

4th of July at the White House, 2010

PRESIDENT OBAMA: This is the day when we celebrate the very essence of America. And the spirit that has defined us as a people and as a nation for more than two centuries.

Though, even now all these years later we still look in awe at the small band of patriots who stood up and risked everything and defied an empire to declare that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states.

JOHN HANSON [Senior VP Communications, USO]: There are 1,200 military families on the South Lawn today. The President and the USO, for the second year, have hosted this event for military families. It means a great deal to military families to be able to come out here and celebrate the Fourth of July and the USO really appreciates it.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Michelle and I couldn't imagine a better way to celebrate America's birthday than with America's extraordinary men and women in uniform and your families.

[APPLAUSE]

CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER: We've got, like, you know, all members of the military here with their families and it's just a great way to honor them. And I've actually been setting up fireworks, barbecuing -- I'm gonna do the performance, and maybe play drums for The Killers.

BRANDON FLOWERS [Singer, The Killers]: We're here at the White House to celebrate Independence Day.

RONNIE VANNUCCI [Singer, The Killers]: It's kind of incredible; it feels -- it feels very -- very American.

BRANDI CARLILE [Musician]: It's such an honor, it's such an amazing time in history, and it's just -- it's really a privilege to be asked to play.

MRS. OBAMA: The Fourth of July is a perfect time for us to celebrate, not just this country and all that it stands for, but the hard work of these families and the sacrifices they -- that they make every single day to make sure that we can enjoy the freedoms of our democracy.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: So happy Fourth of July, everybody. God bless all of you and all our men and women in uniform and your families. And God bless the United States of America.

[APPLAUSE]