

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-

ture, and we have to spread the word, and we have to work on. And it involves us respecting each other. And it involves us recognizing that there are still people in this country who are going hungry, and they're not free because of that. There are still people in this country who can't find work, and freedom without the ability to contribute to society and put a roof over your head and your—look after your family, that's not yet what we aim for.

And so, on a day like this, we celebrate, we have fun, we marvel at everything that's been done before, but we also have to recommit ourselves to making sure that everybody in this country is free, that everybody has opportunity, that everybody gets a fair shot, that we look after all of our veterans when they come home, that we look after our military families and give them a fair shake, that every child has a good education. That is what we should be striving for on Independence Day.

So, to all of you who are here in this amazing gathering, we love you, and we're grateful that you could join us. To our incredible artists, thank you for always sharing. I've got to tell you—I have to tell you that these two I've gotten a chance to know, and they are both amaz-

ing artists and talented and popular and doing great things, but they're also very conscious about their responsibilities and obligations. And they put in a lot of time and effort on behalf of a lot of causes that are important. We're really proud of them for that.

And just because it's a job of a father to embarrass his daughters—[laughter]—I've got one last job. It is—it just so happens that we celebrate our country's birthday on the same day that we celebrate my oldest daughter's birthday. So just a quick happy birthday for Malia.

[At this point, the President led audience members in singing "Happy Birthday."]

Thank you, everybody. God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:57 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to musicians Janelle Monáe and Kendrick Lamar Duckworth. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton in Charlotte, North Carolina

July 5, 2016

The President. Hillary! Hillary! Hillary!

Oh! How are you doing, Charlotte? Are you fired up? You ready to go? Well, fired up!

Audience members. Ready to go!

The President. I'm fired up. Hillary got me fired up. She got me ready to do some work. So I hope everybody had a great Fourth of July.

Audience member. We love you!

The President. I love you back.

I—now, first of all, let me just say I like any excuse to come to North Carolina. I just like North Carolina. I love the people in North Carolina. I used to—when we used to campaign here, I used to say, even the people who aren't voting for me are nice. You know, that's not true everywhere. [Laughter] So you've got

great people here. And then you've got great food. North Carolina has got some food. In fact, I will find someplace to stop and get some food before I head back to DC. I know you all have recommendations. [Laughter] I know I can't go to your house to get the food. [Laughter] Although I'm sure you're an excellent cook.

And then you've got great basketball. [Applause] You've got great basketball. We all know that. We all know that. But I'm not going to get in between all the Tar Heel and Wolfpack and—[applause]—you know. Yes, Blue Devils. I—see, Deacons. I'm not going to get into all that. You just have great basketball in