Mr. President, I want to start off today--I did not plan

on saying this; I am here to talk about small businesses and how to

incentivize job creation and job preservation--but before I do that, I

want to take a moment of personal privilege to talk about the Navy

SEALs.

I am a retired Navy captain. I spent about 23 years of my life as a

naval flight officer. Before that, I was a midshipman, a Navy ROTC

midshipman out of Ohio State. We would do our summer tours as

midshipmen being trained to be junior naval officers. One of our tours

was down at Little Creek, where we learned a little bit about storming

the beaches of Virginia and we learned how to become marines, or

pretended we were. We also, later on, I guess as a lieutenant JG at

Coronado, before we went over to Southeast Asia, had a chance to see--

in both places, both the Little Creek Naval Station and over at the

Coronado, North Island Naval Station--the Navy SEALs train. I remember

talking with some of my compadres who were going through training with

us, saying: We would not want to mess with those guys--and for good

reason.

They have made us proud. They have taken on an incredibly difficult

task and I think handled themselves splendidly, and I want to start off

today saying how proud we are of them.