

these days, but Michelle and I still make sure they finish their homework, do their chores, and walk the dog.

And above all, children need our unconditional love, whether they succeed or make mistakes, when life is easy and when life is tough. And life is tough for a lot of Americans today.

More and more kids grow up without a father figure. Others miss a father who's away serving his country in uniform. And even for those dads who are present in their children's lives, the recession has taken a harsh toll. If you're out of a job or struggling to pay the bills, doing whatever it takes to keep the kids healthy and happy and safe can understandably take precedence over everything else.

That's why my administration has offered men who want to be good fathers a little extra support. We've boosted community and faith-based groups focused on fatherhood, partnered with businesses to offer opportunities for fathers to spend time with their kids at a bowling alley or a ballpark, and worked with military chaplains to help deployed dads connect with their children.

We're doing this because we all have a stake in forging stronger bonds between fathers and their children. And you can find out more about some of what we're doing at fatherhood.gov.

But we also know that every father has a personal responsibility to do right by our kids as well. All of us can encourage our children to turn off the video games and pick up a book. All of us can pack a healthy lunch for our son or go outside and play ball with our daughter. And all of us can teach our children the difference between right and wrong and show them through our own example the value in treating one another as we wish to be treated.

Our kids are pretty smart. They understand that life won't always be perfect, that sometimes, the road gets rough, that even great parents don't get everything right. But more than anything, they just want us to be a part of their lives.

So, recently, I took on a second job: assistant coach for Sasha's basketball team. On Sundays, we'd get the team together to practice, and a couple of times, I'd help coach the games. And it was great fun, even if Sasha rolled her eyes occasionally when her dad voiced his displeasure with the refs.

But I was so proud watching her run up and down the court, seeing her learn and improve and gain confidence. And I was hopeful that in the years to come, she'd look back on experiences like these as the ones that helped define her as a person and as a parent herself.

In the end, that's what being a parent is all about: those precious moments with our children that fill us with pride and excitement for their future, the chances we have to set an example or offer a piece of advice, the opportunities to just be there and show them that we love them.

That's something worth remembering this Father's Day and every day. Thanks, and happy Father's Day to all the dads out there. Have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 5:10 p.m. on June 17 in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for broadcast on June 18. In the address, the President referred to his sister Maya Soetoro-Ng. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 17, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on June 18.

Statement on the Observance of Juneteenth *June 19, 2011*

On this day in 1865, more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the word finally came down to slaves in Galveston, Texas, that they were free and entitled to the same "absolute equality of

rights" and "right to property" protected under law.

It would take many more years and many more struggles before African Americans received full and equal treatment under the law.

But today, here and around the world, we commemorate Juneteenth as a time to celebrate the rich heritage and significant contributions of African Americans and to recommit our-

selves as Americans to the enduring pursuit of a more perfect Union and to the eternal principles of liberty and justice for all.

Statement on the United States Commitment to Open Investment Policy *June 20, 2011*

The United States reaffirms our open investment policy, a commitment to treat all investors in a fair and equitable manner under the law, and I encourage all countries to pursue such a policy. My administration is committed to ensuring that the United States continues to be the most attractive place for businesses to locate, invest, grow, and create jobs. We encourage and support business investment from sources both at home and abroad.

Investments by foreign-domiciled companies and investors create well-paid jobs, contribute to economic growth, boost productivity, and support American communities. The United States consistently receives more foreign direct investment than any other country in the world. By voting with their balance sheets, businesses from abroad have clearly stated that the United States is one of the best places in the world to invest. This is because we have a strong and open economy, the world's most productive workforce, a unique culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable colleges and universities, and a business envi-

ronment marked by transparency, protection of intellectual property, and the rule of law.

Inbound investment has long been an important component of our overall economy. Today, United States subsidiaries of foreign-domiciled companies employ more than 5 million Americans and provide above-average compensation. These companies invest in innovation here in the United States, spending over \$40 billion each year on research and development. And in many cases the goods and services produced here are sold around the world, contributing to the National Export Initiative goal of doubling exports.

In a global economy, the United States faces increasing competition for the jobs and industries of the future. Taking steps to ensure that we remain the destination of choice for investors around the world will help us win that competition and bring prosperity to our people. Consistent with our national security and while ensuring a level playing field for American investors, we will do just that.

Statement on World Refugee Day *June 20, 2011*

As we mark World Refugee Day, I join with people around the globe in highlighting the plight of the 15 million refugees in the world today, and we reaffirm our commitment to support them as they seek a safe place to call home again. In particular, we honor the courage of those who have been forcibly displaced from their homes, including men, women, and children in Libya, Syria, Cote d'Ivoire, who remind us that somewhere in the world, refugees are forced to flee their homes virtually every day.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Ref-

ugees, a landmark achievement of international law that sets forth certain rights of refugees and legal obligations of states relating to refugees. Hundreds of thousands, and probably millions, of people around the world are alive today thanks to the help and protection they received from the international community when they were forced to flee their countries to escape violence, oppression, abuse, and other forms of persecution.

This year is also the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In at least 30 countries, nationality