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**Remarks as Delivered by Central Intelligence Agency Director
John O. Brennan
at the
Agency Memorial Ceremony,
20 May 2013**

(C) Good morning, and welcome everyone. We are gathered here this morning to honor 107 extraordinary women and men from throughout our Agency's history—beloved colleagues who will inspire us forever with their unsurpassable devotion to duty and country. We also celebrate the lives of the four men whose stars were added to our Memorial Wall in the past year: Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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(U) On behalf of our entire workforce, I warmly welcome the loved ones of those whose stars grace this Wall. No matter how far from your home you may have traveled, you have arrived among family—an Agency family united by bonds of trust, patriotism, and shared sacrifice.

(U) Each spring, this remembrance of our heroes serves as our homecoming. And I thank you all for joining us for the most important annual occasion in the life of our Agency. What you see here—the stars, the flag, the Book of Honor—tells you everything you need to know about the heart and soul of CIA. And I wish that every American could see them, come to know the extraordinary valor and compassion of those we have lost, and truly understand what America's intelligence agency seeks to accomplish in this world.

(U) Many Directors have stood in this very spot and have told the heroic stories of our fallen colleagues. To be standing here now, and to be given the privilege of speaking on behalf of our Agency family, I am truly humbled by the magnitude of what our friends, colleagues, and loved ones achieved for our country, as well as by the tragedies we all must endure. For it is during these ceremonies that we take full measure of CIA's unique and critical contributions to our Nation's security—and of the terrible cost these contributions often entail.

(U) Our adversaries and our activities may change over the decades, but the inherent risk of intelligence work endures—for officers in every part of our Agency. This Memorial Wall reminds us of those risks.

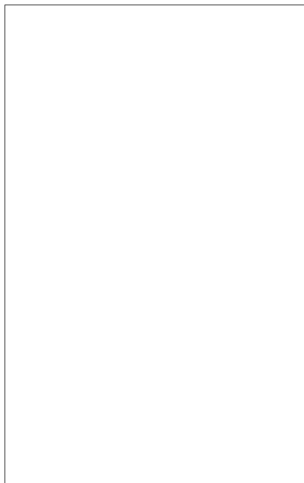
(C) When I joined CIA in August 1980, there were 38 stars on this wall. Less than three years later, when Hizballah terrorists bombed the US Embassy in Beirut, [REDACTED] more stars would be added in one single day. Last month marked the 30th anniversary of that

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tragedy—still the deadliest single day in our Agency's history—and we grieve for the remarkable individuals lost to us in an instant in that terrible bombing:



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(U) And my boss, mentor, and roll model when I was a junior officer—Bob Ames.

(U) This past January also marked the twentieth anniversary of the shooting at the Route 123 entrance to our Headquarters compound, which claimed the lives of Dr. Lansing Bennett and Frank Darling, who were targeted simply because they were CIA employees.

(C) Later this year, we also will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the barbaric attacks against our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

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(U) Today, CIA officers remain on the front lines of the war against al-Qa'ida and of every other overseas challenge facing our Nation.

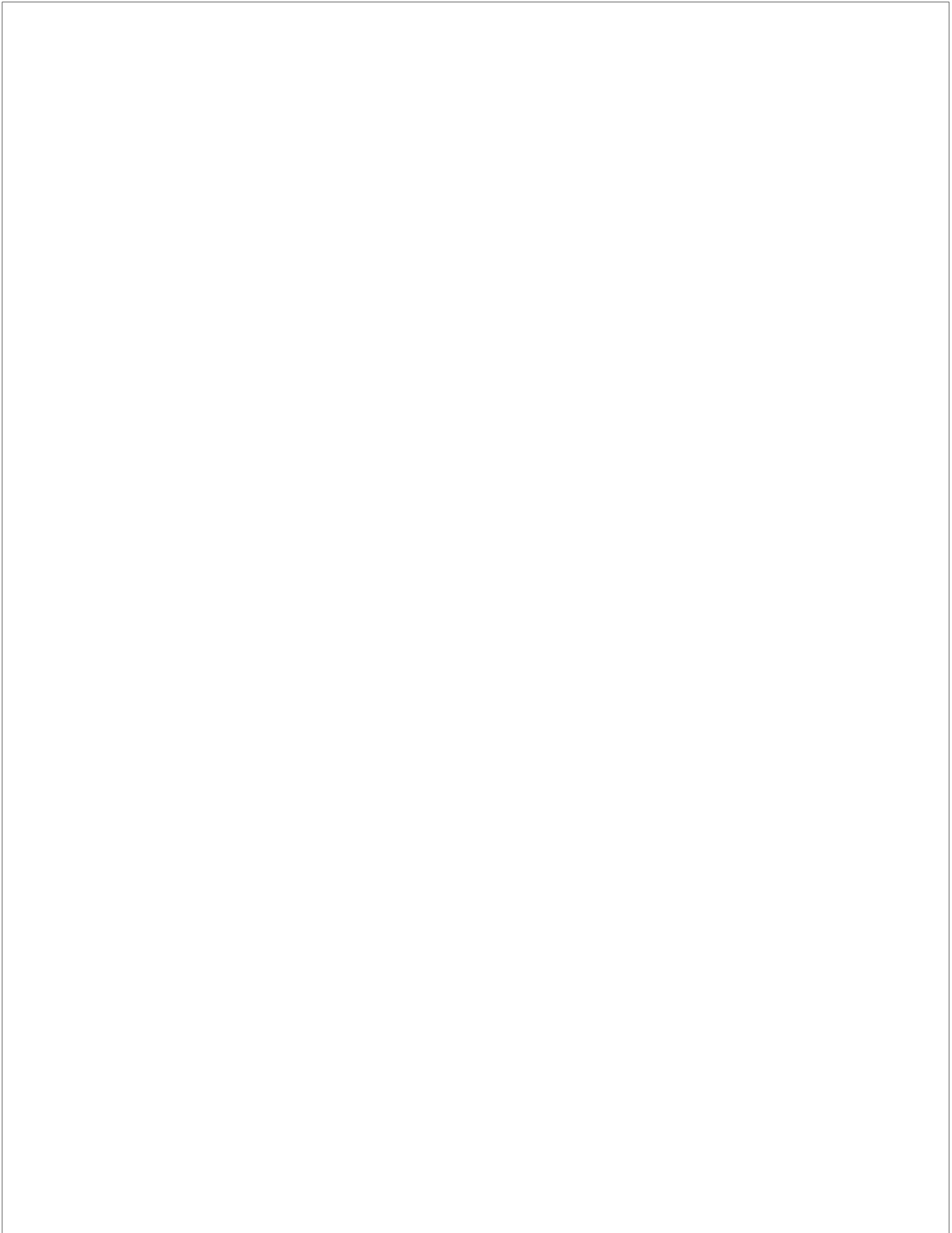
(C) Over the past year—at Benghazi in Libya, —four stars have been added to our Memorial Wall.

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(C) Two of those new stars were carved in memory of Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, who gave their last full measure of devotion at Benghazi.

(C) Born and raised on opposite coasts—Glen in Massachusetts, Ty in Oregon—the two shared a deep love of country as well as an endless appetite for challenges. Each saw becoming a Navy SEAL as the supreme test of strength and character; Ty turned down a wrestling scholarship at the University of Oregon to enlist, and Glen joined after earning his pilot's wings at Embry-Riddle University and becoming accomplished in his hobbies of skiing and white-water rafting.

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(C) We are very pleased and honored that Glen's family members—
—are here with us today.

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(C) We know that our words are poor consolation for your tremendous loss, and that there is no way that we can lessen your sorrow. But please know that Glen will never be forgotten by his CIA family.

(C) So it is my privilege to present you with a replica of Glen's star, carved from the same type of marble as that of our Memorial Wall, and by the same craftsman who sculpted the original.

[Presentation of the star]

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(C) We are also pleased and honored to have Ty's family with us today—

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(C) Ty is a hero to his Agency family. And may this star be an eternal commemoration of his heroic life, which we will always commemorate and celebrate.

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[Presentation of the star]

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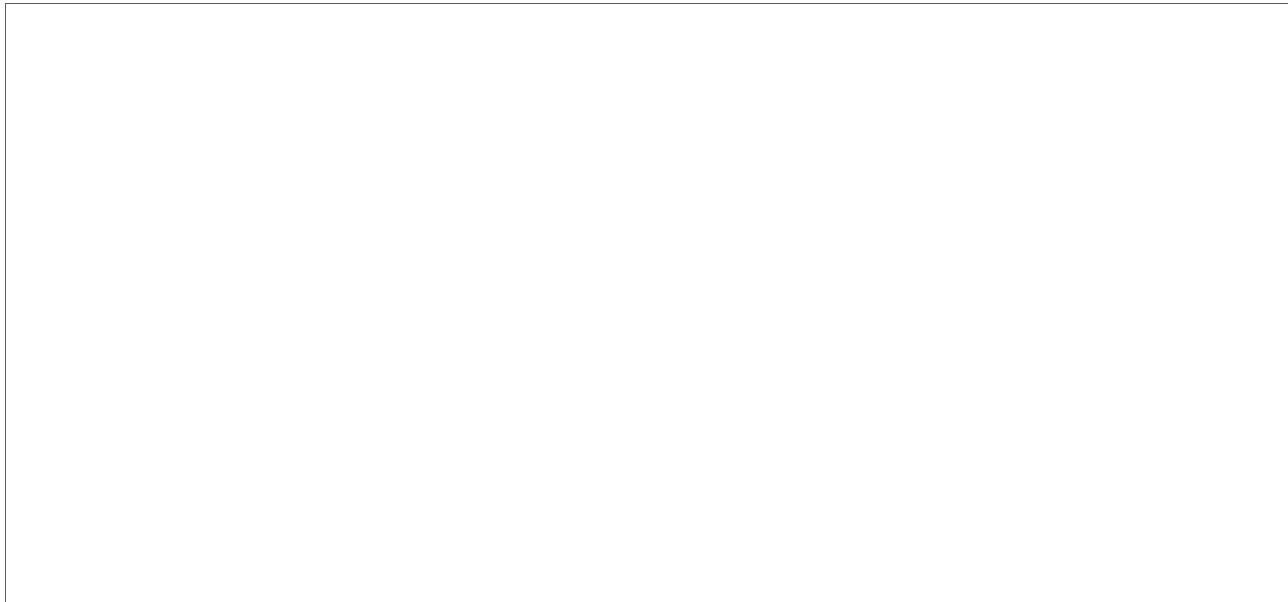
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(U) Today we have honored 107 patriots who chose to put themselves in harm's way for a cause larger than self, and who gave their last full measure for our country. Too often, this is what is asked of CIA officers—and CIA is routinely asked to do what others cannot.

(C) The President and our fellow Americans rely on us not just because we have been given special authorities and responsibilities. They rely on us because they know that our Nation's security demands that a special breed of American patriots devote extraordinary physical, moral, and intellectual strength and courage; the type of courage shown by Glen, Ty,

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(U) As America confronts both old and new rivals at this critical juncture in our history, our country's leaders inevitably will turn to CIA time and again to meet the challenges that defy diplomatic or military solutions. And when they do, I know—and we all know—that the women and men of the CIA are ready to respond with the same courage, skill, and resolve displayed by those we honor here today.

(C) Our promise—our solemn promise—to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, and to all of our brothers and sisters who have fallen in the line of duty—and to you, their families, and to our fellow Americans—is to carry on the difficult, essential tasks we are honored to have been given: to safeguard our fellow citizens, and our national security.

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(U) On behalf of all the women and men who are honored to be part of the CIA family, I pledge to you that we will meet the challenges with an unshakable commitment to the

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laws and principles of this great country, and with boundless faith in the spirit and capacity of our fellow officers—sustained, at all times, by the constant support and affection of those we love.

(U) May God bless the heroes we have lost; may God bless our Agency family; and may God bless the United States of America.

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