

have not yet submitted their documentation to enter into this agreement, to do so as soon as possible. And in the coming days, let's help finish additional agreements to limit aviation emissions, to phase down dangerous use of hydrofluorocarbons, all of which will help build a world that is safer and more prosperous and more secure and more free than the one that was left for us.

That's our most important mission: to make sure our kids and our grandkids have at least as beautiful a planet and, hopefully, even more beautiful, than the one that we had. And today I'm a little more confident that we can get the job done.

So thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the 2016 Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins October 6, 2016

The President. It is wonderful to be here. Welcome to the White House! And we are here to celebrate an extraordinary achievement: Phil Kessel is a Stanley Cup Champion! [Laughter] Hey!

We've got some special guests in the house, some big fans who are Members of Congress. We've got NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman. Gary, I have to say, I respect Lord Stanley, but I'm going to need you to explain to me how something called the President's Trophy is the not highest award a team can win. [Laughter]

But we're actually making some history here today. I am proud to be the first President to welcome to the White House eight Cup-winning teams, all of whom are based in the United States. I reminded the Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau—who we had a state dinner here—about that not too long ago. And that, of course, includes this year's outstanding champions. Let's give it up for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

So this is a nice bookend to my Presidency because the first year, you guys won the Cup. Now you're coming back for my final year. A lot has changed during the interim. Back in 2009, my hair matched the color of the puck more than the ice. [Laughter] "Sid the Kid" was actually a kid. [Laughter] And Geno was still snapping pictures with a flip phone. [Laughter]

But what I like best about this team's victory is that no one thought they could pull it off. I obviously sympathize with that; they said the same thing about me. [Laughter] Mike Sullivan started the season coaching the minor league team in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.

That's Biden country and Casey country. In late December, the Pens were closer to last place than first. Spirits were low. And when the team designed its 50th anniversary logo for the upcoming season, it referenced the franchise's three Cups because no one imagined they were about to win a fourth.

And then "GM of the Year" Jim Rutherford got to work. He was smart enough to see that Sullivan had coached in the Blackhawks organization, so he knew—[laughter]—he knew Sullivan brought a lot to the table. Goalie Matt Murray, a rookie, was a brick wall. The H-B-K line—none of whom were on the team last year—were so dominant that they earned their own sandwich at Primanti Brothers. [Laughter] The Pens went 14–2 down the stretch to finish second in the East.

[At this point, a baby cried.]

And then—don't worry, I don't have any more bad jokes. That poor thing. [Laughter] It's like, aww, these are so corny. [Laughter] Yes, I know. [Laughter]

And then they powered through three rounds, each tougher than the last, before taking care of the Sharks in six games, one of the most remarkable turnarounds in the history of the NHL.

Of course, leading the way was my fellow lefty, Sidney Crosby. Last time he was here, I took a cheap shot at Sid for his size. [Laughter] I wasn't the first one on or off the ice. Of course, since then, he's won two Olympic Golds, a World Championship, a World Cup

MVP, a Playoff MVP, another NHL MVP, a mountain of other postseason awards, even won an Emmy. And of course, he hoisted this trophy right here, his second Stanley Cup, to match his mentor, Super Mario. So, Sid, what an extraordinary accomplishment.

And obviously, nobody has to tell you his extraordinary achievements on the ice, but here's something worth mentioning. During the playoffs, defenseman Trevor Daley's mom was battling cancer. She told him that she was going to keep fighting so she'd see her son lift the Cup. Now, the captain always chooses who gets it second. It's a big honor. Sid surprised everybody, including Trevor, by handing it to him. Trevor's mom Trudy got to see her son skate around with it—on a broken ankle—and then passed away a few days later. And that's a testament to the kind of person Sid is, but also the kind of team this is.

All summer, these players shared the Cup with their families. Nick Bonino brought it to his grandparents' place, where they ate his Nana's famous tuna fish pasta out of it. [Laughter] He let his infant daughter Maisie sit in it. A Cup celebration spanning four generations—to paraphrase the legendary “Badger Bob” Johnson—that's “a great day for hockey.”

And of course, the people of Pittsburgh love their Penguins, including their outstanding mayor. Bill, where are you? Is he—I heard he's here. Here he is! Bill Peduto. Four hundred thousand people welcomed them home from San Jose, the largest crowd for a sports parade in the city's history, which is saying something for the City of Champions.

Pittsburgh also appreciates this team, as do I, for what they've done in the community. A bunch of the players brought the Cup to Children's Hospital—in fact, it was Ian Cole's very first stop. Inspired by Michelle's “Let's Move!” initiative, the Penguins Foundation started Project PowerPlay to get more kids exercising,

and now it's helping to restore city and county parks across Pittsburgh. The Foundation is also raising awareness about concussions for young athletes. And the Pens have been leaders in the Green Sports Alliance, making their facilities more energy and water efficient, lowering their carbon footprint as they travel. I want to thank Commissioner Bettman and the entire NHL for leading the way in environmentally sustainable sports, because we want to continue to have ice so that we can play hockey. [Laughter]

You guys are champions because of your persistence, because of your teamwork, the faith you have in each other. You've set a great example for the city and for the league. Keep up the great work on and off the ice. Have a great season.

And once again, let's hear it for the World Champion—or at least the NHL Champion, and we're going to call them the World Champion—Pittsburgh Penguins! [Applause] Hey!

Thank you. Sid, did you want to say anything?

Center Sidney Crosby. No, that's okay. [Inaudible]

[The President was presented with a miniature Stanley Cup and team jersey.]

The President. All right. That's a good—that's good looking. [Laughter] That's not bad. All right, let's strike the podium so that we can get a good picture of everybody. Come on.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Phil Kessel, right wing, Evgeni “Geno” Malkin and Nick Bonino, centers, Carl Hagelin, left wing, Mario Lemieux, co-owner, chairman, and former center, and Ian Cole, defenseman, Pittsburgh Penguins; Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr.; and Jim and Nina Orsini, grandparents of Mr. Bonino.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Matthew Preparedness and Response Efforts and an Exchange With Reporters *October 7, 2016*

The President. Obviously, everybody has been tracking the course of Hurricane Matthew, and I just received an update from our FEMA director, Craig Fugate, as well as the rest of our national security team. And I just wanted to make a couple of key points.

First, what we're seeing now is Matthew having moved above South Florida and some of the largest population centers, working its way north. And the big concern that people are having right now is the effects that it could have in areas like Jacksonville on through Georgia. And although we've seen some significant damage in portions of South Florida, I think the bigger concern at this point is not just hurricane-force winds, but storm surge.

Many of you will remember Hurricane Sandy, where initially people thought this doesn't look as bad as we thought, and then suddenly, you get massive storm surge and a lot of people were severely affected. And so I just want to emphasize to everybody that this is still a really dangerous hurricane; that the potential for storm surge, flooding, loss of life, and severe property damage continues to exist. And people continue to need to follow the instructions of their local officials over the course of the next 24, 48, 72 hours.

Those of you who live in Georgia, I think, should be paying attention because there's been a lot of emphasis on Florida, but this thing is going to keep on moving north, through Florida, into South Carolina. There are large population centers there that could be vulnerable, so pay attention to what your local officials are telling you. If they tell you to evacuate, you need to get out of there and move to higher ground, because storm surge can move very quickly, and people can think that they're out of the woods and then suddenly get hit and not be in a position in which they and their families are safe. So pay attention to local officials.

In the meantime, I've been in contact with the Governors of all four of the potentially af-

ected States. I want to thank them all for their leadership. There's been strong cooperation between Federal and State and local officials. FEMA has worked diligently to pre-position resources, assets, water, food, commodities. And as the hurricane moves north, what Craig and his team will be doing is moving those resources and assets further north so that any place that happens to get hit badly, we'll be in a position to immediately come in and help.

But I really want to emphasize the Governors have been on top of this. State and local officials have been on top of this. They are the ones who are tracking most closely what is happening in your particular community, your particular area. You need to pay attention to them. Do what they say. Do not be a holdout here because we can always replace property, but we can't replace lives.

I want to thank Craig and his whole team as well as Department of Homeland Security, my own national security team for really staying on top of this. We're going to monitor this throughout the weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with folks who have been affected. It's—even if the damage in South Florida wasn't as bad as it could be, there are people who've been affected, and for them, they're going to need help.

Last point I'd like to make is, we're still tracking what happened in areas like Haiti that were hit more directly. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has consistently been hit and battered by a lot of natural disasters to compound what is already great poverty there. We know that hundreds of people have lost their lives and that there's been severe property damage and they're going to need help rebuilding. So I would ask all Americans to go to the American Red Cross and other philanthropic agencies to make sure that we're doing what we need to do to help people in need. And we'll continue to provide information. If you're interested in how you can help the people of Haiti and others, you can go to