

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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This week, President Obama traveled to Joplin, Missouri, to meet with those who were affected by the devastating tornadoes that recently struck much of the Midwest. Also this week, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama gathered in Arlington National Cemetery with military members, Gold Star families, veterans and other Americans who came to honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. In addition, President Obama on Tuesday made several announcements regarding his choices for top national security positions and his nomination of John Bryson as the next Commerce Secretary. On Friday, President Obama traveled to Toledo, Ohio, where he visited Chrysler's Supplier Park and spoke with workers about the recovery of the American auto industry.

President Obama in Joplin: On Sunday, President Obama traveled to Joplin, Missouri to meet with those who lost so much in the recent tornadoes and to participate in a Memorial Service at Missouri Southern University. During the Memorial Service, President Obama talked about the strength the community demonstrated in coming together in response to the storm:

"How we respond when the storm strikes is up to us. How we live in the aftermath of tragedy and heartache, that's within our control. And it's in these moments, through our actions, that we often see the glimpse of what makes life worth living in the first place.

"In the last week, that's what Joplin has not just taught Missouri, not just taught America, but has taught the world. I was overseas in the aftermath of the storm, and had world leaders coming up to me saying, let the people of Joplin know we are with them; we're thinking about them; we love them.



"Because the world saw how Joplin responded. A university turned itself into a makeshift hospital. Some of you used your pickup trucks as ambulances, carrying the injured on doors that served as stretchers. Your restaurants have rushed food to people in need. Businesses have filled trucks with donations. You've waited in line for hours to donate blood to people you know, but also to people you've never met."

You can watch a video of the President's speech at the Memorial Service [HERE](#).

Memorial Day Service: On Monday, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama gathered in Arlington National Cemetery with military members, Gold Star families, veterans and other Americans who came to honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. After presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, President Obama spoke at the Memorial Day Service. In his remarks, the President said:



"To those of you who mourn the loss of a loved one today, my heart goes out to you. I love my daughters more than anything in the world, and I cannot imagine losing them. I can't imagine losing a sister or brother or parent at war. The grief so many of you carry in your hearts is a grief I cannot fully know.

"This day is about you, and the fallen heroes that you loved. And it's a day that has meaning for all Americans, including me. It's one of my highest honors, it is my most solemn responsibility as President, to serve as Commander-in-Chief of one of the finest fighting forces the world has ever known. And it's a responsibility that carries a special weight on this day; that carries a special weight each time I meet with our Gold Star families and I see the

pride in their eyes, but also the tears of pain that will never fully go away; each time I sit down at my desk and sign a condolence letter to the family of the fallen.”

You can watch President Obama’s speech at the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day Service [HERE](#).

Administration Announcements: On Tuesday, President Obama made several announcements. First, the President made a Department of Defense personnel announcement, nominating General Dempsey to be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Winnefeld to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and General Odierno as Army Chief of Staff. The President urged the Senate to confirm these nominees as soon as possible and explained what he values most in advisors. In remarks in the Rose Garden outside the White House, President Obama said:

“I urge our friends in the Senate to confirm these outstanding individuals as swiftly as possible. They’re innovative, flexible, focused on the future, and deeply devoted to our troops and their families. General Dempsey, Admiral Winnefeld, we have much to do -- from bringing our troops home from Iraq to beginning to reduce our forces in Afghanistan this summer and transitioning to Afghan lead; from defeating al Qaeda to protecting the Libyan people. All this, even as we make difficult budget decisions while keeping our military the finest fighting force in the world.



“Above all, as Commander-in-Chief, I’ll be looking to you, and the rest of the Joint Chiefs, for what I value most in my advisors -- your honest, unvarnished advice, and the full range of options, especially when it comes to our most solemn obligation: protecting the lives of our brave men and women in uniform. We have no greater responsibility, as we are reminded today when we honor all those who sacrificed so that we can enjoy the blessings of freedom.”

Later in the day, President Obama announced the nomination of John Bryson to be the next Commerce Secretary. Bryson brings a wealth of experience to this role and understands what it takes for America to succeed in a 21st century global economy. In an announcement from the State Dining Room of the White House, the President said:

“As Commerce Secretary, John is going to be an important part of my economic team, promoting American business and American products across the globe. By working with companies here at home, and representing America’s interests abroad, I’m confident that he’s going to help us meet the goal that I set of doubling our nation’s exports.

“In this new role, John will be able to draw on decades of business experience across a range of industries - – from his role on the boards of major companies like Disney and Boeing, to his leadership in the clean energy industry. That’s the expertise that will help us create new jobs and make America more competitive in the global economy.”

Economic Progress & Jobs Numbers: On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its May jobs report. According to the report, private sector employers added 83,000 jobs in May. In a statement regarding the report, CEA Chairman Austan Goolsbee said:

“There are always bumps on the road to recovery, but the overall trajectory of the economy has improved dramatically over the past two years...The initiatives put in place by this Administration – such as the payroll tax cut and business incentives for investment – have contributed to solid employment growth overall this year, but this report is a reminder of the challenges that remain. We are focused on promoting exports, reducing regulatory burdens and making the investments in education, research and development, and infrastructure that will grow our economy and create jobs. We will continue to work with Congress to responsibly reduce the deficit and live within our means.”

American Auto Recovery: On Friday, President Obama traveled to Toledo, Ohio, where he toured Chrysler’s Supplier Park and spoke with workers and community members. Recently, Chrysler paid off its remaining Treasury debt – six years ahead of schedule. In addition, the auto industry has added 115,000 jobs since Chrysler and GM emerged from bankruptcy – a fact that was made possible by the bold actions President Obama took to save the American auto sector. In Toledo, the President said:

"In the year before I took office, this industry lost more than 400,000 jobs. In the span of a few months, one in five American autoworkers got a pink slip. And two great American companies, Chrysler and GM, stood on the brink of liquidation.

"Now, we had a few options. We could have followed the status quo and kept the automakers on life support by just giving them tens of billions of dollars of taxpayer money, but never really dealing with the structural issues at these plants. But that would have just kicked the problem down the road. Or we could have done what a lot of folks in Washington thought we should do, and that is nothing. We could have just let U.S. automakers go into an uncontrolled freefall. And that would have triggered a cascade of damage all across the country...

"So we decided to do more than just rescue the industry from crisis. We decided to retool it for a new age. We said that if everyone involved was willing to take the tough steps and make the painful sacrifices that were needed to become competitive, then we'd invest in your future and the future of communities like Toledo; that we'd have your back.

"So I placed my bet on you. I put my faith in the American worker. And I'll tell you what -- I'm going to do that every day of the week, because what you've done vindicates my faith."

Holding Republicans Accountable

On Thursday, to mark Mitt Romney's announcement that he's running for president, the DNC released a new web video titled, "Romney: Same Candidate, Different Positions." The video's simple and straight forward - more simple and straight forward than Mitt Romney has been on the issues as a politician. You can view the DNC's new web video [HERE](#).

Key Issues in the News and Background

Talking Points: The Resurgence of the Domestic Auto Industry

- The White House has put out a report that underscores the resurgence of the domestic auto industry. That report can be found [HERE](#). The report talks about the jobs created in the automotive sector, the comeback of the companies that are now seeing profits, and how whole communities have been reinvigorated by a stronger auto industry.
- On June 1, 2009, General Motors filed for bankruptcy, backed by \$30 billion in federal government support. Also that day, in the same New York courthouse, a judge approved Chrysler's plan to form an alliance with Fiat to come out of bankruptcy as a restructured business with an unclear future.
- Now, two years later, our domestic auto industry is making a comeback. General Motors is expanding production and creating jobs, while Chrysler has repaid its outstanding Treasury loans six years ahead of schedule. Since GM and Chrysler came out of bankruptcy, the auto industry has added 115,000 jobs – the most robust period of job growth for that industry since the late 1990s. GM, Ford, and Chrysler are all profitable again, and in 2010 the "Detroit three" increased their market share for the first time since 1995.
- The President was inaugurated during the worst recession since the Great Depression, and the pain of that recession was nowhere worse than in the domestic auto industry – which was getting rid of hundreds of thousands of jobs and devastating whole communities.
- Both GM and Chrysler confronted the difficult choice of seeking government support or undergoing near-certain uncontrolled liquidations. As a result of the interdependence between the auto companies and suppliers, dealers and communities, some experts at the time estimated that if GM and Chrysler were to liquidate, more than 1 million jobs might have been lost.
- Tackling this challenge head on, President Obama made the bold and, at the time, politically unpopular choice to stand with the American auto industry, its workers, and the communities that depended on the industry to survive.

- By supporting a tough but fair restructuring, President Obama and this Administration helped give the auto industry a solid foundation on which to grow and thrive as our economy recovers.
- The President's decision was a difficult one, and it came with significant risk. But if there was a real chance to help American auto workers succeed, President Obama was not going to walk away from them or from our domestic auto industry.
- As President Obama said two years ago, on April 30, 2009, "Chrysler has not only been an icon of America's auto industry and a source of pride for generations of American workers; it's been responsible for helping build our middle class, giving countless Americans the chance to provide for their families, sending their kids to college, saving for a secure retirement. It's what hundreds of thousands of autoworkers and suppliers and dealers and their families rely on to pay their bills in communities across our industrial Midwest and across our country."
- Overall, by avoiding the liquidation of Chrysler and GM, President Obama helped to save more than a million jobs across America.
- Since GM and Chrysler came out of bankruptcy in June 2009, they have announced investments worth more than \$8 billion in their U.S. factories, creating or saving almost 20,000 jobs.
 - Chrysler has reconfirmed its intention to invest another \$843 million into its Kokomo, Indiana transmission facilities, increasing its total investment in Kokomo to \$1.1 billion and saving almost 2,250 jobs.
 - GM has announced that it will invest another \$2 billion in U.S. facilities in the near future, which will result in the creation or retention of 4,000 jobs across eight states and 17 facilities.
- In the first quarter of this year, the American auto industry marked a significant milestone when each of the three Detroit automakers reported positive quarterly net profits for the first time since 2004.
- And both car companies are paying back their loans. Chrysler has repaid its outstanding Treasury loans, bringing the total amount of taxpayer money returned to \$10.6 billion. That is a full recovery of the resources committed by this Administration.

Talking Points: Changes in America's Military Leadership

- President Obama has announced his choices of General Martin Dempsey for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral James Winnefeld for the Vice Chairman and General Ray Odierno for Chief of Staff of the Army.
- With almost 40 years in uniform, General Martin Dempsey is one of America's most respected – and combat-tested – military leaders. In Iraq, he led American soldiers in the fight against a vicious insurgency. Having trained Iraqi troops, he understands that in the end countries have to take responsibility for their own security. Having been the acting commander of Central Command, he knows that in Iraq and Afghanistan security improvements and political advancements have to happen together.
- As Vice Chairman, Admiral Sandy Winnefeld will draw on his experiences during more than three decades of distinguished service. Under his command, fighters from the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise went after Taliban positions in the period after 9/11, and his carrier strike group played an essential role in air operations over Iraq. Having been a NATO commander, Admiral Winnefeld is well recognized by America's allies. Having served on the Joint Staff, he is well-known and trusted at the White House.
- For the first time, the Chairman and Vice Chairman will both have led combat operations in the time since 9/11. On September 11, 2001, the Enterprise was on its way home from the Persian Gulf when news of the attacks arrived. Instead of waiting for orders, Admiral Winnefeld took the initiative, reversing course and placing his ship and aircraft within reach of Afghanistan by the next day, thereby enabling the strikes to come. A few years after that, General Dempsey's 1st Armored Division was rotating out of Iraq when he unexpectedly received new orders. He turned his division around, moved to new parts of Iraq, and stopped an insurgent uprising – a maneuver that will be noted in the history books.

- Between the two of them, they have a deep familiarity with just about every domain – land, air, sea, space, and cyber. They both have the respect and trust of America’s troops, of Congress, and of America’s allies and partners abroad. And they both have President Obama’s complete confidence.
- President Obama also offered praise for Admiral Mike Mullen and the Vice Chairman, General Jim Cartwright, for their many years of exceptional leadership and incredible service.
- During Admiral Mullen’s watch, America’s military forces have excelled in a wide range of missions, from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan to the relief efforts following the earthquake in Haiti. Admiral Mullen has helped reinvigorate NATO, reset America’s relations with Russia, and shape America’s relationships with Pakistan and China. It is also noteworthy that Admiral Mullen was a Chairman who said what he believed was right and declared that no service member should ever have to sacrifice his or her integrity to serve our nation.
- While General Cartwright’s term comes to an end this summer and Admiral Mullen’s term comes to an end this fall, President Obama has already announced his choices for their successors because he believes a seamless transition is critical as we remain focused on the pressing national security challenges ahead.

Talking Points: The Next Commerce Secretary

- President Obama has nominated John Bryson to be America’s next Commerce Secretary. Mr. Bryson will bring to the job incredible experience in the public and private sectors.
- As Commerce Secretary, he will play an important role on President Obama’s economic team, promoting American businesses and American products around the world. By working with American enterprises at home and standing up for our country’s interests abroad, he will help to achieve President Obama’s goal of doubling America’s exports.
- Mr. Bryson will call on decades of business experience in a wide variety of industries – from his role on the boards of well-known companies like Disney and Boeing to his leadership in the clean energy industry.
- His expertise will help this Administration to boost job creation and make America more competitive globally.
- In the coming years, a critical component in meeting President Obama’s export goal will be encouraging the growth of clean energy here in America, reducing our reliance on foreign oil, and promoting new businesses and jobs in America.
- During an exceptional career in which he has led nonprofits, government agencies, and large businesses, Mr. Bryson has been a strong advocate for clean energy.
- After he graduated from law school, Mr. Bryson co-founded the Natural Resources Defense Council, which became a strong and vital voice in protecting the safety of America’s air and water.
- Mr. Bryson went on to become the Chairman and CEO of Edison International, one of America’s biggest utility companies. He led that company for nearly two decades, during which time he helped turn Edison into a solar and wind power leader, and adopted innovative approaches for demonstrating the profitability of renewable energy.
- Shortly before retiring from that company, Mr. Bryson commenced a plan for turning 65 million square feet of unused commercial rooftops into solar power stations, the biggest array in America – generating enough electricity to power more than 160,000 homes.
- Today, Mr. Bryson advises businesses around the globe as a leader who knows what it takes to innovate, create jobs, and make it through difficult times.

Talking Points: May Jobs Report

- Today's jobs report is another reminder of how critical it is that we continue working to boost economic confidence and encourage greater investment and increased private sector growth. That means working fast to come to a budget agreement that reduces spending and achieves shared sacrifice, while still safeguarding America's economic recovery and guaranteeing that we invest in the innovation, education, and job creation essential to winning the future.
- In May, private sector employers added 83,000 jobs. There's no question that during the past few months the catastrophic events in Japan and higher energy prices have both had an impact. But it's important to keep in mind that after the worst recession since the Great Depression, private sector employers have now added 2.1 million jobs over 15 consecutive months of job growth. In the past six months alone, America has added more than a million private sector jobs.
- Today, President Obama is traveling to Toledo, Ohio, where he will visit Chrysler's Supplier Park. Overall, the auto industry has added 113,000 jobs since June 2009.
- We still have a ways to go to achieve complete recovery, and we know there will be bumps in the road ahead. But the President will not be satisfied until every American who wants a job is able to find one.
- The President's mission is to boost economic growth and job hiring. Doing so depends on making America's economy more competitive in order to support new jobs in new industries and on training the workers needed to fill those jobs. We have to keep up the fight for every job, every business, and every chance to boost growth.
- Making the investments we need to support American success is that much more difficult because of the size of the deficit that President Obama inherited from his predecessor. He has suggested deep spending cuts that will help America to live within its means without sacrificing the investments – in education, infrastructure, and clean energy – that are most likely to help boost our economy and create jobs.
- While reducing the deficit in a responsible way is an important element of the President's economic recovery efforts, President Obama is also working every single day to put Americans back to work and boost private sector investment, including by:
 - Extending tax cuts for the middle class to help families make ends meet.
 - Cutting payroll taxes to put an extra \$1,000 in the pockets of families making \$50,000 a year – money that is bolstering family budgets even with higher gas prices.
 - Creating new incentives to spur small business hiring, including 17 tax cuts for small businesses and measures to increase lending to small businesses – including enhancements to jumpstart SBA loans and new initiatives to help local banks boost their lending to entrepreneurs.
 - Creating green collar jobs by offering tax cuts for the production of renewable energy and proposing a bigger, permanent R&D tax credit and better tax credits for electric autos. These initiatives will help America support 21st century jobs while increasing our energy security.
 - Boosting exports and supporting trade agreements with South Korea, Panama, and Columbia that will help support tens of thousands of jobs across America.
 - Enhancing America's roads, rails, and runways by investing in an infrastructure initiative to help get unemployed construction workers back to work while enhancing the outdated infrastructure that is getting in the way of American businesses' efforts.
 - And establishing a process for identifying regulations that are hurting businesses and that need to be changed or gotten rid of because they are outdated, unnecessary, overly burdensome, or in conflict with other regulations.