

and to push and to keep inching this country closer to its ideals, its highest ideals.

And I said in 2008, I am not a perfect man and I will never be a perfect President. But I made a commitment then that I would always tell you what I believed, I would always tell you where I stood, and I would wake up every single day fighting as hard as I know how for you. And I've kept that promise to the American people.

So I'm a little grayer now. *[Laughter]* It's not as trendy to be involved in the Obama campaign as it was back then. *[Laughter]* Some of you have rolled up those "Hope" posters, and they're in a closet somewhere. *[Laughter]* But I am more determined and more confident that what drove us in 2008 is the right thing for America, than I've ever been before.

And if you're willing to keep pushing through the obstacles and reach for that vision

of America that we all believe in, I promise you change will continue to come. And if you work as hard as you did then now, I promise you we will finish what we started in 2008, and we will remind the world just why it is that America is the greatest nation on Earth.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former White House Senior Adviser David M. Axelrod; Penny S. Pritzker, chairman and founder, Pritzker Realty Group; former White House Chief of Staff William M. Daley; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; and Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Statement on Representative Gary L. Ackerman's Decision Not To Seek Re-election

March 16, 2012

For over 30 years, Gary Ackerman has represented the people of Queens and Long Island, first as a New York State senator and then as a Member of Congress. Gary's bipartisan efforts helped our Nation confront significant challenges at home and abroad. He was a leader in the fight to pass Wall Street reform and helped strengthen the bonds between the United States and our allies, particularly Israel. Always a champion of his fellow New Yorkers,

Gary was also successful in enacting a bill to create the "Heroes" postage stamp, which benefited the families of rescue workers killed or permanently disabled while responding to the 9/11 attacks. Gary's unique enthusiasm will be greatly missed in the halls of Congress, but I am confident he will continue to serve the people of New York for years to come. Michelle and I wish him and his family well in the future.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Regarding High-Performance Computer Export Controls

March 16, 2012

Dear _____:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1211(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85), I hereby notify you of my decision to establish a new level for the notification pro-

cedure for digital computers set forth in section 1211(a) of Public Law 105-85. The new level will be 3.0 Weighted TeraFLOPS. The attached report provides the rationale supporting this decision and fulfills the requirements of Public Law 105-85, sections 1211(d) and (e).

I have made this change based on the recommendation of the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, and Energy.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl M. Levin, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Timothy P. Johnson, chairman, Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Remarks at an Obama Victory Fund 2012 Fundraiser in Atlanta, Georgia March 16, 2012

The President. Hello, Atlanta! Hello, Georgia! Oh, it is good to be in Atlanta, Georgia. Thank you. Thank you.

Audience member. I love you!

The President. I love you back. I do. [*Laughter*]

So let me first of all acknowledge a few people who are here. The outstanding young mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, Kasim Reed is in the house. One of the finest men I know, somebody upon whose shoulders I stand, the great Congressman John Lewis is in the house; other outstanding members of the congressional delegation here in Georgia: Sanford Bishop, David Scott, Hank Johnson.

Somebody who—I was just reminiscing. When I first started to run for office, a lot of people weren’t sure whether a guy named Barack Obama could win. And so we went down to the Selma commemoration—Edmund Pettus Bridge—and we’re in church. And a lot of folks at that point are still wondering whether this is a good idea, that this young guy is running for President. And this man gets up onstage, and he explains how people call him a little crazy, but “there is good crazy, and there’s bad crazy.” He tells me now that he came up with the idea when his doctor explained to him there was good cholesterol and bad cholesterol. [*Laughter*] But he decided that supporting Barack Obama was a “good kind of crazy,” he said. We have been dear friends ever since. The Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery is in the house.

And finally, let me just say about—something about the man who introduced us, Tyler Perry, hosting us all at his incredible facility.

He and I were talking, and there’s something about America where somebody from my background can do what I’m doing and somebody from Tyler’s background can do what he’s doing. And as tough as things get sometimes and as frustrated and cynical people can get about politics, when you look at a Tyler Perry and all that he’s achieved and the humility and graciousness with which he’s achieved it, you can’t help but be proud of him and to be proud of our country. So give it up for Mr. Tyler Perry.

Now, I’m here today not only because I need your help. I’m here because the country needs your help. There was a lot of reasons why so many of you decided to get involved and then just work your hearts out in the campaign in 2008. It was not because you thought it would be easy. The odds of me becoming President were long. You didn’t need a poll to know it was going to be tough. You didn’t join the campaign because of me. You joined it because of your commitment to each other and the vision that we share about America.

It wasn’t a vision where just a few people do well and everybody else is on their own and the most powerful are able to make their own rules. It wasn’t a cramped vision or a selfish vision of America. It wasn’t a limited vision about our future. It was a vision of America where everybody who works hard has a chance to get ahead, not just those who are born into it, but a Tyler Perry or a Barack Obama or a child in Georgia or a child in a barrio in Texas or a poor child in some rural community in the Midwest. It didn’t matter. They would have a chance if they were willing to work hard.