

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

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President Obama Continues Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tour



Today, President Obama traveled to Baltimore, Maryland for his second Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tour event.

The President began his visit at Moravia Park Elementary School, an elementary school that provides comprehensive early childhood services including Head Start, child care, intervention services and family engagement. During his visit at the school, the President took part in a literacy lesson with pre-k students who are part of the school's Judy Center, which is dedicated to providing early childhood services.

This afternoon, the President visited Ellicott Dredges, a manufacturer of dredge equipment that helped dig the Panama Canal and whose products are sold for infrastructure projects across the country and around the globe. The President was joined by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, Rep. Elijah Cummings, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Baltimore Mayor and DNC Secretary Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Following a tour of the facilities, the President delivered remarks about creating jobs by rebuilding our nation's infrastructure.

Earlier today, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum designed to speed up the time it takes for the federal government to review and approve major infrastructure projects. During his visit to Ellicott Dredges, President Obama highlighted the components of this latest effort to fast-track shovel-ready projects in cities like Baltimore.

The President's trip to Baltimore concluded with a visit to a community center that helps families by ensuring parents have the skills they need to earn a decent living.

President Obama Meets with Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and Turkey

On Monday, President Obama held a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron. The President and Prime Minister Cameron discussed a range of issues, including economic development and the unfolding conflict in Syria.

At a joint press conference following the meeting, the President thanked Prime Minister Cameron and the British people for “reminding us that in good times and in bad, our two peoples stand as one.”

The President said:

“As we’ve said before, the great alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom is rooted in shared interests and shared values, and it’s indispensable to global security and prosperity. But as we’ve seen again recently, it’s also a partnership of the heart. Here in the United States, we joined our British friends in mourning the passing of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, a great champion of freedom and liberty and of the alliance that we carry on today. And after the bombings in Boston, we Americans were grateful for the support of friends from around the world, particularly those across the Atlantic. At the London Marathon, runners paused in a moment of silence and dedicated their race to Boston. And David will be visiting Boston to pay tribute to the victims and first responders.”



Read President Obama and Prime Minister Cameron’s full remarks [here](#).



On Thursday, President Obama welcomed Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey to the White House. Following their bilateral meeting, the President and held a press conference in the Rose Garden.

In his remarks, President Obama highlighted expanding trade and investment between the U.S. and Turkey, mutual security, and the issue of Syria.

The President said:

“This visit reflects the importance that the United States places on our relationship with our ally, Turkey, and I value so much the partnership that I’ve been able to develop with Prime Minister Erdogan.”

Watch President Obama and Prime Minister Erdogan’s press conference [here](#).

Ernest Moniz Confirmed Secretary of Energy

On Thursday, the United States Senate voted to confirm Ernest Moniz as the next Secretary of Energy. The Senate approved Secretary Moniz' nomination by a unanimous vote.

President Obama released the following statement:

"I am pleased that today, by a unanimous vote, the Senate confirmed Ernest Moniz as our next Energy Secretary. Dr. Moniz is a world-class scientist with expertise in a range of energy sources and a leader with a proven record of bringing prominent thinkers and innovators together to advance new energy solutions. He also shares my conviction that the United States must lead the world in developing more sustainable sources of energy that create new jobs and new industries, and in responding to the threat of global climate change. I am thrilled that Ernie is joining my team, and I look forward to his counsel on these issues as my Administration continues to increase our nation's energy security, strengthen our nuclear security, develop the next-generation of clean energy technologies, and compete for the jobs of the 21st century."

President Obama Pays Tribute to Fallen Law Enforcement Officers



On Wednesday, President Obama attended the National Peace Officers Memorial Service where he honored the 143 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in the past year.

In his remarks, the President shared the stories of several of the fallen officers, reflecting upon their heroism and unyielding courage.

The President spoke of Deputy Sheriff Scott Ward whose memory continues to inspire his former colleagues who, in the wake of his death, said: "Tomorrow we will continue to grieve Scott, but we will have to move on. That's what Scott would want us to do because

our mission does not stop." The President said this sentiment is one that "rings true in every police department across the country" and the reason why so many continue to serve and keep their communities safe.

President Obama called on all Americans to remember to thank our law enforcement officers – not only in times of tragedy, but every day, saying:

"The 143 fallen officers we honor today put themselves on the front lines of that fight, to preserve that quality of community, and to protect the roots of our greatness. They exemplified the very idea of citizenship -- that with our God-given rights come responsibilities and obligations to ourselves and to others. They embodied that idea. That's the way they died. That's how we must remember them. And that's how we must live.

"We can never repay our debt to these officers and their families, but we must do what we can, with all that we have, to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their memory. That begins, but does not end, by gathering here - with heavy hearts, to carve their names in stone, so that all will know them, and that their legacy will endure. We are grateful to them and we are grateful to you."

Read President Obama's full remarks [here](#).

First Lady Delivers Commencement Address at Eastern Kentucky State



On Saturday, First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Richmond, Kentucky where she addressed members of the Class of 2013 at Eastern Kentucky State University's graduation ceremony.

In her remarks, the First Lady asked graduates three questions: Who do you want to be? How will you serve others? And who will you include in your lives? Mrs. Obama encouraged the graduates to reach out and be open to people of all walks of life, saying:

"That's what's always made this country great -- embracing the diversity of

experience and opinion that surrounds us everywhere we go. So I encourage you all -- seek it out. Don't just spend time with people your own age -- go to the local senior center and talk with folks who have a little life experience under their belts. You would be amazed at the wisdom they have to offer.

"Try visiting a different congregation every once in a while; you might just hear something in the sermon that stays with you. If you're a Democrat, spend some time talking to a Republican. And if you're a Republican, have a chat with a Democrat. Maybe you'll find some common ground, maybe you won't. But if you honestly engage with an open mind and an open heart, I guarantee you'll learn something. And goodness knows we need more of that, because we know what happens when we only talk to people who think like we do -- we just get more stuck in our ways, more divided, and it gets harder to come together for a common purpose.

"But here's the thing, graduates -- as young people, you all can -- you can get past all that. You've got the freedom of an open mind, and thanks to today's technology, you're connected to each other and to the world like never before.

"So you can either choose to use those opportunities to continue fighting the fights that we've been locked in for decades, or you can choose to reject those old divisions and embrace folks with a different point of view. And if you do that, the latter, who knows where it might take you -- more importantly, where it might take our country."

Read the Vice President's address here and the First Lady's [here](#).

DNC Executive Director's Mother's Day Blog Post

In Celebration of Mother's Day on Sunday, DNC Executive Director Patrick Gaspard posted the following tribute to his mom on the DNC blog:

"Over 40 years ago, my mom decided to do what so many moms had done before her. She decided to leave her home country so that her children could have a better life with more opportunity, better education, and freedom -- she decided to immigrate to the United States.

"With four kids (including me) my mom left Haiti, the only home she had ever known. She left behind family and friends -- but she also left a country governed by an oppressive dictatorial regime.

"When she came to the States, she worked hard to support her family. While my dad worked as a teacher and social worker, she worked as a factory worker, salesperson and nurse's aid — and she taught me so much.

"My mom taught me perseverance in the face of near hopeless circumstances and she instilled in me an instinct for doing the just thing instead of the expedient thing. Like so many immigrants, she risked everything so that her kids could achieve the American Dream. And I can never thank her enough.

"As we celebrate Mother's Day this year, let's pause to think of immigrant moms like mine who would stop at nothing to give their kids a better life with more opportunity. Let's rededicate ourselves to finding commonsense solutions and support the President's plan to fix our broken immigration system.

"Happy mother's day to my mom, and to all the moms out there."