AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. You will not find a bigger supporter of the arts than Nancy Pelosi, and so we're grateful for that.

Even as we gather here tonight to present this annual award for extraordinary contributions to American music and culture—that's right, we stole you, Paul—[*laughter*]—it goes without saying that this has been a very difficult time. 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 have not seen before. And it's heartbreaking. And we reaffirm, I think, together, our commitment to see to it that their lives and their communities are made whole again.

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. And it's fitting that the Library has chosen to present this year's Gershwin Prize for Popular Song to a man whose father played Gershwin compositions for him on the piano, a man who grew up to become the most successful songwriter in history, Sir Paul McCartney.

Now, by its very definition, popular music is fleeting. Rarely is it composed with an eye towards standing the test of time. Rarer still does it actually achieve that distinction. And that's what makes Paul's career so legendary.

It's hard to believe that it's been nearly half a century since four lads from Liverpool first landed on our shores and changed everything overnight. And I have to share this story. While we were sitting here, I learned that the bass that Paul was playing onstage is the same bass that he played at "The Ed Sullivan Show," which he told me it cost him 30 pounds. He says he suspects it's worth a little more now. [*Laughter*]

But the Beatles, they weren't the first rock stars. They'd be the first to say that others had opened that door for them. But they blew the walls down for everybody else. In a few short years, they had changed the way that we listened to music, thought about music, and performed music forever. They helped to lay the soundtrack for an entire generation, an era of endless possibility and of great change.

And over the four decades since, Paul McCartney has not let up, touring the world with the band Wings or on his own, rocking everything from small halls to Super Bowls. He's composed hundreds of songs over the years, with John Lennon, with others, or on his own. Nearly 200 of those songs made the charts—think about that—and stayed on the charts for a cumulative total of 32 years. [*Laughter*] And his gifts have touched billions of lives.

As he later confessed of the Beatles' first appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," where he carried that bass out—that one evening that changed everything—Paul said, "Luckily, we didn't know what America was. We just knew our dream of it, or we probably would have been too intimidated."

Tonight it is my distinct pleasure to present America's highest award for popular music on behalf of a grateful nation—grateful that a young Englishman shared his dreams with us—Sir Paul McCartney.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:36 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 3.

Remarks at the United States-India Strategic Dialogue Reception
June 3, 2010

The President. Thank you very much. Good evening, everyone. *Namaste*.

Audience members. Namaste.

The President. I want to thank Secretary Clinton for your outstanding leadership. And I want to thank Minister Krishna for both the kind words and the incredible work that you've put in to trying to strengthen even more and deepen even more the relationship between the two largest democracies in the world.

Secretary Clinton, I think as you may be aware, is a great admirer of India, and I know

the sentiment is shared in return. In fact, I'm told that one of the Secretary's favorite restaurants in Delhi added a new item to the menu—[*laughter*]—the "Hillary Platter." [*Laughter*] This is true. Now, what does it have, chapati? Is it——

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. It's got all kinds of things. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. Mr. President, you must try it when you go to India.

The President. I will try this in India. [*Laughter*]

Now, it's been said—and Hillary alluded to this—that there are two kinds of people in the world: those who do the work and those who take the credit. There's a corollary to the saying: Try to be in the first group because there's much less competition. [*Laughter*] It's a lot less crowded. [*Laughter*]

Well, Prime Minister Singh and I are very proud to take credit for our two nations forging an unprecedented partnership through this strategic dialogue. But tonight I wanted to come by and express my gratitude to all of you, not only Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna, but also everybody in attendance, who are actually doing the hard work of advancing the goals that Prime Minister Singh and I set forward in our bilateral meetings. I want to not only thank Minister Rao—Minister Krishna, but I also want to thank Secretary Rao and members of the Indian delegation; our two wonderful Ambassadors, Meera Shankar—where'd she go?—there she is—as well as my great friend, Tim Roemer; and leaders from across my administration.

And I want to thank everybody who's here from India and the United States who works every day to bring our countries even closer together, leaders in business, in civil society, academia, faith groups, especially our many friends from our very strong, very proud, very vibrant Indian American community.

I was just telling Minister Krishna that right before I came here, I was congratulating the National Spelling Bee champion, who was a young—Indian American young lady. And her parents could not have been prouder. And it just was a wonderful reminder of how strong the bonds between our two countries are.

Michelle and I were honored to welcome Prime Minister Singh and Mrs. Kaur to the White House for the very first official state visit of my Presidency. It was a state visit that demonstrated that our relations with India are at the highest of priorities for my administration and for me, personally, as President of the United States.

I said then that India is a leader in Asia and around the world. It's a rising power and a responsible global power. That's why I firmly believe that the relationship between the United States and India will be a defining partnership in the 21st century.

The new National Security Strategy that I released last week makes this absolutely clear: A fundamental pillar of America's comprehensive engagement with the world involves deepening our cooperation with 21st-century centers of influence, and that includes India.

Moreover, the relationship between the United States and India is fundamentally unique because, as our strategy explains, we share common interests, but we also share common values as the world's two largest democracies and as countries that are rich in diversity, with deep and close connections among our people.

In other words, the United States values our partnership not because of where India is on a map, but because of what we share and where we can go together. India is indispensable to the future that we seek, a future of security and prosperity for all nations. That's why a third of my Cabinet has already visited India, not only for the chapatis. [*Laughter*] That is why officials from across my administration are part of this strategic dialogue. That's why I want to thank you for the progress that we've made together since Prime Minister Singh's visit.

We're deepening our economic cooperation on finance and investment and the trade that creates jobs in both of our countries. And I look forward to working with Prime Minister Singh and our fellow G–20 partners this month in Toronto as we work to foster economic growth that is both balanced and sustained.

With our agreement on fuel reprocessing, we're moving ahead with our civil nuclear agreement. We're expanding our green partner-

ship to promote green buildings, energy efficiency, and the sustainable development that creates jobs and reduces poverty. And as we strive to implement our Copenhagen commitments, we'll be working together to ensure a successful climate conference in Mexico later this year.

We're cooperating more closely than ever before against transnational threats. This includes, as Minister Krishna alluded to, making progress for the Afghan people and preventing terrorism, whether it's in Manhattan or in Mumbai. It includes securing vulnerable nuclear materials, a goal we advanced at our Nuclear Security Summit, where I thanked Prime Minister Singh for committing India to building a new center of excellence for nuclear energy and security. And our efforts include a stronger global nonproliferation regime where all nations live up to their obligations.

We're broadening partnerships between our people, especially in science, technology, and global health. More students are taking advantage of our expanded Fulbright-Nehru program. We're working to expand ties between our universities and community colleges. And we're partnering on agriculture and research to reduce global hunger and to share India's incredible progress with other countries.

Finally, as global partners, we're going to sustain this momentum at the highest levels. During his state visit, the Prime Minister graciously invited me and my family to visit India this year, and I happily accepted. And as I confirmed to him when we spoke last week, I'm delighted to announce tonight that I plan to visit India in early November, so—[*applause*]. I look forward to advancing our partnership, to experiencing all that India and its people and its incredible ancient culture have to offer—and I intend to create an "Obama Platter." [*Laughter*]

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Yes. As I look ahead to my visit, I've got another quote that matches up pretty well with Mark Twain's. This is a scholar from Europe who traveled to India more than a century ago, and he said, "Whatever sphere of the human mind you may select for your special study, whether it be language, or religion, or mythology, or philosophy, whether it be law or customs, primitive art or science, you have to go to India." Because, he said, "some of the most valuable and instructive material of the history of man are treasured up in India and India only."

So when it comes to the sphere of our work—building a future of greater prosperity, opportunity, and security for our people—there is no doubt: I have to go to India. [*Laughter*] But even more, I am proud to go to India, and I look forward to the history that we will make together, progress that will be treasured not just by this generation, but by generations to come.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. at the State Department. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of External Affairs Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna and Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao of India; India's Ambassador to the U.S. Meera Shankar; U.S. Ambassador to India Timothy J. Roemer; and 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Anamika Veeramani and her parents Alagaiya and Malar Veeramani.

Remarks at K. Neal International Trucks, Inc., in Hyattsville, Maryland
June 4, 2010

The President. Good morning, everybody.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. Well, let me just—please, everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. The—it is wonderful to be here. And I want to make a couple of quick acknowledgments. This guy behind me, you may know him—[*laughter*]—he's the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden. You got Maryland's Lieutenant Governor, Anthony Brown, is here; got the mayor of Hyattsville, William Gardiner. And of course we've got to acknowledge