

values that hold us together and keep us strong. I know that He will guide us. He always has, and He always will. And I pray his richest blessings on each of you in the days ahead.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. at the Washington Hilton hotel. In his remarks, he

referred to Sens. Mark L. Pryor and Jefferson B. Sessions III, cochairs, and Eric Metaxas, keynote speaker, National Prayer Breakfast; Joel C. Hunter, senior pastor, Northland Church in Longwood, FL; Thomas D. Jakes, senior pastor, The Potter's House in Dallas, TX; and William F. Graham, chairman of the board, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Statement on Senate Passage of Legislation To Ban Insider Trading by Members of Congress *February 2, 2012*

In my State of the Union Address, I laid out a blueprint for an economy built to last, where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules, especially those of us who have been sent here to serve the American people.

Last week, I called on Congress to pass a bill that makes clear that Members of Congress may not engage in insider trading. No one should be able to trade stocks based on non-public information gleaned on Capitol Hill. So I'm pleased the Senate took bipartisan action to pass the "STOCK Act." I urge the House of

Representatives to pass this bill, and I will sign it right away.

And while this is an important step to rebuild the trust between Washington and the American people, there is much more work to be done, like prohibiting elected officials from owning stocks in industries they impact and prohibiting people who bundle campaign contributions for Congress from lobbying Congress, an idea that has bipartisan support outside of Washington. These are straightforward proposals that will help eliminate the corrosive influence of money in politics.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 1148.

Remarks at Fire Station 5 in Arlington, Virginia *February 3, 2012*

The President. Thank you so much. Everybody, please have a seat. Well, good morning, everybody.

Audience members. Good morning!

The President. Jacob, thank you for that introduction. More importantly, thank you for your extraordinary service to our country.

I want to acknowledge two outstanding members of my Cabinet who are here today. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ric Shinseki is in the house, also one of our finest—[*applause*—himself one of our finest veterans and obviously an extraordinary leader when he was in our Army. And I also want to acknowledge Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who's in the house.

And we're joined by another president, the International Association of Fire Fighters president, Harold Schaitberger, is here.

Now, this is a fire station that holds some special significance for our country. On September 11, the firefighters of this house were among the first to respond to the attack on the Pentagon. You guys answered this Nation's call during its hour of need. And in the years that followed, as Americans went to war, some of you answered that call as well.

Today's 9/11 generation of veterans has already earned a special place in our history. Our veterans and all the brave men and women who serve our country are the reason why America's military is the greatest in the history