follow.

I hope I've set a direction that others then follow, and I hope I've given more of our young people, like Lindsay and her students,

that sense of hope and that sense of what an incredible gift they are to this country and that they're in control of their own destinies and that they're going to help shape the future of the United States of America.

Thank you all for your partnership. Thank you for this journey.

I'll see you on the other side. May God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:52 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs Karen R. Diver; Senior Associate Director of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs Tracy L. Canard Goodluck; and Melissa P. Gordon, mother of Lindsay M. Early, adjunct professor, Comanche Nation College.

## Statement on the Death of Arnold Palmer *September 26, 2016*

With his homemade swing and homespun charm, Arnold Palmer had swagger before we had a name for it. From a humble start working at the local club in his beloved Latrobe, Pennsylvania, to superstardom as the face of golf around the globe, Arnold was the American Dream come to life.

Along the way he racked up win after win, but it wasn't his success that made him King. Arnold's freewheeling, fearless approach to the game inspired a generation of golfers and, for the first time on TV, enthralled an audience

across the world. Sure, we liked that he won seven majors, but we loved that he went for it when he probably should have laid up.

That spirit extended beyond the links where he gave freely of himself and poured everything he had into everything he did: from building hospitals to personally responding to countless letters from his fans. And he did it all with a grin that hinted maybe he had one more shot up his sleeve.

Today Michelle and I stand with Arnie's Army in saluting the King.

## Statement on the Death of Former President Shimon Peres of Israel *September 27, 2016*

There are few people who we share this world with who change the course of human history, not just through their role in human events, but because they expand our moral imagination and force us to expect more of ourselves. My friend Shimon was one of those people.

Shimon Peres once said that, "I learned that public service is a privilege that must be based

on moral foundations." Tonight Michelle and I join people across Israel, the United States, and around the world in honoring the extraordinary life of our dear friend Shimon Peres, a founding father of the State of Israel and a statesman whose commitment to Israel's security and pursuit of peace was rooted in his own unshakeable moral foundation and unflagging optimism.

I will always be grateful that I was able to call Shimon my friend. I first visited him in Jerusalem when I was a Senator, and when I asked for his advice, he told me that while people often say that the future belongs to the young, it's the present that really belongs to the young. "Leave the future to me," he said, "I have time." And he was right. Whether it was during our conversations in the Oval Office, walking together through Yad Vashem, or when I presented him with America's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, Shimon always looked to the future. He was guided by a vision of the human dignity and progress that he knew people of good will could advance together. He brought young people from around the world together because he knew they could carry us closer to our ideals of justice and equality.

Shimon was the essence of Israel itself: the courage of Israel's fight for independence, the optimism he shared with his wife Sonya as they helped make the desert bloom, and the perseverance that led him to serve his nation in virtually every position in Government across the entire life of the State of Israel. As Americans, we are in his debt because, having worked with every U.S. President since John F. Kennedy, no one did more over so many years as Shimon Peres to build the alliance between our two

countries, an unbreakable alliance that today is closer and stronger than it has ever been.

Perhaps because he had seen Israel surmount overwhelming odds, Shimon never gave up on the possibility of peace between Israelis, Palestinians, and Israel's neighbors, not even after the heartbreak of the night in Tel Aviv that took Yitzhak Rabin. "Dear friends," he told us during my visit to Israel 3 years ago, "after everything I have seen in my life, I earned the right to believe that peace is attainable." Tonight I can think of no greater tribute to his life than to renew our commitment to the peace that we know is possible. Our thoughts are with his children Tzvia, Yoni, and Chemi, their families, and all who loved and admired Shimon Peres, of blessed memory.

A light has gone out, but the hope he gave us will burn forever. Shimon Peres was a soldier for Israel, for the Jewish people, for justice, for peace, and for the belief that we can be true to our best selves, to the very end of our time on Earth, and in the legacy that we leave to others. For the gift of his friendship and the example of his leadership, *todah rabah*, Shimon.

NOTE: The statement referred to Tzvia Walden and Yoni and Nehemia "Chemi" Peres, children of President Peres. The related proclamation of September 28 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks Honoring the 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion *September 28, 2016*

*The President.* Please have a seat. It's not that formal around here. [Laughter] How you doing? Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. And give it up for NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Kyle Busch. [Applause] Hey!

We also are happy to welcome here Kyle's wonderful wife Samantha, who I just learned is from the Chicago area, so she and I, we've got a little bond going here. [Laughter] We've got some Members of Congress here who are big NASCAR fans. We've got NASCAR CEO Brian France and his beautiful family, who—they

keep on growing. [Laughter] And Dave Alpern, president of Joe Gibbs Racing; and Crew Chief Adam Stevens. Give them all a big round of applause.

Now, as you may be aware, I host a lot of teams from other sports; they all call themselves national champions or world champions. But I've got to hand it to the Number 18 team, who have given themselves the title of "Galaxy Champs." [Laughter] That's a first. And I've put in a call to NASA to check to see whether this is, in fact, accurate. [Laughter]