

Over the course of these 8 years, I've seen the goodness, the resilience, and the hope of the American people. I've seen neighbors looking out for each other as we rescued our economy from the worst crisis of our lifetimes. I've hugged cancer survivors who finally know the security of affordable health care. I've seen communities like Joplin rebuild from disaster and cities like Boston show the world that no terrorist will ever break the American spirit.

I've seen the hopeful faces of young graduates and our newest military officers. I've mourned with grieving families searching for answers, and I found grace in a Charleston church. I've seen our scientists help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch and our wounded warriors walk again. I've seen our doctors and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and stop pandemics in their tracks. I've learned from students who are building robots and curing diseases and who will change the world in ways we can't even imagine. I've seen the youngest of children remind us of our obligations to care for our refugees, to work in peace, and above all, to look out for each other.

That's what's possible when we come together in the slow, hard, sometimes frustrating, but always vital work of self-government. But we can't take our democracy for granted. All of us, regardless of party, should throw ourselves into the work of citizenship. Not just when there's an election, not just when our own narrow interest is at stake, but over the

full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, try to talk with one in real life. If something needs fixing, lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you're disappointed by your elected officials, then grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself.

Our success depends on our participation, regardless of which way the pendulum of power swings. It falls on each of us to be guardians of our democracy, to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great Nation of ours. Because for all our outward differences, we all share the same proud title: citizen.

It has been the honor of my life to serve you as President. Eight years later, I am even more optimistic about our country's promise. And I look forward to working along your side, as a citizen, for all my days that remain.

Thanks, everybody. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:45 p.m. on January 13 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast on January 14. In the address, the President referred to Dunbar, PA, resident Nathan Copeland, a patient at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 13, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on January 14.

## Remarks Honoring the 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs January 16, 2017

*The President.* They said this day would never come. [Laughter] Here is something none of my predecessors ever got a chance to say: Welcome to the White House the World Series Champion Chicago Cubs!

Now, I know you guys would prefer to stand the whole time, but sit down. [Laughter]

I will say to the Cubs: It took you long enough. I mean, I've only got 4 days left. You're just making it under the wire. [Laughter]

Now, listen, I made a lot of promises in 2008. [Laughter] We've managed to fulfill a

large number of them. But even I was not crazy enough to suggest that during these 8 years we would see the Cubs win the World Series. But I did say that there's never been anything false about hope. [Laughter] Hope, the audacity of hope.

*Audience member.* Yes, we can!

*The President.* Yes, we can.

*Audience members.* Yes, we did!

*Audience member.* Yes, we will!

*The President.* Now, listen, for those of you from Chicago who have known me a long time,

it is no secret that there's a certain South Side team that has my loyalty. [Laughter] For me, the drought hasn't been that—as long. We had the '85 Bears; we had the Bulls' run in the nineties. I've hosted the Blackhawks a number of times. The White Sox did win just 11 years ago with Ozzie and Konerko and Buehrle. So I can't claim that I have the same just visceral joy of some in this White House. [Laughter]

But FLOTUS is a lifelong Cubs fan. And I will tell you, she had to go to another event, but in the 8 years that I've been here—I told the team this—in the 8 years that I've been here, we've hosted at least 50 teams: football, basketball, baseball, soccer, you name it. Michelle has never come to a single event celebrating a champion until today. And she came and shook hands and met with every one of these members of the Cubs organization and told a story about what it meant for her to be able to see them win, because she remembers coming home from school, and her dad would be watching a Cubs game, and the bond and the family, the meaning that the Cubs had for her in terms of connecting with her father and why it meant so much for her. And I almost choked up listening to it. And it spoke, I think, to how people feel about this organization, and that it's been passed on generation after generation, and it's more than just sports.

And that is not just true for FLOTUS. My longest serving aide, Anita, is a Cubs fan. [Laughter] "Fan" is not enough. When they won, the next day she said, "This is the best day of my life." [Laughter] And I said: "What about me winning the Presidency? What about your wedding day?" She's, like, "No, this is the best." My chief speechwriter, Cody Keenan—[applause]—Cubs fan. In fact, there were a lot of sick days during the playoffs. [Laughter] One of my staff members was caught being interviewed at a bar outside of Wrigley—[laughter]—and we're watching him being interviewed. You remember, Luke? And he's looking kind of sheepish about it. It's, like, why aren't you in the office? [Laughter]

But look, the truth is, there was a reason not just that people felt good about the Cubs winning. There was something about this particular

Cubs team winning that people felt good about. For example, David Ross and I have something in common: We've both been on a "year-long retirement party." [Laughter] But unlike "Grandpa," my team has not yet bought me a scooter with a motorized golf caddy. But there are 4 days left. Maybe I'll get that. [Laughter]

The last time the Cubs won the World Series, Teddy Roosevelt was President. Albert Einstein and—or was it Thomas Edison—was still alive. The first Cubs radio broadcast wouldn't be for almost two decades. We've been through World Wars, cold war, a depression, space race, all manner of social and technological change. But during that time, those decades were also marked by Phil Cavarretta and Ernie Banks; Billy Williams, who's here today; Ron Santo, Ferg, Ryne Sandberg, Dawson, Maddux, Grace. Those decades were punctuated by Lee Elia's rants and Harry Caray's exuberance: "Hey, Hey" and "Holy Cow" and capped off by "Go Cubs Go." [Laughter]

So the first thing that made this championship so special for so many is, is that the Cubs know what it's like to be loyal and to persevere and to hope and to suffer and then keep on hoping. And it's a generational thing. That's what you heard Michelle describing. People all across the city remember the first time a parent took them to Wrigley or memories of climbing in their dad's lap to watch games on WGN—and that's part of the reason, by the way, why Michelle had invited—made sure that José Cardenal was here, because that was her favorite player. And she was describing, back then, he had a big afro, and she was describing how she used to wear her hat over her afro the same way José did.

You could see all that love this season in the fans who traveled to their dads' gravesites to listen to games on the radio, who wore their moms' old jerseys to games, who covered the brick walls of Wrigley with love notes in chalk to departed fans whose lifelong faith was finally fulfilled.

None of this, of course, would have happened without the extraordinary contributions of the Ricketts family. Tom met his wife Cece in the bleachers of Wrigley about 30 years ago,

which is about 30 years longer than most of relationships that begin there last. [Laughter] Just saying. [Laughter] Our dear friend Laura Ricketts met her wife Brooke in the ballpark as well.

Brothers and sisters, they turned this team around by hiring what has to be one of the greatest, if not—I mean, he’s still pretty young, so we’ll see how long he keeps on going—the greatest general managers of all time, Theo Epstein—[applause]—and along with Jed Hoyer and Jason McLeod. They did just an unbelievable job. Theo, as you know—his job is to quench droughts: 86 years in Boston, 108 in Chicago. He takes the reins of an organization that’s wandering in the wilderness, he delivers them to the Promised Land. [Laughter] I’ve talked to him about being DNC chair. [Laughter] But he’s decided wisely to stick to baseball.

That brings me to the other thing that was so special about this championship, and that’s just the guys behind me, the team. They steamrolled the majors this year with a 103-win record. All you had to know about this team was encapsulated in that one moment in Game 5, down 3 games to 1, do or die, in front of the home fans, when David Ross and Jon Lester turned to each other and said, “I love you, man.” And he said, “I love you too.” [Laughter] It was sort of like an Obama-Biden moment right there. [Laughter]

And then you’ve got the manager, Joe Maddon, who—[applause]—let’s face it, there are not a lot of coaches or managers who are as cool as this guy. Look how he looks right now. [Laughter] That’s cool. That’s cool. He used costume parties and his “Shaggin’ Wagon.” [Laughter] So he’s got—I’m just saying—he’s got a lot of tricks to motivate. But he’s also a master of tactics and makes the right move at the right time: when to pinch hit, when to pinch run, when to make it rain—[laughter]—in Game 7 of the World Series. That was—it was masterful. So he set the tone, but also some of the amazing players here set the tone.

My fellow “44”—Anthony Rizzo, who—the heart of this team. Five years ago, he was a part of the squad that lost 101 games. He stuck at it

and led the National League in All-Star votes this year.

His business partner in the “Bryzzo Souvenir Company,” which delivers baseballs to fans in all parts of the bleachers: Kris Bryant. Now—where’s Kris? This guy had a good year. [Laughter] You go from Rookie of the Year to being the MVP. You win the World Series. And then, like me, he marries up and comes to the White House. And he did all this just in 10 days. [Laughter] I mean, it took me a long time. So congratulations to the newlyweds, Jessica and Kris Bryant.

And then you’ve got these young guys like Báez and Russell: Báez turning tagging into an art form; Russell becoming the youngest player to hit a World Series Grand Slam since Mickey Mantle. And you mix these amazing young talents with somebody like David Ross who, for example, helped Anthony out of his “glass case of emotions” in Game 7. [Laughter] But think about what Rossie did in his final season: caught a no-hitter, surpassed a hundred home runs for his career, including one in his last game ever. If there was ever a way to go out, this was it.

And then you’ve got Ben Zobrist, who didn’t get to come to the White House last year after winning it all with the Royals, but then hits .357 in the World Series, go-ahead RBI in the 10th inning of the Game 7, World Series MVP. I think he’s earned his way here. So—[applause]. Hey! And is apparently a good guy, because I asked his wife—she was in line before he was—and I said, has he gotten a big head since he got the whole MVP thing? “No, he’s so sweet, he’s so humble.” [Inaudible] You owe her dinner tonight. [Laughter]

Extraordinary pitching staff, including Kyle Hendricks, the first Cub to lead the majors in ERA since 1938. Kyle, in turn, was the only pitcher this year with a better ERA than Jon Lester, who racked up 19 wins. Good job. Jake Arrieta, 2015 Cy Young Award winner, stretched a 20-game win streak featuring two no-hitters across the past two seasons, then hit a home run in the NLDS, and won two games in the World Series. So, apparently, Pilates works. [Laughter] Michelle says it does.

So—and then, finally, the game itself and the series itself. To come back from a 3-1 deficit against a great Cleveland Indians team forced what is widely considered the Game 7 of all time. Dexter Fowler becomes the first player to hit a leadoff home run in Game 7. Javy Báez hits another leadoff the fifth. David Ross becomes the older player—oldest player to knock one out in a Game 7 as well. Kyle Schwarber, who’s been hurt and hobbled, then suddenly, he comes in and gets seven hits in the Series, three in Game 7 alone.

And then you’ve got the 10th inning, you’ve got the rain. *[Laughter]* God finally feeling mercy on Cubs fans. *[Laughter]* An entire game, an entire season, an entire century of hope and heartbreak all coming down to a one-inning sprint. And then Zobrist knocked in one, Montero knocked in another. Carl Edwards, Jr., and Mike Montgomery teamed up to shut the Indians down.

And then, at 12:47 a.m. Eastern Time, Bryant—it looks like he’s going to slip; everybody is getting a little stressed—tosses a grounder to Rizzo. Rizzo gets the ball, slips it in his back pocket—*[laughter]*—which shows excellent situational awareness. *[Laughter]* That was impressive. And suddenly, everything is changed. No more black cats, billy goats, ghosts, flubbed grounders. The Chicago Cubs are the champs. And on ESPN, you’ve got Van Pelt saying, “One of the alltime great nights.” You’ve got Tim Kurkjian calling it “the greatest night of baseball in the history of the game.” Two days later, millions of people—the largest gathering of Americans that I know of—in Chicago. And for a moment, our hometown becomes the very definition of joy. So, in Chicago, I think it’s fair to say, you guys will be popular for a while. *[Laughter]*

But, in addition, they’re also doing a lot of good work. Anthony Rizzo and Jon Lester raised money to help others beat cancer like they did. Under the Ricketts family’s leadership, last year alone, Cubs Charities supported charitable grants and donations of nearly \$4 million that reached nearly 120,000 children and young adults across Chicagoland. Under their “Let’s Give” initiative, Cubs staff, coach-

es, players, and spouses donated more than 1,500 hours of service last year to the community. And after their visit here today, they will head to Walter Reed to visit with some of our brave wounded warriors.

So, just to wrap up, today is, I think, our last official event—isn’t it?—at the White House under my Presidency. And it also happens to be a day that we celebrate one of the great Americans of all time, Martin Luther King, Jr. And later, as soon as we’re done here, Michelle and I are going to go over and do a service project, which is what we do every year to honor Dr. King. And it is worth remembering—because sometimes, people wonder, well why are you spending time on sports; there’s other stuff going on—that throughout our history, sports has had this power to bring us together, even when the country is divided. Sports has changed attitudes and culture in ways that seem subtle, but that ultimately made us think differently about ourselves and who we were. It is a game, and it is celebration, but there’s a direct line between Jackie Robinson and me standing here. There’s a direct line between people loving Ernie Banks and then the city being able to come together and work together in one spirit.

And I was in my hometown of Chicago on Tuesday, for my Farewell Address, and I said, sometimes, it’s not enough just to change the laws, you’ve got to change hearts. And sports has a way, sometimes, of changing hearts in a way that politics or business doesn’t. And sometimes, it’s just a matter of us being able to escape and relax from the difficulties of our days, but sometimes, it also speaks to something better in us. And when you see this group of folks of different shades and different backgrounds and coming from different communities and neighborhoods all across the country and then playing as one team and playing the right way and celebrating each other and being joyous in that, that tells us a little something about what America is and what America can be.

So it is entirely appropriate that we celebrate the Cubs today, here in this White House, on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday because it helps direct us in terms of what

this country has been and what it can be in the future.

With that, one more time, let's congratulate the 2016 World Championship Chicago Cubs! Good job! [Applause] Good job!

*President of Baseball Operations Theo N. Epstein.* Talk about a tough act to follow. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for inviting us. We're all honored to be here today, and we appreciate you taking the time on such an important day, Martin Luther King Day, and during such an historic week, the last week of your distinguished Presidency.

I was told on my way in here—actually, by our club historian—it's actually not the first time this franchise has visited the White House. It was 1888. [Laughter] And we were known as the Chicago White Stockings, and we stopped in here to visit President Grover Cleveland. And apparently, the team demanded to—for a proclamation to be named the best baseball team in the country. The President refused, and the team went on their way. [Laughter] And so here we are; we're going to make no such demands today. [Laughter] But we appreciate those kind words.

The President was so kind to recognize our three Hall-of-Famers here with us today who are so synonymous with what it means to be a Cub: Billy Williams, Fergie Jenkins, Ryne Sandberg. [Applause] Thank you for being here. And of course, José Cardenal, who got the longest hug from the First Lady we've ever seen, her favorite player of all time, you're the MVP today. [Laughter]

And I want to, one more time, recognize all of the Ricketts family who are here today. Tom, who's been such an ideal leader for our organization. Laura, who's been such a strong supporter of this President. And, Todd, who will embark on his journey in public service with a significant role in the new administration next week. And, Pete, who's busy governing Nebraska, couldn't be here, but sends his best. [Laughter]

Finally, we'd like to recognize all of our wives and significant others who do so much to support us behind the scenes, our great front office, who have worked so hard—[inaudible].

So, Mr. President, as you alluded to, in Cleveland on November 2 and into the early morning of November 3, this special group of players behind me, in one of the greatest World Series games in history, ended the longest championship drought in American sports. And when Kris Bryant's throw settled into Anthony Rizzo's glove for the final out of Game 7, the victory brought pride, joy, relief, and redemption to Cub fans everywhere, including many in the White House. [Applause] Thank you.

So many of you were there, but the city of Chicago erupted, unified into celebration that continues to this day. It was a thrilling, emotional time, and we think we even saw some White Sox fans smiling—[laughter]—which, Mr. President, brings us to you.

*The President.* Yes.

*Mr. Epstein.* We know you may have a certain allegiances to another team on the other side of town, but we know you're a very proud Chicagoan, and we know your better, wiser half, the First Lady—[laughter]—has been a lifelong and very loyal Cub fan, which we appreciate very much. And of course, we have great faith in your intelligence, your common sense, your pragmatism, your ability to recognize a good thing when you see one. [Laughter]

So, Mr. President, with only a few days remaining in your tremendous Presidency, we have taken the liberty here today of offering you a midnight pardon—[laughter]—for all your indiscretions as a baseball fan. And so we welcome you with open arms today into the Cubs family.

To recognize this terrific conversion and this great day, we have some gifts for you and your family. First, Anthony. Anthony Rizzo has graciously agreed to share his number 44 with "the 44."

*The President.* There we go!

*Mr. Epstein.* And if you're still not comfortable putting a Cubs jersey on, this one just says Chicago, so you're good with that one.

*The President.* All right. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

*Mr. Epstein.* Second, we have—at historic Wrigley Field, we have a centerfield score-

board that's actually a historic landmark, and so we hope the National Park Service won't mind, but we took down a tile for you, number 44, which—[*applause*].

*The President.* That I like.

*Mr. Epstein.* Very few people have one of those.

*The President.* I know. That's very cool.

*Mr. Epstein.* We also wanted you to know that, as a new fan, you have a lot—you have some catching up to do. [*Laughter*] And you've been busy the last 8 years, and your family as well, so Laura Ricketts is here to present you with a lifetime pass to Wrigley Field for you and your family.

*The President.* Nice! I love how it says, "Nontransferable." [*Laughter*]

*Mr. Epstein.* Yes. It's strictly—it's just an emolument.

*The President.* Can you imagine if somebody walks up and is, like—[*laughter*].

*Co-owner and member of the Board of Directors Laura Ricketts.* You don't have to bring it with you.

*Mr. Epstein.* And finally, every time we win a game in Chicago, we fly the "W" flag, as you know. So we brought one for you, signed by the entire team, and we'd love for you to fly it at your new library, which we plan to do our very best to support.

*The President.* We will do so. Thank you so much. Look at that. This is some nice swag. I'm telling you. Thank you so much. This is great.

*Former pitcher Ferguson Jenkins.* You've got to get him to put the uniform on. [*Laughter*]

*Mr. Epstein.* It's just day one. It's just day one.

*The President.* Fergie, we're doing okay so far. [*Laughter*] Let's not get carried away.

*Mr. Epstein.* So, Mr. President, thank you for the dignity and integrity with which you've served this country for the last 8 years, for your tremendous service to Chicago and Illinois before that and for hosting us here today. We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you on Wrigley Field.

*The President.* Thank you. Well, everybody, the—thank you so much. Let me say, first of

all, best swag I've gotten as President represented right here. [*Laughter*] And let me also say on behalf of a lot of folks here in the White House, you've brought a lot of joy to a lot of people here, and we're grateful. I know my former Chief of Staff, now mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel; folks like Dick Durbin, and we've got a whole congressional delegation here; I see Lisa Madigan, my dear friend—just a lot of people have been rooting for you for a long time.

So, even though it will be hard for me, Fergie, to wear a jersey—[*laughter*]—do know that among Sox fans, I'm the Cubs number-one fan. [*Laughter*] All right?

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Oswaldo J. Guillén Barrios, former shortstop, Paul H. Konerko, former first baseman, and Mark A. Buehrle, former pitcher, Major League Baseball's Chicago White Sox; White House Deputy Chief of Staff Anita J. Decker Breckenridge; White House Trip Manager Luke P. Rosa; David W. Ross and Miguel A. Montero, catchers, Billy L. Williams, former left fielder, Ryne D. Sandberg, former second baseman, Andre D. Dawson and José R. Cardenal, former right fielders, Greg A. Maddux, former pitcher, Mark E. Grace, former first baseman, Lee C. Elia, former manager, Tom Ricketts, co-owner and chairman of the board of directors, Jed D. Hoyer, executive vice president and general manager, Jason McLeod, senior vice president of player development and amateur scouting, Anthony V. Rizzo, first baseman, Christopher L. Bryant and E. Javier Báez, third basemen, Addison W. Russell, shortstop, Benjamin T. Zobrist, second baseman, W. Dexter Fowler, center fielder, Kyle J. Schwarber, left fielder, and Carl F. Edwards, Jr., and Michael P. Montgomery, pitchers, Chicago Cubs; Julianna Zobrist, wife of Mr. Zobrist; Timothy B. Kurkjian, sports analyst, ESPN; and Illinois State Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Mr. Epstein referred to Cubs historian Ed Hartig; Todd M. Ricketts, President-elect Donald J. Trump's prospective nominee to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce; and Gov. J. Peter Ricketts of Nebraska.

## Statement on the First Anniversary of the Implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action To Prevent Iran From Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon

January 16, 2017

Today marks the 1-year anniversary of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a deal that has achieved significant, concrete results in making the United States and the world a safer place. This historic understanding reached between the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, Russia, the European Union, and Iran has rolled back the Iranian nuclear program and verifiably prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

One year ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verified that Iran had fulfilled key commitments spelled out under the JCPOA. Instead of steadily expanding, Iran's nuclear program faces strict limitations and is subject to the most intrusive inspection and verification program ever negotiated to monitor a nuclear program. Iran reduced its uranium stockpile by 98 percent and removed two-thirds of its centrifuges. Meanwhile, Iran has not enriched any uranium at the Fordow facility nor used advanced centrifuges to enrich. In short, Iran is upholding its commitments, demonstrating the success of diplomacy.

While this deal was intended to address Iran's nuclear program, we have remained steadfast in opposing Iran's threats against Israel and our Gulf partners and its support for violent proxies in places like Syria and Yemen. We continue to be deeply concerned about U.S. citizens unjustly imprisoned in Iran. And our sanctions on Iran for its human rights abuses, its support for terrorist groups, and its ballistic missile program will remain until Iran pursues a new path on those issues. There is no question, however, that the challenges we face with Iran would be much worse if Iran were also on the threshold of building a nuclear weapon.

The United States must remember that this agreement was the result of years of work and represents an agreement between the world's major powers, not simply the United States and Iran. Moreover, the Iran deal must be measured against the alternatives. A diplomatic resolution that prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon is far preferable to an unconstrained Iranian nuclear program or another war in the Middle East.

## Remarks During White House Press Secretary Joshua R. Earnest's Final Briefing and an Exchange With Reporters

January 17, 2017

[*The President joined the briefing in progress.*]

*The President.* I'm not interrupting because he was saying nice things about you guys—[*laughter*—because I largely concur.

When I first met Josh Earnest, he was in Iowa. I think he was wearing jeans. He looked even younger than he was. And since my entire campaign depended on communications in Iowa, I gave him a pretty good once-over. And there are a couple things I learned about him right away. Number one, he's just got that all-American, matinee, good-looking thing going.

[*Laughter*] That's helpful. Let's face it. Face made for television. [*Laughter*] Then, the guy's name is Josh Earnest—[*laughter*—which, if somebody is speaking on your behalf, is a pretty good name to have. [*Laughter*]

But what struck me most, in addition to his smarts and his maturity and his actual interest in the issues, was his integrity. There are people you meet who you have a pretty good inkling right off the bat are straight shooters and were raised to be fundamentally honest and to treat people with respect. And there are times where that first impression turns out to be