

many of those Americans with their Joining Forces initiative. They've rallied businesses to hire more than 1.2 million veterans and military spouses and helped to reduce veteran homelessness. And just this week, Michelle and Jill announced a breakthrough on a concern they've heard again and again from the military spouses they spend so much time with, and that's the issue of professional licensing.

This is something that most Americans aren't familiar with. But for military families, it's a big challenge. Here's why. Our troops are often transferred from base to base. It's part of the job. And because their families serve with them, that means their spouses move 10 times more often than the rest of us. Ten times more often. As you might expect, that's tough on a career. And more than one in three of these spouses works in a profession that requires a professional license or certification: nurses, childcare providers, accountants, social workers, and lots of other jobs.

And until recently, when these spouses were asked to move across State lines, they often needed to recertify for a job they're already qualified for. A nurse with years of experience might have to take entry-level courses or pay a fee or wait months for paperwork to be processed before he or she could get back to work on the job they love and that lets them support their families.

It didn't make any sense. So we changed it. When Michelle and Jill took up this cause 5 years ago, only three States had taken action on military spouse licensing. But they rallied Governors and State legislatures into action. And

this week, we reached a milestone. Today, all 50 States have acted to streamline many of these licensing issues. This is a big step forward, but we're not done yet. We're going to keep working with States to make licensing simpler for more jobs and reach more qualified workers. But we can finally say to so many of our military families, when you move, you'll no longer be forced to put the career you love on hold just because you and your family have chosen to serve this country.

That's what this is all about: serving our men and women in uniform as well as they have served us. But you don't have to be a Governor or a First Lady to make a difference. So this holiday weekend, take a look at [joiningforces.gov](http://joiningforces.gov) to find out how you can serve the troops, veterans, and military families in your community.

And to all our brave men and women in uniform: You represent the best of who we are as a nation. On this day and every day, we thank you.

Have a great Fourth of July, everybody.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:10 p.m. on July 1 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on July 2. In the address, the President referred to Jill T. Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 1, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on July 2. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Statement on the Death of Elie Wiesel *July 2, 2016*

Elie Wiesel was one of the great moral voices of our time and, in many ways, the conscience of the world. Tonight Michelle and I join people across the United States, Israel, and around the globe in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of a truly remarkable human being. Like millions of admirers, I first came to know Elie through his account of the horror he endured during the Holocaust sim-

ply because he was Jewish. But I was also honored and deeply humbled to call him a dear friend. I'm especially grateful for all the moments we shared and our talks together, which ranged from the meaning of friendship to our shared commitment to the State of Israel.

Elie was not just the world's most prominent Holocaust survivor, he was a living memorial. After we walked together among the barbed

wire and guard towers of Buchenwald, where he was held as a teenager and where his father perished, Elie spoke words I've never forgotten: "Memory has become a sacred duty of all people of good will." Upholding that sacred duty was the purpose of Elie's life. Along with his beloved wife Marion and the foundation that bears his name, he raised his voice, not just against anti-Semitism, but against hatred, bigotry, and intolerance in all its forms. He implored each of us, as nations and as human beings, to do the same, to see ourselves in each other and to make real that pledge of "never again."

At the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that he helped create, you can see his words: "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." But Elie did more than just bear witness, he acted. As a writer, a speaker, an activist, and a thinker, he was one of those people who changed the world more as a citizen of the world than those who hold office or traditional positions of power. His life, and the power of his example, urges us to be better. In the face of evil, we must summon our capacity for good. In the face of hate, we must love. In the face of

cruelty, we must live with empathy and compassion. We must never be bystanders to injustice or indifferent to suffering. Just imagine the peace and justice that would be possible in our world if we all lived a little more like Elie Wiesel.

At the end of our visit to Buchenwald, Elie said that after all that he and the other survivors had endured, "we had the right to give up on humanity." But he said, "we rejected that possibility . . . we said, no, we must continue believing in a future." Tonight we give thanks that Elie never gave up on humanity and on the progress that is possible when we treat one another with dignity and respect. Our thoughts are with Marion, their son Shlomo Elisha, his stepdaughter Jennifer, and his grandchildren, whom we thank for sharing Elie with the world. May God bless the memory of Elie Wiesel, and may his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

NOTE: The statement referred to Shlomo Elisha Wiesel, son, and Jennifer Rose, stepdaughter, of Mr. Wiesel.

## Remarks at an Independence Day Celebration July 4, 2016

Thank you so much! Ms. Janelle Monáe! Come on out here and give a bow! Thank you so much. So, in addition to Janelle Monáe, please give Kendrick Lamar a big round of applause! Here he is, right here.

So on behalf of all of us, obviously we were hoping to share their incredible talents with 5,000 people out on the South Lawn. And Fourth of July is about family, it's about the American family, it's about us getting together with the people we love most.

We all know that our freedoms are dependent on an incredible group of men and women in uniform and their families who look out for us every single day. The—some of them are in attendance here today. Please give them a big round of applause. For those in our military who could not attend, we just want to say how much we admire, respect, and appreciate

everything you do to fight for our freedom every single day.

And obviously, the Fourth of July, we enjoy the hotdogs, we enjoy the burgers, we enjoy the barbecue, we enjoy the day off for a lot of us—[laughter]—we enjoy the fireworks. But it's important to remember what a miracle this country is. How incredible—how incredibly lucky we are that people, generations ago, were willing to take up arms and fight for our freedom. And then people inside this country understanding that there were imperfections in our Union and were willing to keep on fighting on behalf of extending that freedom to all people and not just some.

And that story of independence is not something that happens and then we just put away. It's something that we have to fight for every single day. It's something that we have to nur-