

Barack Obama opens up about his absent dad on Father's Day

US President Barack Obama gives a candid weekly address on Father's Day, saying he wants to be the dad his father never was.

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In a weekly address wishing Americans a Happy Father's Day, Barack Obama tried to emphasise the importance of involved fathers for children.

In some candid remarks, he then opened up about the absence of his father as he was growing up.

"I never really knew my father," Mr Obama said in the address. "I was raised by two wonderful grandparents. But I still wish that I had a dad who was not only around, but involved, another role model.

"That's why I try to be, for Michelle and my girls, what my father was not for my mother and me."

Mr Obama's father, Barack Obama senior, a Kenyan economist, divorced Stanley Ann Dunham in 1964, three years after the birth of their son. A heavy drinker, he died in a 1982 car accident, 11 years after he last saw Barack junior.

Source: ITN

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