

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

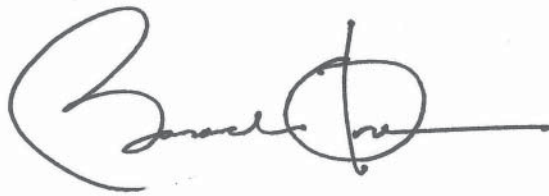
October 31, 2014

I send warm greetings to all those observing National French Week.

For generations, shared ideals and bonds of friendship have connected America and the French-speaking world. As our oldest ally, France has enriched our spirit as a Nation—from the Statue of Liberty and the streets of New Orleans to the battlefields on which our independence was won and the grounds on which our Capital was built. Today, French influence continues to resound throughout our culture in the names of our cities, in our own language, and in so many aspects of our lives. The alliance between the United States and France only deepens, and America also maintains longstanding and close relationships with French-speaking nations and peoples across the globe.

During National French Week, we celebrate not only the beauty of the French language, but also the ways in which its rhythms help tell the story of our own country—through the contributions of visitors and French-speaking communities in America alike. By teaching and promoting French in our schools, universities, and neighborhoods, we help carry this proud legacy forward, ensuring it can live on in each new generation.

I wish you all the best for an engaging and inspiring week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.