

international order of laws and institutions that could preserve the peace and extend prosperity and promote cooperation among nations. And for all of its imperfections, we depend on that international order to protect our own freedom.

In other words, we are a nation that at our best has been defined by hope, and not fear. A country that went through the crucible of a Civil War to offer a new birth of freedom; that stormed the beaches of Normandy, climbed the hills of Iwo Jima; that saw ordinary people mobilize to extend the meaning of civil rights. That's who we are. That's what makes us stronger than any act of terror.

Remember that history. Remember what that flag stands for. For we depend on you—the heirs to that legacy, our men and women in uniform—and the citizens who support you to carry forward what is best in us: that commitment to a common creed; the confidence that right makes might, not the other way around.

Statement on the 75th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor *December 7, 2016*

Seventy-five years ago today, a sudden and unprovoked attack turned a tranquil harbor into a sea of flames. Over 2,400 American patriots lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor: military and civilian; men, women, and children. Their sacrifice galvanized millions of GIs and Rosie the Riveters who answered the call to defend liberty at its moment of maximum peril. In the hours after the attack, President Roosevelt promised that “the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.” Thanks to the heroism of a generation, we did.

Today Michelle and I join the American people in remembering those who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor, many of them not much older than boys, and in honoring their families: spouses, siblings, sons, and daughters who still carry the memories of their loved ones in their hearts. We give thanks to the veterans and survivors of Pearl Harbor who faced down fear itself, met infamy with intrepidity, freed captive peoples from fascism, and whose example in-

spires us still. That's how we can sustain this long struggle. That's how we'll protect this country. That's how we'll protect our Constitution against all threats, foreign and domestic.

I trust that you will fulfill that mission, as you have fulfilled all others. It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your Commander in Chief. I thank you for all that you've done and all that you will do in the future. May God bless you. May God bless our troops, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:56 p.m. in Hangar 1. In his remarks, he referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq; and Delray Beach, FL, resident Benjamin Ferencz, a retired prosecutor who participated in the Nuremberg trials that convicted Nazi war criminals. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

spires us still. For out of the horrors of war, this Greatest Generation forged an enduring international order, became the backbone of the middle class, and powered America's prosperity. Their courage and resolve remind us of that fundamental American truth: that out of many, we are one; and that when we stand together, no undertaking is too great.

On this National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we also reaffirm that the work of securing and strengthening our Nation goes on. While we can never repay the profound debt of gratitude we owe to those who served on our behalf, we can embrace our commitment to care for and support veterans of America's wars from every generation.

As a testament that even the most bitter of adversaries can become the closest of allies, I look forward to visiting the USS Arizona Memorial later this month along with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. This historic visit will stand as a tribute to the power of reconciliation and to the truth that the United States and Japan—

bound by an alliance unimaginable 75 years ago—will continue to work hand in hand for a more peaceful and secure world.

NOTE: The related proclamation of December 6 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Senate Passage of the 21st Century Cures Act *December 7, 2016*

We are now one step closer to ending cancer as we know it, unlocking cures for diseases like Alzheimer's, and helping people seeking treatment for opioid addiction finally get the help they need. The bipartisan passage of the 21st Century Cures Act is an example of the progress we can make when people from both parties work together to improve the health of our families, friends, and neighbors.

The Cures Act makes important investments that will save lives. First, for the families and communities that have lost too many loved ones to the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic, it invests the \$1 billion I requested in my budget to address this crisis. Second, the bill answers the Vice President's call for a moonshot in cancer research by investing \$1.8 billion in new resources to accelerate discoveries. Third, it invests nearly \$3 billion to build upon the major biomedical research initiatives we have launched in my administration—known as the BRAIN and Precision Medicine Initiatives—which are tackling diseases like Alzheimer's and creating new research models to

find cures and better target treatments. Fourth, the Cures Act takes important steps to improve mental health, including building on the work of my administration's Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force. And fifth, the legislation advances the progress we've made in improving the Food and Drug Administration's drug development process by, for example, making sure patients' voices are part of those decisions.

This is a reminder of what we can do when we look out for one another. Like Joe Biden and so many other Americans, I've lost people I love deeply to cancer. I've heard often from those whose loved ones are suffering from Alzheimer's, addiction, and other debilitating diseases. Their heartbreak is real, and so we have a responsibility to respond with real solutions. This bill will make a big difference, and I look forward to signing it as soon as it reaches my desk.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 34.

Joint Statement—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, and United States Leaders' Statement on the Situation in Aleppo, Syria *December 7, 2016*

A humanitarian disaster is taking place before our very eyes. Some 200,000 civilians, including many children, in eastern Aleppo are cut off from food and medicine supplies. Aleppo is being subjected to daily bombings and artillery attacks by the Syrian regime, supported by Russia and Iran. Hospitals and schools have not been spared. Rather, they appear to be the targets of attack in an attempt to wear people down. The images of dying children are heart breaking. We condemn the actions of the Syrian regime and its foreign backers, especially

Russia, for their obstruction of humanitarian aid, and strongly condemn the Syrian regime's attacks that have devastated civilians and medical facilities and use of barrel bombs and chemical weapons.

The urgent need now is for an immediate ceasefire to allow the United Nations to get humanitarian assistance to people in eastern Aleppo and to provide humanitarian relief to those who have fled eastern Aleppo. The opposition have agreed the UN's four point plan for Aleppo. The regime needs to agree to the plan