

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]

Kyle, I hear your ride is outside. Most years, when NASCAR comes to town, I make a joke about looking at the car full of longing and feeling kind of wistful and trying to get Secret Service to let me take a spin. [Laughter] But this year's different. In a few months, I can actually do anything I want. [Laughter] So, Kyle, we're going to talk. [Laughter]

*NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Kyle T. Busch.* You got it.

*The President.* I'm not sure, though, Michelle is going to let me drive with a car with a whole bunch of M&M's on them. [Laughter] She may want carrots or something. [Laughter] Actually, we have White House M&M's here, so those of you who have sampled them, they are good old-fashioned M&M's. [Laughter]

Now, it's 2016. I think there were some people who thought we were going to see a Bush back here in the White House this year. [Laughter] But they didn't know it was going to be Kyle—[laughter]—especially after he broke his leg and his foot at Daytona and missed the first three months of the season.

But he hunkered down, displaying the same determination in rehab that he's known for on the track. He'll be the first to say he could not have done it alone. Obviously, from Samantha's support, to everyone on the Number 18 team who held things down while he got better, the people in Kyle's life kept him driving forward.

It helps, by the way, being young. I just want to point out. [Laughter] You know? You heal a little faster. When you're 55, things don't happen that quick. [Laughter]

So he ended up being able to return a week early, just a few days before their beautiful, young son Brexton was born. But he still only had a fraction of the season to qualify for the Chase, and that's something to do in a full season.

Luckily, as most folks will attest, Kyle does not lack confidence, apparently. So, while he has said that rehabbing was one of the hardest things he's ever done, winning on the racetrack wasn't. And together, he and the Number 18 team won five times on their way to the Cup,

including at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, where Kyle took the lead with just seven laps to go and brought home the championship.

So it was another great season: Kyle's first career Sprint Cup title. But for Kyle, it's not just about what he does on the track, it's what he does off the track. Kyle and Samantha are working hard to make a difference for folks all across the country, from donating wedding gowns to military brides to helping couples afford fertility treatment, to covering expenses for women who are battling breast cancer.

And that goes with the kind of service that we're seeing from the entire NASCAR family. Just a few weeks ago, NASCAR lost its matriarch, Betty Jane France. And she was the guiding light of the sport's community's efforts, including creating the Speediatrics program, which has given more than half a million kids the opportunity to access state-of-the-art medical equipment.

In all, over the past decade, NASCAR has given \$25 million dollars to charitable causes that have helped more than a million kids. And last year, through a tremendous partnership with the VA, they helped more than 5,300 veterans, servicemembers, and their families access the benefits that they have earned.

So, all together, it's a legacy of service that honors Betty Jane and stays true to the belief that in serving each other, we make the country better, and we help every member of the American family. And I know that Kyle, Samantha, and others want to continue that legacy.

So, for one last time, let's give a big round of applause for Kyle, his family, Joe Gibbs Racing, and the entire Number 18 team. What do we got here? Here, come on. You get to—

*Mr. Busch.* I appreciate that. This here is a helmet, one of the few that I have during the season and I raced with in order to bring to you and give a gift on behalf of all of us at Joe Gibbs Racing.

*The President.* That's a good-looking helmet.

*Mr. Busch.* So that's a real one there.

*The President.* I really like that helmet now.

*Mr. Busch.* Yes? See, when you go on your adventure, you could use that one.

*The President.* I'm going to use this one. Tell me the truth, what are you pumping in through here, though? [Laughter]

*Mr. Busch.* Some really good stuff. [Laughter] Yes, sir.

*The President.* All right. Come on, let's knock the podium, and let's take a good picture. Come on, everybody.

*Mr. Busch.* You got it. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:18 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. John E. "Jeb" Bush of Florida, in his former capacity as a Presidential candidate.

## Remarks to United States Troops at Fort Lee, Virginia September 28, 2016

*The President.* Hello, everybody! Hello, Fort Lee! Well, it is wonderful to see all of you. Thank you.

*Audience member.* Thank you!

*The President.* Thank you! Thank you! I want to thank your outstanding leadership team for welcoming me, including Major General Darrell Williams, Lieutenant General Wendy Masiello, Colonel Adam Butler, and Command Sergeant Major Nathaniel Bartee.

I know this is the proud home of the Army Combined Arms Support Command. But I know we've got other services represented here. Navy. [Applause] Marines. [Applause] Air Force. [Applause] We've got our outstanding DOD civilians in the house. And then, of course, we've got a whole lot of Army. [Applause]

Now, I'm not here to give a big speech.

*Audience member.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* No, no. [Laughter] The main thing I wanted to do was just come by, shake some hands. As you know, I had a town hall with CNN and some of our extraordinary troops, our veterans, our military families. We had an important discussion about how our Nation has to uphold its obligations to you and your families. You serve us with such distinction every single day, I want to make sure we're doing right by you. And so you can watch it tonight on CNN or you can watch whatever else is on. [Laughter]

But you guys showed extraordinary hospitality and made our visit a success, so I just want to say thank you.

*Audience member.* Thank you!

*The President.* You know, here at this post, you are part of a tradition of service that

stretches back nearly a hundred years. Dough-boys marched off to World War I from this facility. You trained our soldiers for World War II, Korea, Vietnam, every conflict since. So, as you prepare to celebrate your centennial next year, I'm just going to jump the gun and go ahead and say, Fort Lee, happy 100th birthday.

And this is also a chance for me to pay tribute to the vital work that you're doing every single day. You don't always get the glory, but the fact is, America's Army and America's military could not project around the world, would not be the very best in the world if it were not for the best sustainment personnel in the world. There's an old saying, "Amateurs talk about tactics, professionals talk about logistics."

So today we salute all the logistics personnel. You make sure our troops get what they need: the right amount and the right place at the right time. We salute the Transportation Corps, keeping our supply lines open and, at times, risking your lives doing it. We salute the folks who handle the ordnance, a line of work where you need some steady hands—don't drop nothing. [Laughter] We salute all the quartermasters, including our Army cooks. I know sometimes military food gets a bad rap, but here at Fort Lee, the cooks train to be world class. Some are so good—like Army Staff Sergeant Justin Gonzalez and Navy Master Chief Derrick Davenport—that we made them part of the Presidential Food Service. And you know we've got good food in the White House. [Laughter] And that's because we've got outstanding talent that's been trained here.