

A lot of folks will tell you that, the closer you get to Election Day, that they can, but you can't believe them.

After 9, we knew that we had entered a new era that enemies who did not abide by any law of war would present new challenges to our application of the law: that our government would need new tools to protect the American people, and that these tools would have to allow us to prevent attacks instead of simply prosecuting those who try to carry them out.

America we are passing through a time of great trial.

Americans in every corner of this country have been going through tough times.

And as long as I have the privilege of being your President, I'm going to keep fighting alongside you to reach that better day.

And finally, this jobs bill will maintain crucial investments in our roads and our bridges as we head into the spring and summer months, when construction jobs are picking up.

And for many who lived through those harrowing days five years ago, there's searing memories that time may not erase.

And I believe they will be a lifeline to help viable small businesses through these difficult times.

And I carried that lesson with me through my time as a state senator and a U S senator, and I carry that lesson with me today.

And I refuse to let America go back to the culture of irresponsibility and greed that made it possible back to an economy with soaring CEO salaries and shrinking middle class incomes ; back to the days when banks made reckless decisions that hurt Wall Street and Main Street alike.

And if you give Tom Barrett a chance, he's going to make you proud as governor, fighting for you to reach that better day.

And it's why, as so many of our fellow citizens struggle through tough times, we are called upon to help neighbors in need.

And it captured the essence of who we are, coming out of tough times.

And it would start building the kind of infrastructure that would move America into the 21st century.

And now, we've gone through a year and a half of tough fights.

And one of the things I've been saying as I travel around the country is, as tough as these times have been, we've been through tougher times.

And that's completely understandable because we are going through the toughest economic times in our living memory.

And the best way forward for the Turkish and Armenian people is a process that works through the past in a way that is honest, open and constructive.

And that's why I'm calling on Congress to extend this relief through the end of the year.

And this is a team that entered the season facing the most difficult schedule in the league.

And through a period when too many of our institutions have acted irresponsibly, the American military has set a standard of service and sacrifice that is as great as any in this nation's history.

And until we reach a day when not a single veteran sleeps on our nation's streets, our work remains unfinished.

And we have finally reached a point where inaction is no longer an option, Chicago.

And we will not rest until we reach a day when not one single veteran falls into homelessness.

And we spoke then about how, after years of failed policies here in Washington, after decades of putting off the toughest challenges, we had finally reached a tipping point a point where the fundamental promise of America was at risk.

And what I've tried to say often and a lot of times this gets discounted in the press is that the experience of having traveled throughout this country: having learned the stories of ordinary folks who are doing extraordinary things in their communities, in their neighborhoods: having met all the people who put so much energy and effort into our campaign: having seen the ups and downs and having seen how Washington was always the last to get what was going on, always the last to get the news what that told me was that if we were willing to not do what was expedient, and not do what was convenient, and not try to govern based on the polls today or tomorrow or the next day, but rather based on a vision for how we can rebuild this country in a way that works for everybody if we are focused on making sure that there are ladders of opportunity for people to continue to strive and achieve the American Dream and that that's accessible to all, not just some if we kept our eye on what sort of future do we want for our kids and our grandkids so that 20 years from now and 30 years from now people look back on this generation the way we look back on the Greatest Generation and say to ourselves, boy, they made some tough decisions, they got through some tough times, but, look, we now have a clean energy economy: look, our schools are revitalized: look, our health care system works for every single American imagine how tough that was and how much resistance they met from the special interests, but they were still willing to do it if that was how we governed, then I figure that the politics would take care of itself.

As governors, I know you feel the same responsibility to see the people we serve through difficult times.

As the financial crisis and the vicious recession collided with an industry that for too long had avoided hard choices and hadn't fully adapted to changing times, we finally reached the point where two of the Big Three.

Because of an era of greed and irresponsibility that sowed the seeds of its own demise, because of persistent economic troubles unaddressed through the generations, because of a banking crisis that brought the financial system to the brink of catastrophe, we are being tested in our own lives and as a nation as few have been tested before.

But part of what gets us through tough times is music, the arts, the ability to capture that essential kernel of ourselves, that part of us that sings even when times are hard.

But here's what I knew: I wasn't going to put any more tax dollars on the line if it meant perpetuating bad business decisions that got us to a point where the U S auto industry was in crisis.

But it is clear to all concerned that when it comes to nuclear weapons, we have reached a decisive point.

But the cause endured and the struggle continued, waged by the family of Matthew Shepard, by the family of James Byrd, by folks who held vigils and led marches, by those who rallied and organized and refused to give up, by the late Senator Ted Kennedy who fought so hard for this legislation and all who toiled for years to reach this day.

But the only way they get to that point is if we're helping them get to that point.

But through long shifts and late nights: in the hectic scrum of the emergency room, or in those quiet acts of humanity: you are saving lives, you are offering solace, you're helping to make us a better nation.

But we've been through tough times before.

Congratulations to all the parents, the cousins the aunts, the uncles all the people who helped to bring you to the point that you are here today.

Congratulations to the owner, Tom Benson, who has led this team through times that would test anybody ; and General Manager Mickey Loomis, for building this extraordinary championship squad.

Each country must work through its past.

Earlier this week, after breaking through a political logjam that some of you probably saw if you were watching TV, Congress passed and I signed into law a bill that extends unemployment insurance to help people who've been laid off get through these hard times. Everybody is going to have a tough race across this country because we're going through tough times.

For as we face down the hardships and struggles of our time, and arrive at that hour for which we were born, we can not help but draw strength from those moments in history when the best among us were somehow able to swallow their fears and secure a beachhead on an unforgiving shore.

For while our two nations have taken different paths to reach this moment, ours is a common story.

From his heroic service to Vietnam to his years as prosecutor and lieutenant governor, through two decades in the United States Senate, he has devoted himself to this country.

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He understands that there's something more important than pursuing power or clinging on to your seat or scoring points and that's breaking free from the politics of the past and moving America forward at this defining moment in our history.

He's led Mary Queen of Vietnam Church in Louisiana through some pretty hard days.

Here at the White House, we have a tradition of hosting iftars that goes back several years, just as we host Christmas parties and seders and Diwali celebrations.

How do we get ourselves to the point where more people are working, and more people are spending, and you start seeing a virtuous cycle and the recovery starts to feed on itself.

How Navy honor guards kept constant vigil, through the night, as so many of you passed by to pay your respects.

I have known you through good times and tough times.

I know how much hard work goes into a championship season.

I imagine there are some seniors out there who are feeling pretty good right now with just one more year to go.

I know it's been a hard road that we've traveled to reach this point on health reform.

I know that there is a longer I know there's a longer journey that must be traveled to overcome decades of mistrust, but there are critical steps we can take toward a new day.

I know this nation has been through an incredibly difficult time.

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I mean, it would be one thing if the Republicans had gone through a period of soul-searching, right ? If they had said, boy, we really messed up, and had kind of gone off into the wilderness and thought long and hard about their economic approach, and then came back and said, you know what, we did n't know what we were doing but now we've got some new ideas, we've got some new policies, we've learned from our mistakes, we're going to do something different this time that would be a plausible argument.

I mean, there's been so much misinformation and so much confusion and the climate at times during the course of this year has been so toxic and people are so anxious because the economy has been going through such a tough time.

I reject it because of what you're doing right here at Trinity ; what's happening right here in Newton after folks have gone through hard times.

I was a candidate for President that day, and some may recall I argued that our country had reached a tipping point

I'd like to offer this toast not only to our constituents, who put up with us and have gone through some extraordinarily difficult times, but I also want to offer a toast to our spouses and families who make extraordinary sacrifices.

I'm getting to the point where I'm not going to get applause.

I'm signing this bill for all the leaders who took up this cause through the generations from Teddy Roosevelt to Franklin Roosevelt, from Harry Truman, to Lyndon Johnson, from Bill and Hillary Clinton, to one of the deans who's been fighting this so long, John Dingell.

In so many ways, each of you today have shown that ingenuity as you've successfully navigated your companies through an extraordinarily difficult time the toughest time that we've seen since the Great Depression.

Indeed, as we near Memorial Day, we pay tribute to all those who have given their lives so that we might live free, including those aboard that Navy helicopter who were lost this week in the waters off California.

It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours.

It took us decades to get to where we are: it's going to take some time to get to the point where we need to be.

It was a spirit that would echo through time and space: to an Illinois rail-splitter who vowed that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.

It was Islam at places like Al-Azhar that carried the light of learning through so many centuries, paving the way for Europe's Renaissance and Enlightenment.

It's a rare thing when a sports team carries a city through tough times.

It's been sort of the air that we breathe in the Obama household in so many ways, and I see faces of people that I have served with who have helped bring me to this point in time friends, folks hey ! friends who have helped get me to this point in time.

It's going to run all the way through our National Day of Service on September 11th.

It's important for us to help our children understand that connection between what they eat and how they feel, and the fact that if they move their bodies and get their self going, they just have more energy to get through the day.

It's not just Teaneck that's been going through tough times.

It's not New Jersey that's been going through tough times.

It's the belief that has brought millions of people to our shores, and carried us through even the toughest economic times.

Look, I understand that a lot of folks are going through tough times right now, and understandably, they're feeling impatient.

More than anyone else, the new era of service we enter in today has been made possible by the unlikely friendship between these two men, Orrin Hatch and Ted Kennedy.

None of them are going to be quick, but make no mistake, the United States of America has gone through tough times before and we always come out stronger.

Now we've got three months to go, and so we've decided, well, we can politick for three months.

Now, like his father and his grandfather before him, the Prime Minister is leading Greece through challenging times.

Now, not only do the folks in the other party say no to reform, now they say they want to repeal it go back to the days when insurance companies could jack up your rates any time they felt like it, or drop your coverage when you get sick.

Now, obviously we've been through an incredibly difficult time as a nation.

Now, once you get to that point, our kids are on our way.

Now, one of those chapters is nearing an end.

Now, some may have thought it would take months to get to this point.

Now, we did n't get to that point by accident.

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Now, when I talk about education, people say, well, you know what, right now we're going through this tough time.

Now, you, Class of 2009, are about to enter the next phase of your life at a time of great uncertainty.

One newspaper noted that " we have come to the hour for which we were born.

One year later, it is incumbent upon us to put in place those reforms that will prevent this kind of crisis from ever happening again, reflecting painful but important lessons that we've learned, and that will help us move from a period of reckless irresponsibility, a period of crisis, to one of responsibility and prosperity.

Our efforts to contain these dangers are centered on a global non-proliferation regime, but as more people and nations break the rules, we could reach the point where the center can not hold.

Our journey to perfect our union goes on to this day.

President Hu and I both felt that it was important to get our relationship off to a good start.

Right now we've got brothers and sisters in the Gulf Coast who are going through an incredibly difficult time in the face of a disaster unlike any that we've ever seen of late.

Russia has cut its way through time like a mighty river through a canyon, leaving an indelible mark on human history as it goes.

So a lot of you as a consequence, because we're going through a tough time a country, are having to act a lot older than you are.

So as Nathan's family neared their lifetime limit, a social worker actually suggested that Nathan and his wife get divorced so that she could go on Medicaid.

So I hope that all of you work as hard as you can if you do, then I'm absolutely confident that we're going to get through these tough times and brighter days are going to be ahead not just for Pennsylvania, but for the United States of America.

So I want to congratulate you for having worked through a very difficult year.

So I want everybody here to hear my words : We will not go back to the days of reckless behavior and unchecked excess that was at the heart of this crisis, where too many were motivated only by the appetite for quick kills and bloated bonuses.

So plenty of cities carry their sports teams through a tough season.

So she decided to teach me extra lessons herself, Monday through Friday.

So to everybody in Holland, I want you to understand these have been a tough few years, but we have been through tough times before, and at our best we've risen to the challenges we face by tapping the drive and the talent and the ingenuity that has always been at the heart of America's success.

So we're helping states get through some very tough times without having to drastically cut back on the critical education infrastructure that's going to be so important.

So what we've said is this and there's legislation pending right now that we want to get passed this year that says to every young person in America, you go to college, you will not have to pay more than 10 percent of your income in repaying student loans.

So when you're going through tough times, Harry Reid has been there.

So, look, Indiana, we're living through some extraordinary times.

So, Nevada, I know we've been through tough times.

So, yes, we're passing through a hard winter.

Suzanne pointed out to me that the last time I was here, I made a very clear promise that I would help in the transition into a new program to make sure that people who are already going through a tough time here in this region were helped.

That can't be the kind of leadership that we need going into the 21st century.

They're siding with the insurance companies who want to go back to the days when they could drop that woman from coverage, or deny that woman coverage.

That's what helped them get through some very difficult times.

That's why, with the support of Sherrod Brown, but also members of the House of Representatives Mary Jo Kilroy, Steve Driehaus and Charlie Wilson, who are all here wave, guys that's why these folks worked so hard to pass the Recovery Act, which cut taxes for middle-class families, that way boosting demand ; cutting taxes for small businesses so that they could make payroll and keep their doors open ; extending unemployment insurance and COBRA to help folks make it through some really tough times ; to rebuild our infrastructure and make investments that would spur additional investments from the private sector and strengthen our country in the long run.

That has been the source of our strength through the ages.

The auto industry has gone through a difficult time.

The recession in 1980-'81, does n't come close to what we've gone through over the last two years.

The Cold War reached a conclusion because of the actions of many nations over many years, and because the people of Russia and Eastern Europe stood up and decided that its end would be peaceful.

The United States is still working through some of our own darker periods in our history.

The seamstress whose feet were tired, the pastor whose voice echoes through the ages they weathered some hard winters.

There were those who argued that because I had spoke of a need for unity in this country that our nation was somehow entering into a period of post-partisanship.

There will be those who engage in revisionist history or have selective memories, and do n't seem to recall what we just went through last year.

These are hardworking people whose hours were cut, or the factory closed, who turned to a credit card to get through a rough month which turned into two, or three, or six months without a job.

They have something to tell us, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages.

They plowed through the regular season, they won every game in the AFC North, they took down the Chargers and the Ravens in the playoffs.

They joined together so that all of us could enter our golden years with some basic peace of mind.

They want to go back to the days when credit card companies can jack up your rates without reason and insurance companies can deny you coverage just because you got sick.

They want to repeal that reform, take us back to the days when insurance companies could deny you care ? We're not going to let that happen.

They want to take Congress back and return to the days where lobbyists wrote the laws.

This community is still going through some tough times.

This country is emerging from an incredibly difficult period in its history -??? an era of irresponsibility that stretched from Wall Street to Washington, and had a devastating effect on a lot of people.

This plant has stood through the good times, when American auto industry ruled the world, and in the not-so-good times, when the future of the auto industry was very much in doubt. Through all the events that came to define the 20th century, through all our moments of deepest hurt and brightest hope, Walter Cronkite was there, telling the story of the American age.

Through all those years, no one missed Scott more or fought harder to bring him home than his wife Joanne: his friend and former Navy pilot Buddy Harris: their children Meghan, Michael, Madison, and Makenzie.

Through conflict and tumult, through the morass of hatred and prejudice, through periods of division and discord we have endured and grown stronger and fairer and freer.

Through periods of great social and economic unrest, from civil rights to women's rights, it has allowed us slowly, sometimes painfully, to move towards a more perfect union.

Through tour after tour of duty, our troops have overcome every obstacle to extend this precious opportunity to the Iraqi people.

Today, I want to talk about what we can do to raise the quality of education from kindergarten through senior year.

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Together, we shall make a way through winter, and we're going to welcome the spring.

Together, we will have moved closer to that day when no one has to be afraid to be gay in America.

Ultimately, Congress responds to the voices that they're hearing in their communities, and so many of you have written letters and come to meetings and let people know of the ordinary struggles that people are going through each and every day.

We all know the terrible toll on families and the promise of treatments that will allow a mother to be there for her children as they grow up ; that will make it possible for a child to reach adulthood ; that will allow countless people to survive a disease that's claimed far too many lives.

We also want to make sure that we keep taxes low for middle-class families, and that's why we cut taxes for 95 percent of workers right at the beginning of my term because they had been going through a tough time and they needed to have a chance to deal with this economic crisis.

We are going to keep on going through this year and into next year, because we are going to make sure that not only are we putting people back to work, but we're laying the foundation for a better economy.

We celebrate the courage and commitment of those who brought us to this point.

We didn't get to this point by accident.

We extended unemployment insurance, increased unemployment insurance for 12 million Americans to help them get through tough times that's helped millions of New Yorkers.

We gave relief to states to help them through these tough times.

We got to that point after nearly 10 years of an economic agenda in Washington that was pretty straightforward.

We have come through a difficult decade.

We have lived through an age when many people and institutions have acted irresponsibly when service often took a backseat to short-term profits: when hard choices were put aside for somebody else, for some other time.

We have reached a pivotal moment.

We joined with our G20 partners to set aside over a trillion dollars for countries going through difficult times, recognizing that we have to provide assistance to those countries that are most vulnerable.

We must lay a new foundation for growth and prosperity a foundation that will move us from an era of borrow and spend to one where we save and invest ; where we consume less at home and send more exports abroad.

We see your sense of honor in your respect for tradition, knowing that you join a Long Grey Line that stretches through the centuries: and in your reverence for each other, as when the Corps stands in silence every time a former cadet makes the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. We will get to the point where we're not losing jobs, but then we've got to start getting to the point where we're actually creating jobs.

We're living through extraordinary times.

We're living through extraordinary times.

We're not about to go back to the days when special interests took advantage of Main Street families.

We're not going to go back to the days when insurance companies wrote the rules that let you languish without health care because you had a preexisting condition.

We're not going to go back to those days.

We've been tasked to not only see this country through difficult times, but to keep the dream of our founding alive for the next generation.

We've been through tough times before, and it is precisely in those times that we rebuilt, we retooled, we recaptured the ingenuity and resilience that makes this nation so great.



We've been through tougher times ; our parents, our grandparents.

We've gone through a difficult year and a half, and right now our thoughts and our prayers are with friends in another part of the country that is so rich in musical heritage the people of the Gulf Coast who are dealing with something that we simply had not seen before.

We've gone through a lot of years where we were told what government can not do.

We've gone through a stormy time.

We've gone through a very, very difficult time.

Winston Churchill was dismissed as little more than a has-been, who enjoyed scotch a little bit too much, before he took over as Prime Minister and saw Great Britain through its finest hour.

You know, every so often, throughout our history, a generation of Americans bears the responsibility of seeing this country through difficult times and protecting the dream of its founding for posterity.

You know, obviously we know that the country is going through a tough time.

You know, we've gone through these periods before.