

‘Yes we did’ — President Obama bids farewell

President was forceful, tearful and hopeful

By JOSH LEDERMAN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press



AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast
President Barack Obama points as he is joined by First Lady Michelle Obama and his daughter Malia Obama after his presidential farewell address in Chicago on Tuesday.

CHICAGO — President Barack Obama has bid farewell to the nation in an emotional speech that sought to comfort a country on edge over rapid economic changes, persistent security threats and the election of Donald Trump.

Forceful at times and tearful at others, Obama's valedictory speech in his hometown of Chicago was a public meditation on the many trials the U.S. faces as Obama takes his exit. For the challenges that are new, Obama offered his vision for how to surmount them, and for the persistent problems he was unable to overcome, he offered optimism that others, eventually, will.

"Yes, our progress has been uneven," he told a crowd of some 18,000. "The work of democracy has always been hard, contentious and sometimes bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back."

Yet Obama argued his faith in America had only been strengthened by what he's witnessed the past eight years, and he declared: "The future should be ours."

Paying tribute

Brushing away tears with a handkerchief, Obama paid tribute to the sacrifices made by his wife — and by his daughters, who were young girls when they entered the big white home on Pennsylvania Avenue and leave as young women. He praised first lady Michelle Obama for taking on her role "with grace and grit and style and good humor" and for making the White House "a place that belongs to everybody."

Soon Obama and his family will exit the national stage, to be replaced by Trump, a man Obama had stridently argued poses a dire threat to the nation's future. His near-apocalyptic warnings throughout the campaign have cast a continu-

ing shadow over his post-election efforts to reassure Americans anxious about the future.

Indeed, much of what Obama accomplished during his two terms — from health care overhaul and environmental regulations to his nuclear deal with Iran — could potentially be upended by Trump. So even as Obama seeks to define what his presidency meant for America, his legacy remains in question.

Anxiety about future

Even as Obama said farewell — in a televised speech of just under an hour — the anxiety felt by many Americans about the future was palpable, and not only in the Chicago convention center where he stood in front of a giant presidential seal. The political world was reeling from new revelations about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about Trump.

Obama made only passing reference to the next president. When he noted he would soon be replaced by the Republican, his crowd began to boo.

"No, no, no, no, no," Obama said. One of the nation's great strengths, he said, "is the peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next."

Earlier, as the crowd of thousands chanted, "Four more years," he simply smiled and

said, "I can't do that."

Still, Obama offered what seemed like a point-by-point rebuttal of Trump's vision for America.

He pushed back on the isolationist sentiments inherent in Trump's trade policies. He decried discrimination against Muslim Americans and lamented politicians who question climate change. And he warned about the pernicious threat to U.S. democracy posed by purposely deceptive fake

"news" and a growing tendency of Americans to listen only to information that confirms what they already believe. Get out of your "bubbles,"

said the politician who rose to a prominence with a message of unity, challenging divisions of red states and blue states. Obama also revived a call to activism that marked his first presidential campaign, telling Americans to stay engaged in politics.

"If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the internet," Obama said pointedly, "try to talk with one in real life."

A path forward

With Democrats still straining to make sense of their devastating election losses, Obama tried to offer a path forward. He called for empathy for the

struggles of all Americans — from minorities, refugees and transgender people to middle-aged white men whose sense of economic security has been upended in recent years.

Paying tribute to his place as America's first black president, Obama acknowledged there were hopes after his 2008 election for a post-racial America.

"Such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic," Obama said, though he insisted race relations are better now than a few decades ago.

The former community organizer closed out his speech by reviving his campaign chant, "Yes we can." To that, he added for the first time, "Yes we did."

He staunchly defended the power of activists to make a difference — the driving factor behind Obama's optimism in the face of so much anxiety, he said. Though the coalition of young Americans and minorities who twice got Obama elected wasn't enough to elect Democrat Hillary Clinton to replace him, Obama suggested their day was still ahead.

"You'll soon outnumber any of us, and I believe as a result that the future is in good

hands," he said.

Steeped in nostalgia, Obama's return to Chicago was less a triumphant homecoming than a bittersweet reunion bringing together loyalists and staffers, many of whom have long since left Obama's service, moved on to new careers and started families. They came from across the country — some on Air Force One, others on their own — to be present for the last major moment of Obama's presidency.

Unexpectedly absent was Obama's younger daughter, Sasha, who had been expected to join sister Malia at the speech. The White House said Sasha stayed in Washington due to a school exam Wednesday morning.

After returning to Washington, Obama will have less than two weeks before he accompanies Trump in the presidential limousine to the Capitol for the new president's swearing-in. After nearly a decade in the spotlight, Obama will become a private citizen, an elder statesman at 55. He plans to take some time off, write a book — and immerse himself in a Democratic redistricting campaign.

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TV LISTINGS

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												JANUARY 11	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Black-ish (N)	Match Game (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Goldbergs (N)	Speechless (N)	Modern Family (N)	Black-ish (N)	Match Game (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Blind "Droll Autumn, Unmutual Lord" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Chasing Theo" (N)	Chicago P.D. "You Wish" (N)				KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Undercover Boss "AdvantaClean" (N)	Criminal Minds "Seek and Destroy" (N)	Code Black "Unfinished Business" (N)				KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Undercover Boss "AdvantaClean" (N)	Criminal Minds "Seek and Destroy" (N)	Code Black "Unfinished Business" (N)				KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at 7	NBC Nightly News	Blind "Droll Autumn, Unmutual Lord" (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Chasing Theo" (N)	Chicago P.D. "You Wish" (N)				KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Arrow "Invasion" Pt. 1 of 3	Frequency "Negativity Cop" (N)	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half			KGW News at 11	Met Your Mother
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Nature (N)	Nova "The Nuclear Option" (N)	Uranium: Twisting the Dragon's Tail				Crying Earth Rise Up	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lethal Weapon "Lawmen" (N)	Star "Next of Kin" (N)	10 O'Clock News				11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls
13	KPDZ	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Family Guy				American Dad	Cleveland Show
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lethal Weapon "Lawmen" (N)	Star "Next of Kin" (N)	Q13 News at 10				Q13 News	The Simpsons
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)			Conan (N)	
22	KZJN	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9				Big Bang Theory	Friends
29	ESPN2	(29) NBA Basketball Washington vs Boston (L)		NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	Cleveland Cavaliers at Portland Trail Blazers Site	SportsCenter -- Portland, Ore. (L)	SportsCenter				SportsCenter	Friends
30	ESPN	(30) NCAA Basketball UNC/Wake F. (L)		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter				College Basketball	Jalen & Jacoby
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Paradise Run	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	Game Shakers	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Girl Meets World	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	Good Luck Charlie	Stuck in Middle	Good Luck Charlie	Live and Maddie	Live and Maddie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie
34	FAM	(34) (4:30) Uncle Buck	*** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986, Comedy)	Alan Ruck, Mia Sara, Matthew Broderick.				* I Love You, Beth Cooper ('09) Paul Rust, Jack Carpenter, Hayden Panettiere.				The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (5:55) *** The Purge: Anarchy ('14) Frank Grillo.		(45) *** The Purge (2013, Horror) Lena Headey, Max Burkholder, Ethan Hawke.	Calvary (2014, Drama) Chris O'Dowd, Kelly Reilly, Brendan Gleeson.								(35) FXM Presents
36	LIFE	(36) LW Atlanta "Little Women, Big Hair"	Vivica's Black Magic	"Finding Magic"	Little Women ATL "Party Foul" (N)	LW Atlanta "The Truth Hurts" (N)		Magic "Locals vs. Out of Towners" (N)	Black Magic "Locals vs. Out of Towners" (N)			Halls of Fame	Focused
38	ROOT	(38) NCAA Basketball Utah State vs. Wyoming (L)		NCAA Basketball	NCAA Basketball	North Carolina State at Boston College		Mark Few	In Depth (N)			Halls of Fame	Focused
39	F51	(39) NCAA Basketball Butler vs. Creighton (L)		Fox College Hoops	Garbage Time (N)			Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.				Garbage Time	
43	SPIKE	(43) Movie	*** Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Vincent D'Onofrio, Will Smith.					*** The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Kathy Bates, Henry Winkler, Adam Sandler.				Bad Boys (1995, Action) Will Smith.	
44	COM	(44) (20) South Park	(55) South Park	(25) South Park				Work (SP) (N)	Jeff/Aliens (P) (N)			The Daily Show (N) @midnight (N)	
45	HIST	(45) American Pickers	Space Oddities	A. Pickers "Picked a Peck of Pepper"	Vikings "Crossings"			Vikings "The Great Army" (N)				(05) Vikings "The Great Army"	
46	A&E	(46) The First 48		Duck Dynasty	DuckD./ Duck D.	Duck Dynasty	Wahlburgers	Going Si-ral (N)	L. Remini "Enemies of the Church" (N)			(35) Duck Dynasty	
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life: Extended "Brandi and Kandi's Story" (N)		My 600-lb Life: Ashley R.'s Story	Ashley decides it's time for a drastic change. (N)			Too Close to Home "A Family Affair"				My 600-lb Life "Ashley R.'s Story"	
48	DISC	(48) Bush People "Released to the Wild"	Bush People "Back in Browntown"		Alaskan Bush People: Off the Grid (N)	Bush People "Browntown Bound" (N)		Bushcraft "Food and Farming" (N)				Bush People "Browntown Bound"	
49	NGEO	(49) Kentucky Justice "Firestarter"	Hard Time "Female Offenders"		Hard Time "Women on Lockdown"	Prison Women "Texas Hold 'Em" (N)		Hard Time "World Without Men"				Surviving Maximum Security	
50	TNT	(50) Bones "The Nazi Honeymoon"	Bones "The Dude in the Dam"		*** Tammy (2014, Comedy) Susan Sarandon, Sarah Baker, Melissa McCarthy.			*** Tammy (2014, Comedy) Susan Sarandon, Sarah Baker, Melissa McCarthy.					
51	USA	(51) (4:30) *** The Departed ('06) Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio.		*** The Dark Knight (2008, Action) Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Christian Bale.									Movie
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Recovery"	NCIS "Phoenix"		NCIS "Lost at Sea"	NCIS "The Namesake"		NCIS "Gone"				Modern Family	Modern Family
53	FOOD	(53) WorstCooks "Blast From the Past"	WorstCooks "Final Food Fight 8"		Cooks vs. Cons "Ballpark Snack Attack"	CooksCons "Crantastic Quesadillas!" (N)		Cooks vs. Cons "French Fries Freestyle"				WorstCooks "Frozen Freak Out"	
54	HGTV	(54) Property Brothers	Property Brothers		Property Brothers	Property Brothers (N)		House Hunters	House Hunters			Property Brothers	
55	FX	(55) *** Lucy (2014, Action) Morgan Freeman, Analeigh Tipton, Scarlett Johansson.		*** White House Down (2013, Action) Jamie Foxx, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Channing Tatum.								White House Down	Channing Tatum.
57	CNN	(57) CNN Special	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Special		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon				Anderson Cooper 360	
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly	Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor	The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity				On the Record	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	Blue Collar (N)	Blue Collar (N)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Blue Collar	Blue Collar			Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRAV	(63) Housewives Atl. "Char-lotta Drama"	Beverly Hills "Pantygate"		Beverly Hills "Amnesia Appetizers"	Beverly Hills "Compromising Positions"		Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce (N)				WatchWhat (N)	Beverly Hills
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Psycho ('60, Hor) Anthony Perkins.	*** The Killers (1946, Crime Story) Burt Lancaster, Albert Dekker, Ava Gardner.		*** Days of Heaven (1978, Drama) Brooke Adams, Sam Sheppard, Richard Gere.			Pennies From Heaven	Beverly Hills			Pennies From Heaven	Steve Martin.
65	SYFY	(65) (4:30) *** The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian		*** National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007, Adventure) Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Nicolas Cage.				Incorporated "Executables" (N)				Push (2009, Thriller) Chris Evans.	
69	RFD	(69) Cowboy TV	Noble Outfitters	HS Rodeo Tour	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	WesternSport			Cowboy TV	Noble Outfitters
102													Product Showcase

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