

"I NEVER COULD SAY GOODBYE"!!!

PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA

57 per cent FAVORABILITY

IN THE POLLS

PEOPLE NOW FEELING

THAT JANUARY 20, 2017

MISSING YOU!!!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: JANUARY 16, 2017

A MESSAGE TO THE UNIVERSE [ IS  
THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE!!! ]  
WILL YOU RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE!!!

UPDATE: OBAMA HAS "HUGE HANDS"!!!

UNIVERSAL FRIENDS:

Let me... I want to share with you the lesson learned from 2016 Republican Presidential Primary Race related to those gang of feeble old White rabid angry men expending what "Life force !!!" left into them, e.g. Rush Limbaugh, Sens (R) John McCain (R. AZ.), Lindsey Graham R.S.C.), and Nauseam hating and opposing and blocking the Prsidency of our First Afican-American Prsident Barack H. Obama.

FREUDIAN SLIP!!!

Madam Melanaia Trump convention controversey exposed her purported Admiration for First Lady Michelle Obama.

With backdrop, I remind you of Republican Presidential candi-  
date Donald J. Trump's "prideful boast!!! "HUGE HANDS"!

LET'S GO UP TO THE HOOP!!!

President Obama, is relatively youthful: he is handsome, 'Virle,' Vim!!! Ever see him run the basketball court!!!

NOW WE CAN ALL SEE  
WHAT ALL THAT FUSS  
AND HOT AIR IS ALL  
ABOUT!!!

"BIG HANDS" ENVY!!!

Why, President Obama has that proverbial Black Man's "HUGE HANDS!!!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: January 16, 2017

A MESSAGE TO THE UNIVERSE [IS THERE ANYBODY  
OUT THERE]??? WILL YOU RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE!!!

UPDATE:

UNIVERSAL FRIENDS,

AS WE KNOW , I've WRITTEN TOO MANY TIMES TO COUNT OVER THESE MANY  
YEARS, OF MY SAVANT OPINION OUR FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT  
BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA VISIONALIZED JACKIE ROBINSON'S EXAMPLE, TO  
FORMULATE HIS OWN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP PERSONAL!!!

HE APPEARS TO HAVE FIRMLY VALIDATE MY THEORY IN SPEAKING ON JACKIE'S  
MONUMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO (OUR UNIVERSE) ON PBS.ORG/JACKIE  
ROBINSON APRIL 12, 2016.

Check it out! It's illuminating!!!

BY: LEON IRBY Dated: January 16, 2017



Morning prayer,

Good morning Lord, I ask you into my life, to be my savior and forgive me of all my sins as I forgive others. To create in me a pure heart and mind and to remove all ungodly thoughts and behaviors from me. I fully surrender and submit my life and will to you and ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit of truth, thru faith, so that all my thoughts words and actions come from you today. I desire your will, kingdom and righteousness both now and forevermore and ask you to lead, guide and direct me in all I think say and do with the strength to carry it out, so that I live, in full obedience to you and that all I say and do today glorifies you and your name, according to your will for me, for my good, by the power of the Holy Spirit for your glory, while hearing you and your word, through sowing all good fruit of the spirit. In Christ Jesus I ask, thank, love and pray. Amen.

Submitted by Jason Kurtz 445483, WSPF



12 STEP WISDOM  
Heard on a Spiritual Walk  
God loves you.



With Divine Help I will accept what I cannot change.  
All glory comes from daring to begin. . .  
The highest form of wisdom is kindness.  
Nothing can give you peace hut yourself.  
As long as you live, keep learning how to live.  
Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine.  
Courage faces fear and thereby masters it.  
Don't give up on your hopes and dreams.  
When you bring things out into the light, they lose their power over you.  
Self-discipline is self-caring.  
No one ever found serenity through hatred.  
By releasing resentment, I set myself free.  
Participation Is the key to harmony.  
You don't have to understand everything.  
The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.  
The more light we generate for others, the better we can see ourselves.  
Self-forgiveness often clears the path to forgiving others.  
An expectation is a premeditated resentment.  
Change your thoughts and you change your world.  
The truly wise solution may lie in improving yourself.  
Relax your mind and open your heart.  
Peace Is a natural outgrowth of acceptance.  
Look to yourself- it is there that all your answers are found.  
Put your will and life into God's care.  
Learn to trust the peace.  
Trust that you are being restored to sanity.  
Acceptance is a challenging but rewarding spiritual discipline.  
You cannot hurt others without hurting yourself.  
Before sunlight can shine through a window, the blinds must be raised.  
Ask for willingness from your higher power.  
Happiness is an inside job.  
If we supply the willingness, God supplies the power.  
I dwell in Faith, not Fear.  
Each man's life represents a road toward himself.  
You are an individual with the right to a good life.  
You have choices.  
The steps are a guide to total good living.  
Peace is a natural outgrowth of acceptance.  
Keep the focus on yourself.  
Nothing is either good or bad, if s thinking that makes it so.  
Success and failure are a matter of perspective.  
The important thing is not to stop questioning.



BY: LEON IRBY DATED JAN, 14, 2017



## Without Jesus ...

Without the risen Savior in our hearts, life is like:

- A chocolate Easter Bunny — empty on the inside;
- An Easter bonnet — easily blown off kilter;
- Last year's Easter outfit — it doesn't quite fit right;
- An Easter lily — it soon withers and dries up;
- A bag of jellybeans — sugary and sweet but lacking substance;
- An unfound Easter basket — full of gifts that spoil and go to waste;
- A colored Easter egg — looks great but cracks under pressure;
- The Easter bunny — always hopping here and there;
- Marshmallow Peeps — becomes hard when opened up;
- Easter parade — a long journey with no destination;
- An unopened Easter card — a message of love unclaimed.

—David Patterson



## INCARCERATION

Your only incarcerated  
if you allow yourself to be incarcerated,  
you can be physically incarcerated  
yet mentally free!  
We have people on the outside of these walls  
that are incarcerated mentally.  
We need to free our minds and re-educate our thinking.  
We have to understand our intentions.  
Our intention is the essence of our actions.  
If you allow yourself to be mentally "locked down"  
You're incarcerated,  
on the other hand if we allow self to be mentally freed  
we are free!  
So the system can only detain you physically that's all!  
Only you can detain your mind.  
I believe the thought of these thoughts is everyone must maintain and  
Keep their hopes high  
dreams alive  
Keep their eyes on the prize and realize  
we were all born to struggle!  
Never let anyone  
stagnate your ideas, dreams, thoughts, emotions, growth,  
understanding or development in Life.  
Keep you head up and understand when people speak on  
your name in a bad way they only speak in mirrors.  
Let's turn impossibilities into possibilities hopefully  
I've shared some light on this dark word...  
*incarceration.*

Nazih

## What Is WISDOM?

**WISDOM** is a statewide network of congregation-based community organizations that work to live out their values in the world. It includes:

**MICAH** - Milwaukee County  
**RIC** - Racine County  
**CUSH** - Kenosha County  
**SOPHIA** - Waukesha County  
**ESTHER** - Fox Cities & Oshkosh  
**JOSHUA** - Green Bay & Brown County  
**MOSES** - Madison area  
**NAOMI** - Wausau area  
**JONAH** - Eau Claire area  
**AMOS** - La Crosse area  
**RUTH** - Manitowoc County

**WISDOM** is a 501(c)3 organization and is non-partisan.

THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY!!!

"SILENCE IN THE FACE OF EVIL IS EVIL ITSELF"!!!

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer -

"HE WHO PASSIVELY ACCEPTS EVIL IS AS MUCH INVOLVED IN IT AS HE WHO HELPS TO PERPETRATE IT. HE WHO ACCEPTS EVIL WITHOUT PROTESTING AGAINST IT IS REALLY COOPERATING WITH IT."!!!

"I'd RATHER ANNOY PEOPLE WITH MY HONESTY AND LOUD OPINIONS THAN STAY SILENT."!!!

- Demi Lovato -

SOURCE: USMAGAZINE.com/FEUD OF THE WEEK NICKI (US) DEMI MAY 23, 2016, p.10

"DO YOU REALLY WANT TO STIR THE POT?" I'LL GET ASKED. "ONCE I'd THOUGHT ABOUT IT, ACTUALLY. I DO."

ON BEING VOCAL ABOUT HER OPINION.

- CHLOE GRACE MORETZ -

SOURCE: UNMAGAZINE.com/LOOSE TALK AGUGUST 22, 2016, p.12.

"THE POWER OF LOVING CRITICISM  
"CAN'T I CRITICIZE WHAT I LOVE""

THOSE WORDS FROM TONI MORRISON'S 1977 PULITZER PRIZE WINNING NOVEL.  
... SONG OF SOLOMON

SOURCE: QUOTED BY MICHAEL ERIC DYSON, SCHOLAR AND AUTHER... AS  
TOLD TO JAMILAH LEMIEUX EBONY APRIL - MAY, 2016, p.86, EBONY. Com.



A MESSAGE TO THE UNIVERSE [IS THERE ANYBODY  
OUT THERE] WILL YOU RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE!!!

UPDATE:

UNIVERSAL FRIEND!!!

Please Let Me Share With Our Compune; Below: "THE LIST OF 374  
Obama Accomplishments, So Far"!!!

Regularly, I Share With You My Savant Opinion that History Shall  
Rate Barack Hussein Obama, 44th, USA Honorable President... [Written  
July 31, 2013]... upper with and Among The Original Founders!!!

However, my Love is not: "THE BLIND KIND"!!!

President Obama is the Worst of The Worst for The Black [AKA  
African-Americans!!!] community - save, as best, Presidents Abraham  
Lincoln (1861-1865); Hon. Lyndon Baines Johnson (1963-1969) and Hon.  
James Earl Carter (1977-1981) - EVER!!!

WHAT'S LOVE TO DO WITH IT!!!

Hon. President Obama's infamous and unkind Boast is he is not;  
"THE PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"... is, IN FACT, - REAL POLITIK!!!  
CHECK - out MR. TAVIS SMILY SHOW PBS.Org and His Illuminating POTENT  
BOOKS...

"BALL OF CONFUSION...THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD IS TODAY"!!![TEMPATATIONS]

Hon. President Obama and Hollywood And Corporate USA Have Con-  
sciously Elevated and Established "THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT" to  
ECLIPSE and diminsh all other "Grassroots Rights Movement, e.g.,  
"BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT";! "\$15.00 HOUR FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE";!  
"IMMIGRATION [CITIZENSHIP] BILL"! "N. \_\_\_ Word on BLACK GENOCIDE"!,  
etc.

XOXO

#IMAGINE! YOKO JOHN



## THE LIST OF 374 OBAMA ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR

In 2008, we elected the most progressive president in history. And regardless of the negativity, when you actually look at the record, there has been a lot of progress since January 20, 2009. Here is a list of many of President Obama's accomplishments as President. Every one of them has a citation, so no one can dismiss them out of hand, although many have tried since I started to compile this list. Even with the obstacles we gave him, especially the Republican Congress, this President will leave a hell of a legacy. If we want to win elections – and in a democracy, that has to be our main goal – *we have to make people want to vote for us*. That means accentuating the positive, and talking about how great we are, especially compared to the alternative.

### Changed the Culture of the Executive Branch

1. Within his first week, he signed an Executive Order ordering an audit of government contracts, and combating waste and abuse.
2. Created the post of Chief Performance Officer, whose job it is to make operations more efficient to save the federal government money.
3. On his first full day, he froze White House salaries for the duration of the Great Recession.
4. He appointed the first Federal Chief Information Officer to oversee federal IT spending and efficiency.
5. He committed to phasing out unnecessary and outdated weapons systems and signed the Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act, in an attempt to limit waste, fraud and abuse in the defense procurement and contracting systems.
6. He created the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.
7. Signed an Executive Order instructing federal agencies to review all federal regulations and remove any unnecessary and/or burdensome regulations from the books.
8. Dismantled the Minerals Management Service, thereby cutting ties between energy companies and the government.
9. Banned gifts from lobbyists to anyone in the Executive Branch.
10. Banned anyone from working in an agency they had lobbied in previous years and placed strict limits on lobbyists' access to the White House.
11. Held the first-ever first online town hall from the White House, and took questions from the public.
12. Became the first president to stream every White House event, live.
13. Established a central portal for Americans to find service opportunities.
14. Restored the 30-day time frame for former presidents to review records and eliminated the right for the vice president or family members of former presidents to do the reviews, giving the public greater access to historic White House documents, and curtails the use of executive privilege to shield them.
15. Improved the Freedom of Information Act and issued new guidelines to make FOIA more open and transparent when processing FOIA requests.
16. Streamline the Department of Education's procurement policies and made them more transparent.
17. Provided the first voluntary disclosure of the White House Visitors Log in history.
18. Signed a law to completely reform NSA Data Collection program and keep phone records in the hands of the phone company.

### Staved Off a Bush Depression, Improved the Economy

19. Pushed through and signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as "the stimulus package." He also launched recovery.gov, a website that allows taxpayers to track spending from the Act.
20. By the end of his first year, the economy created and sustained 2.1 million jobs and stimulated the economy by 3.5%.
21. He created the massive TARP financial and banking rescue plan and forced banks and other entities to pay back virtually all of the bailout money.
22. He created the Making Home Affordable home refinancing plan. In 2010, more jobs were created than had been created during Bush's eight years.
23. He pushed through and implemented an auto industry rescue plan that saved as many as 1 million jobs and possibly the entire auto industry.



24. Through his investment in GM, returned to the company to its place as the premiere car company in the world.
25. In February 2016, GM was in such good financial shape, they gave a share of the profit to each worker, with checks up to \$11,000.
26. Doubled funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, to improve manufacturing efficiency.
27. Increased infrastructure spending after years of neglect.
28. Signed the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, which helped millions of Americans avoid preventable foreclosures and provided \$2.2 billion to combat homelessness and stabilize the housing market.
29. Signed an Executive Order creating jobs immediately by instructing them to reduce the time needed for review and permitting of infrastructure projects.
30. Through the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009, he and Congressional Democrats provided tax credits to first-time home buyers, which helped the U.S. housing market recovery.
31. Played a lead role in getting the G-20 Summit to commit to a \$1.1 trillion deal to combat the global financial crisis.
32. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saved at least 300,000 education jobs, such as teachers, principals, librarians, and counselors that would have otherwise been lost.
33. With Congressional Democrats, provided funding to states and the Department of Homeland Security to save thousands of police and firefighter jobs from being cut during the recession.
34. China's largest manufacturer, Foxconn, is building a large plant in Pennsylvania
35. Worked with Apple Computer to get them to build more product here, and the company is building two large plants to manufacture products here; one in Texas and one in Arizona
36. Created an institute to invest in more manufacturing jobs in the technology fields of the future.
37. Ordered all federal contractors to pay a minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour, leading the way to a national increase.
38. Ordered the completion of the International Trade Data System, a digital trade record book, by 2016. This move will streamline and simplify the process through which small-and medium-sized businesses set up the export of US goods.

### **Specific Examples of Economic Improvement**

39. As of January 2016, a record 64 consecutive months of overall job growth.
40. As of January 2016, Unemployment drops below 5% for the first time in eight years and without a significant bubble. 4.9%.
41. As of April 2016, there have been 74 consecutive months of private sector job growth.
42. In April 2016, new unemployment claims hit their lowest level since Nov. 1973.
43. Since February 2010, when job numbers hit their lowest point, 14.6 million non-farm private sector jobs have been created.
44. Oversaw a reduction in the federal budget deficit by two-thirds since taking office.
45. Reduced the federal budget deficit from 9.8% of GDP in Fiscal Year 2009 under Bush, to 2.9% of GDP in FY 2014.
46. Scolds Congress and gets passed a \$305 billion highways bill, which will have the added benefit of created hundreds of thousands of new jobs and creating incentives for green cars.

### **Addressed Wrongdoing in the Financial Sector**

47. Signed the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act giving the federal government more tools to investigate and prosecute fraud in every corner of the financial system, and create a bipartisan Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission to investigate the financial fraud that led to the economic meltdown.
48. Ordered 65 executives who took bailout money to cut their own pay until they paid back all bailout money.
49. Along with Congressional Democrats, pushed through and got passed Dodd-Frank, one of the largest and most comprehensive Wall Street reforms since the Great Depression.
50. Created and implemented rules to reduce the influence of speculators in the oil market.
51. Created and implemented rules so banks can no longer use depositors' money to invest in high-risk financial instruments that work against depositors' interests.
52. Supported the concept of allowing stockholders to vote on executive compensation.



53. Endorsed and supported the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act of 2009 that would close offshore tax avoidance loopholes.
54. Negotiated a deal with Swiss banks permitting the US government to gain access to bank records of criminals and tax evaders.
55. Signed the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act, closing many of the loopholes that allowed companies to send jobs overseas, and avoid paying US taxes by moving money offshore.
56. Thanks to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), inflation in the healthcare sector dropped to its lowest point in 50 years.

### **Improved Conditions for Consumers and Small Businesses**

57. Signed the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act, to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive credit card practices.
58. Guided the housing market all the way back from total collapse, which led to a rally for housing starts.
59. Brought airline industry back to their highest profitability since before the recession.
60. Blocked a monopolistic merger of Staples and Office Depot, to preserve at least some competition.
61. Stock market has reached record highs, restoring most of the economic losses felt during the Bush Recession.
62. Created and Implemented the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
63. Consumer confidence continues to inch up to its highest level more than a decade.
64. Initiated a \$15 billion plan designed to encourage increased lending to small businesses.
65. Created business.gov, to allow online collaboration between small businesses and experts re managing a business. (The program has since merged with SBA.gov.)
66. Took steps to improve minority access to capital.
67. Used recovered TARP money to fund programs at local housing finance agencies in California, Florida, Nevada, Arizona and Michigan.
68. Crafted and signed an executive order establishing the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability to assist in financial education for all Americans.
69. Oversaw the most sweeping food safety legislation since the Great Depression.
70. Through the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, extended the False Claims Act to combat fraud by companies and individuals using money from TARP and Stimulus programs.
71. Set up rules for banks in handling legal marijuana money.
72. Added greater protections to consumer financial transactions to reduce identity theft.
73. Took steps to prevent pirate fishing and protect fish populations, and ordered stricter labeling requirements on labeling of seafood products in stores.
74. Signed the RAISE Act, which should encourage more people to open small businesses and help improve the economy.
75. Signed a bill that allows low-volume vehicle manufacturers that will increase entrepreneurship among small car manufacturers, who often build replicas of classics but who often build green vehicles.
76. Signs an Executive Order to strengthen cooperation with regard to global entrepreneurship.
77. Signs a law to allow "ordinary investors" to help a company start up through crowd-funding.
78. Signs a bill to strengthen American economic competitiveness.

### **Strengthened the Middle Class and Fought Poverty**

79. Worked to provide affordable, high-quality child care to working families.
80. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, cut taxes for 95% of America's working families.
81. Tax rates for average working families are the lowest since 1950.
82. Extended and fully funded the patch for the Alternative Minimum Tax for 10 years.
83. Extended discounted health coverage under the COBRA health insurance law for the unemployed from 9 months to 15 months, and he's also extended unemployment benefits more than a few times.
84. Provided a \$20 billion increase for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps).
85. Signed an Executive Order that established the White House Office of Urban Affairs.
86. Included the Buffet Rule in his 2014 budget proposal, in order to fulfill a campaign promise to make sure tax rates are fair between the rich and the middle class.



87. Used the fiscal cliff negotiations to extend for five additional years the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides tax credits to families for college-related expenses, thus saving those families up to \$10,000.
88. Increased protections for the unemployed who are seeking a government job.
89. Updated and modernized overtime regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
90. Signed and implemented the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, to improve nutrition in schools and make children healthier.
91. To make college more affordable and accountable, will begin rating colleges with regard to affordability and value.
92. Initiated a reform of federal job training programs, to make them more relevant to the current economy and the job market.
93. Under Obama, the bottom 95% of taxpayers pay lower federal income taxes than at any time in the last 50 years, including under Reagan, or either Bush.
94. Signed a presidential memorandum authorizing six weeks paid leave for all federal employees with a new baby and encouraged Congress to do the same for all workers.
95. 2014 marked the first time since 1984 that unemployment dropped in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
96. Took steps to improve workplace safety by creating an Advisory Board to study workers' exposure to toxic substances.
97. Changed overtime rules to make it far more difficult for employers to avoid paying overtime to workers.
98. Changed rules for federal contractors, guaranteeing that all workers earn paid leave; this should affect about 300,000 workers.
99. Negotiated a law to finally replace "No Child Left Behind" and remove much of the onerous government "oversight" that caused children to stagnate, not improve, academically.

#### **Addressed Civil Rights and Equality**

100. Formed a commission to examine and make recommendations for fixing the broken voting system.
101. Created a Civil Rights Division in the Justice Department that has become a very strong voice for Black people.
102. At a press conference August 9, 2013, gave up a small measure of executive power, promising to create adversarial process in FISA regarding NSA surveillance.
103. Proposed rules to enhance Fair Housing Laws, to give HUD and other enforcement agencies more enforcement power.
104. Ordered a review of capital punishment policies after several botched executions.
105. Approved \$1.2 billion discrimination settlement with black farmers who had proved USDA bias.
106. Appointed Kareem Dale as the first ever Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy.
107. Concentrated immigration enforcement on those who commit crimes, and vowed to stop breaking up families.
108. Streamlined the visa process, to make it more responsive and humane for those who want to be here legally.
109. Took steps to tighten the reins when it comes to providing local law enforcement agencies with military-style equipment and exercising more control over the equipment they receive,
110. Changed fair housing rules to make more affordable housing available to more people.
111. Helped Democrats in Congress pass and signed the Civil Rights History Act.
112. Created a Policing Task Force to deal with the problems that led to the #BlackLivesMatter movement.
113. His Justice Department investigated the Ferguson Police Department twice and slammed them for their racism and exploitive practices.
114. Established the White House Council of Native American Affairs, to improve government-to-government relations with Native American nations.
115. Limited local police acquisitions of military-style equipment, to reduce the likelihood of overkill.
116. Signed Blue Alert Law, which provides police officers with more information when they are threatened.
117. Blocked the sale of Apache tribal land to foreign mining company, over Republican objections.
118. Settled with the City of Cleveland over civil rights and excessive force violations.
119. Reviewed the practices of the Philadelphia Police Department and made 91 recommendations to prevent civil rights and excessive force violations.



120. Signed a law to modernize the way the federal government refers to minorities, removing certain archaic terms from the vocabulary.
121. Signed a law to better protect children in tribal foster care.

### **Improved Workers' Rights**

122. He issued final rules that require all employers to prominently post employees' rights where all employees or prospective employees can see it, including all websites and intranets.
123. Obama's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission clarified and strengthened rules prohibiting discrimination against pregnant workers.
124. Required companies who bid on federal contracts larger than \$500,000 to publicly disclose all previous violations of labor law, including unpaid claims for back wages.
125. Made it illegal for federal contractors with more than \$1 million in contracts to force employees into arbitration in workplace discrimination accusations.
126. Vetoed Republican bill that would have blocked new NLRB rules that were designed to speed up the time it takes workers to unionize. He also added a Memorandum of Disagreement to make his reasons for the veto clear and made a major statement in support of unions.
127. Cracked down on companies that were previously denying sick pay, vacation and health insurance, and Social Security and Medicare tax payments through abuse of the employee classification of independent contractor.
128. Signed law that bans imports of goods produced through forced labor.

### **Protected the Rights of LGBT People**

129. Signed and implemented the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which made it a federal crime to assault anyone based on his or her sexual orientation or gender identity.
130. Oversaw and implemented the repeal of the reprehensible "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy.
131. Extended benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees.
132. Appointed more openly gay officials than anyone in history.
133. Appointed first openly transgender Cabinet Official in History.
134. Advocated that United Nations adopt a policy supporting gay rights worldwide.
135. As soon as the Supreme Court invalidated the Defense of Marriage Act, he moved to extend federal benefits to same-sex couples.
136. Issued an order requiring hospitals to allow visitation by same-sex couples.
137. Changed HUD rules to prohibit gender and sexual orientation-based discrimination in housing.
138. Changed his mind and publicly expressed support for same-sex marriage.
139. Issued a Presidential Memorandum reaffirming the rights of gay couples to make medical decisions for each other.
140. Appointed several prominent gay athletes and others, and plans to show US government's commitment to gay rights to anti-gay Russia.
141. Department of Agriculture propagated new rules to better enforce non-discrimination when it comes to USDA investigations and to extend non-discrimination to gender identity.
142. Banned all federal contractors from discriminating against gay workers.
143. Persevered with his campaign to turn "gay marriage" into "marriage" and won in the Supreme Court.

### **Improved Conditions for Women**

144. Establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls to ensure that all Cabinet and Cabinet-level agencies consider the effect of their policies and programs on women and families.
145. Implemented the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restored basic protections against pay discrimination for women and other workers.
146. Eliminated federal funding for abstinence-only education, and rescinded the global gag rule.
147. Improved the Paycheck Fairness Act, making it possible for employees to talk about their salaries without retaliation, and ordering salary data collection, so as to make it harder for employers to pay women less.
148. Signed an Executive Order pledging support for efforts to end the global problem of violence against women and girls.
149. Shattered another glass ceiling by naming Janet Yellen chair of the Federal Reserve beginning Feb. 1, 2014.
150. Expanded funding for the Violence Against Women Act.



151. Ordered companies with 100 employees or more to disclose pay data based on race and gender, to address the pay gap.
152. Signs law restoring Arlington Cemetery burial rights for women pilots in World War II.

### **Addressed Criminal Justice Failings and the Gun Culture**

153. Made significant reductions in drug sentencing guidelines for current prisoners.
154. Oversaw the first drop in the federal prison population in 32 years.
155. Increased his use of clemency to release thousands of non-violent drug offenders from prison.
156. Ordered a ban on solitary confinement for juvenile offenders in federal prisons.
157. Took executive action to promote smart gun technology, to make them safer.
158. After a failure by Congress to act, proposed executive orders to create more background checks and to fully staff the background check system.
159. Relaxed HIPAA rules enough to allow for more information to be available to the background check system.
160. Ordered the tracing of guns as part of criminal investigations to provide data to researchers.
161. Order the Justice Department to look at the categories of mental health problems prohibited from owning guns to make sure people aren't falling through the cracks, getting guns.
162. Expanded the definitions of gun dealers and expanded the information available and required in background checks for firearm purchases.
163. Set up a task force to figure out what other measures can be taken to limit gun violence in the wake of Congressional inaction.
164. Signed bill to improve protections for correctional officers and their families.
165. Changed the playing field on criminal justice reform by commuting sentences of low-level criminals and signaling a more practical footing.
166. Signaled major shift away from the failed "Drug War" by promising to commit more than \$1 billion to combat addiction.

### **Improved Treatment of Soldiers and Veterans**

167. Provided active combat troops with better body armor.
168. Created a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record program for military personnel, in order to improve the quality of their medical care.
169. Put an end to the Bush-era stop-loss policy that kept soldiers in Iraq/Afghanistan beyond their enlistment date.
170. Signed and implemented Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, making more money available to enable better medical care for veterans.
171. With Congressional Democrats, oversaw largest spending increase in 30 years for Department of Veterans Affairs, for improved medical and extended care facilities for veterans.
172. Implemented the Green Vet Initiative, which provides special funding to provide veterans with training in green jobs.
173. Initiated and signed a recruitment and employment plan to get more veterans into government jobs.
174. Oversaw a \$4.6 billion expansion of the Veterans Administration budget to pay for more mental health professionals.
175. Signed the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, which ensures that spouses of military personnel who are forced to move because their spouse is posted for military duty can avoid state taxes in their temporary residence.
176. Ordered improvements to access to mental health care for veterans, military personnel and their families.
177. Got Syria to dismantle its chemical weapons without military firing a single shot or dropping a single bomb.
178. Along with Congressional Democrats, not only reauthorized families of fallen soldiers to be able to visit when the body arrives at Dover AFB, but also provided funding for it.
179. Ended the media blackout on coverage of the return of fallen soldiers.
180. Funded Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with an extra \$1.4 billion to improve veterans' services.
181. Signed into law a bill that provides support, counseling, and breastfeeding supplies to military moms who are covered under TRICARE, the health insurance provided to veterans.
182. Signed into law a bill that makes it easier for military dogs to retire at home with their handlers.



## **Improved America's Reputation Around the World**

183. Visited more countries and met with more world leaders than any previous president during his first six months in office.
184. As he promised, he gave a speech at a major Islamic forum in Cairo early in his administration.
185. Made a speech at a US mosque to demonstrate his commitment to religious rights and send a message to Muslims around the world.
186. Restored America's reputation around the world as a global leader.
187. Re-established and reinforced our partnership with NATO and other allies on strategic international issues.
188. Closed a number of secret detention facilities.
189. Improved relations with Middle East countries by appointing special envoys.
190. Pushed forward the first realistic Middle East peace strategy in more than a decade, without abandoning the two-state solution.
191. Pushed for military to emphasize greater development of foreign language skills.
192. Offered \$400 million to the people living in Gaza, while calling on both Israel and the Palestinians to stop inciting violence.
193. Refused to give Israel the green light to attack Iran over their possible nuclear program.
194. Ordered the closure of the prison at Guantanamo Bay, although blocked by Congress.
195. Ordered a review of our detention and interrogation policy and prohibited the use of "enhanced interrogation."
196. Ordered all secret detention facilities in Eastern Europe and elsewhere to be closed.
197. Released the Bush torture memos.
198. On his second day in office, banned torture, reversed all Bush torture policies and put the US in full compliance with the Geneva Convention.
199. In response to the emerging "Arab Spring," he created a Rapid Response fund, to assist emerging democracies with foreign aid, debt relief, technical assistance and investment packages in order to show that the United States stands with them.
200. Ended the F-22 program, saving \$4 billion. Though the 187 aircraft cost \$358 million each to build, it had never flown a combat mission.
201. Passed the Iran Sanctions Act, to prevent war and encourage the Iranian government to give up their nuclear program.
202. Ended the Iraq War.
203. Worked to keep our withdrawal from Afghanistan on track, despite GOP opposition. Reiterated that commitment in 2014.
204. Conducted a secret mission by SEAL Team Six to rescue two hostages held by Somali pirates.
205. Through United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice, helped negotiate a peaceful split of Sudan into two countries, creating an independent South Sudan.
206. Helped make donations to Haiti tax deductible in 2009.
207. Established a new U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue.
208. Issued Executive Order blocking interference and helping to stabilize Somalia.
209. Established new, more reasonable policies in our relations with Cuba, such as allowing Cuban-Americans to visit their families and send money to support them
210. The new policies in Cuba led to thawed relations and the first US Embassy in Cuba in more than 55 years.
211. Became the first U.S. President to visit Cuba in more than 80 years.
212. Negotiated a deal with Iran that will prevent them from getting a nuclear weapon anytime soon, without firing a shot or invading the country.
213. As a result of the Iran agreement, Iran shipped pretty much all of its nuclear material to Russia.
214. Became the first US President to visit Jamaica in more than 30 years, worked to restore relations with the country and signed a natural gas distribution agreement with the country.
215. Signs law extending some privacy protections to US allies, a reversal of the Bush practice of spying on people like Angela Merkel and the like.
216. Instituted Power Africa, an initiative to bring electrical generation to greater parts of the African continent.

## **Changed US Approach to "Defense" and National Security**

217. Created a comprehensive new strategy for dealing with the international nuclear threat.
218. Authorized a \$1.4 billion reduction in Star Wars program in 2010.



219. Restarted nuclear nonproliferation talks and built up the nuclear inspection infrastructure/ protocols to where they had been before Bush.
220. Signed and got ratification of a new SALT Treaty.
221. Negotiated and signed a new START Treaty that will stay in force until at least 2021.
222. Committed the US to no permanent military bases in Iraq.
223. Developed a comprehensive strategy with regard to Afghanistan and Pakistan designed to facilitate the defeat of al Qaeda, the withdrawal of most troops and the rebuilding of Afghanistan.
224. Re-focused on Afghanistan, stabilized the country, and began the process of withdrawing troops from the country.
225. Negotiated a deal with Afghan government, to withdraw troops and military support, while assisting in rebuilding and modernizing of the country.
226. Took steps to severely weaken al Qaeda and limited their ability to terrorize the world.
227. Negotiated and signed a nuclear nonproliferation treaty with India.
228. Worked with NATO to limit the slaughter of innocents in Libya, so that Libyans could topple the despotic Khadaffi government and determine their own fate.
229. Got Egyptian President/dictator Mubarak to leave the Egyptian government to the people, to determine their own fate.
230. In 2011, reoriented American focus from the Middle East to the Asian-Pacific region by simultaneously engaging China and crafting new alliances with Asian countries uncomfortable with Chinese behavior.
231. Restored federal agencies such as FEMA to the point that they have been able to manage a huge number of natural disasters successfully.
232. Increased border security
233. Ordered and oversaw the Navy SEALs operation that killed Osama bin Laden.
234. Established the Homeland Security Partnership Council, to enhance the nation's ability to "address homeland security priorities, from responding to natural disasters to preventing terrorism, by utilizing diverse perspectives, skills, tools, and resources."
235. Signed agreement with Afghanistan to end war, turn security over to Afghans.
236. Breaking with recent presidential tradition, instead of just attacking Syria in the wake of chemical weapons attacks on Syrians, Obama ordered a full report on the decision-making process.
237. Instead of holding hearings and creating a political football, he quietly captured a suspect who actually committed the Benghazi terrorist attack. He is also getting a lot of useful information from the suspect.
238. Instituted rules to order sanctions against individuals and groups that threaten national cyber security.
239. Instituted tougher new sanctions against North Korea after threats of nuclear attack and several tests.
240. Took concrete steps to improve our counter-terrorism efforts.
241. Making great strides in defeating the Islamic State without committing hundreds of thousands of troops or carpet bombing civilians, against Republican objections.

### **Improved Education and Educational Opportunities**

242. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, invested heavily in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education.
243. Created the Race to the Top program, which encouraged states to come up with effective school reforms and rewards the best of them.
244. Oversaw major expansion of broadband availability in K-12 schools nationwide.
245. Oversaw major expansion in school construction.
246. Signed an executive order that expanded recognition and funding for historically black colleges and universities.
247. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, put \$5 billion into early education, including Head Start.
248. Signed the Democratic-sponsored Post-9/11 GI Bill, also known as GI Bill 2.0, to improve veterans' access to education.
249. Oversaw expansion of the Pell Grants program, to expand opportunity for low and middle income students to go to college.
250. Signed and implemented the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which provided an extra \$12.2 billion in funds.



- 251. Took major new steps to protect students from ineffective for-profit colleges through “gainful employment” measures, whereby schools have to demonstrate that its students actually find work to get federal aid.
- 252. Repeatedly increased funding for student financial aid, and at the same time cut the banks completely out of the process, thus us creating greater accountability.
- 253. Reformed student loan program, to make it possible for students to refinance at a lower rate.
- 254. Created a rating system for colleges, so that those applying for student financial aid know better what they’re paying for.
- 255. Led a bipartisan effort to reform the federal approach to education and essentially repeal “No Child Left Behind.”

### **Restored the Adult View on Science and Technology**

- 256. Created a Presidential Memorandum to restore scientific integrity in government decision-making.
- 257. Opened up the process for fast-tracking patent approval for green energy projects.
- 258. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, committed more federal funding, about \$18 billion, to support non-defense science and research labs.
- 259. Obama EPA reversed research ethics standards, which allowed humans to be used as “guinea pigs” in tests of the effects of chemicals, to comply with numerous codes of medical ethics.
- 260. Conducted a cyberspace policy review.
- 261. Provided financial support for private sector space programs.
- 262. Oversaw enhanced earth mapping, to provide valuable data for agricultural, educational, scientific, and government use.
- 263. Through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, provided \$500 million for Health Professions Training Programs.
- 264. Increased funding for community-based prevention programs.
- 265. Expanded space exploration and discovery options to include more players.
- 266. Through the Connect America Fund, pushed through and received FCC approval for a move of \$8 billion in subsidies away from telephone landlines to assist lower-income rural families in accessing broadband.
- 267. In the wake of the West Fertilizer tragedy, formed the Chemical Safety and Security Working Group, to work on measures to prevent another such events.
- 268. Established a Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, a recommendation made by the 9/11 Commission, to coordinate efforts to fight cyber-crime and terrorism. The Obama FCC, with his leadership, adopted strong net neutrality rules, to keep the Internet open and equal for everyone.
- 269. Ordered rules to speed up deployment of a more comprehensive broadband infrastructure.
- 270. Set up a National Strategic Computing Initiative, to “maximize benefits of high-performance computing (HPC) research, development, and deployment.”
- 271. Ordered a federal level change in national earthquake standards.
- 272. Signed executive orders designed to strengthen government cyber-security and prevent hackers from getting in.
- 273. Took steps to combat the effects of climate change by committing the U.S. to developing long-term drought resilience measures.
- 274. Started the road to greater exploration of space by signing bill to encourage mining on asteroids and clarifying property rights in space.

### **Improved Our Health**

- 275. Eliminated Bush-era restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, and provided increased federal support for biomedical and stem cell research.
- 276. Signed Democratic-sponsored Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act, the first comprehensive attempt to improve the lives of Americans living with paralysis.
- 277. Expanded the Nurse-Family Partnership program, which provides home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income expectant mothers and their families, to cover more first-time mothers.
- 278. Along with Democrats in Congress, ushered through and signed a bill authorizing FDA to regulate tobacco and order tobacco companies to disclose their ingredients and to ban cigarettes falsely labeled as “light.” Has overseen a 50% decrease in cost of prescription drugs for seniors.
- 279. Eliminated the Bush-era practice of forbidding Medicare from negotiating with drug companies on price.



280. Two weeks after taking office, signed Democratic-sponsored Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act, which increased the number of children covered by health insurance by 4 million.
281. Urged Congress to investigate Anthem Blue Cross for raising premiums 39% without explanation.
282. Pushed through and signed ACA, which expanded health insurance coverage greatly and ended many detrimental insurance company practices. He also established [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov)
283. Through ACA, allowed children to be covered under their parents' policy until they turned 26.
284. Through the ACA, provided tax breaks to allow 3.5 million small businesses to provide health insurance to their employees.
285. Through the ACA, millions of people receive help in paying their health insurance company premiums.
286. Through the ACA, expanded Medicaid to those making up to 133% of the federal poverty level. (Note: except for those states whose Republicans refused to take the extra money.)
287. By 2014, the ACA dropped the number of uninsured Americans by 22.3%, which amounts to more than 10.3 million people with insurance who didn't have it before. Only 13.9% of Americans are uninsured, a drop from 18.9% in 2013.
288. The ACA has increased the life expectancy of Medicare greatly.
289. Through the ACA, health insurance companies now have to disclose how much of your premium actually goes to pay for patient care.
290. Medicare costs actually declined slightly, for the first time in decades in 2011, according to the Congressional Budget Office.
291. Since passage of the ACA, health care inflation is at its lowest level since 1960.
292. Created the HIV Care Continuum Initiative, to strengthen the government's ability to respond to the continuing domestic HIV epidemic, after years of Republicans weakening the government's ability to deal with the crisis.
293. Signed bill that will provide health insurance premium support to workers who lose their health insurance due to foreign competition.
294. In response to the confusion triggered by the asinine Hobby Lobby decision, which essentially declared that corporations could have "religious rights" and lord them over employees, created new rules to give all women with insurance the right to free birth control.
295. Implemented the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for 2015-2020, which is a follow-up to the first such strategy in US history, which he implemented in 2010.
296. Signed and will implement new child safety standards for e-cigarettes.
297. Set up a White House Cancer Moonshot Task Force, in order to implement ways to develop a cure for cancer.
298. Took steps to improve detection and treatment of mental health problems.
299. Signed Trevor's Law, which will allow for better tracking and study of cancer and disease clusters.
300. Signed a memorandum of understanding with Cuba to share healthcare information.

### **Addressed the Environment While Dealing with Energy Needs**

301. Doubled federal spending on clean energy research.
302. Pushed through a tax credit to help people buy plug-in hybrid cars.
303. Created a program to develop renewable energy projects on the waters of our Outer Continental Shelf that will produce electricity from wind, wave, and ocean currents.
304. Reengaged in the climate change and greenhouse gas emissions agreements talks, and proposed one himself. He also addressed the U.N. Climate Change Conference, officially reversing the Bush era stance that climate change was a "hoax."
305. Fully supported the initial phase of the creation of a legally-binding treaty to reduce mercury emissions worldwide.
306. Required states to provide incentives to utilities to reduce their energy consumption.
307. Under Obama, our dependence on foreign oil has dropped to its lowest rate since 1985, and continues to drop.
308. Meanwhile, oil consumption is way down because of reduced driving and higher mileage standards.
309. Improved siting, review and permitting stations for power plants, in an attempt to seriously improve the nation's electric grid.
310. Reengaged in a number of treaties and agreements designed to protect the Antarctic.
311. Created tax write-offs for purchases of hybrid and electric vehicles.
312. Established a quadrennial review of our energy infrastructure, to encourage a modernization of the grid, and to encourage the transition away from fossil fuel use.



313. Mandated that federal government fleet purchases be for fuel-efficient American vehicles, and encouraged that federal agencies support experimental, fuel-efficient vehicles
314. Encouraged BP to pay \$20 billion to establish Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to reduce the need for taxpayer funds to be used for compensation and clean up. (Note: it took 20 years to get \$1.3 billion for the Exxon Valdez spill)
315. Oversaw and pushed through an amendment to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 authorizing advances from Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
316. Actively tried to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to eliminate the liability limits for those companies responsible for large oil spills.
317. Became the first President to simply say "Climate Change is a fact," and set up the first federal government protocols for dealing with the impacts of climate change.
318. Initiated Criminal and Civil inquiries into the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
319. Asserted federal legal supremacy to bar Texas from authorizing new refinery permits on its own.
320. Set up new, stricter standards limiting power plant emissions.
321. Strengthened the Endangered Species Act.
322. Strengthened protection for wildlife, and expanded enforcement of laws against wildlife trafficking.
323. Obama EPA improved boiler safety standards to improve air quality, and save 6500 lives per year.
324. Through the EPA, attempted to take steps to severely limit the use of antibiotics in livestock feed, to increase their efficacy in humans.
325. Through new EPA regulations, he created a pretext for closing the dirtiest power plants in the country, by limiting emissions of mercury and other toxic gasses.
326. Increased funding for National Parks and Forests by 10%
327. Announced greatly improved commercial fuel efficiency standards.
328. Signed a bill that allowed for increased regulations of a large number of chemicals and other toxic materials, allowing the EPA to make the use of certain toxic materials more transparent.
329. Announced a huge increase in average fuel economy standards from 27.5mpg in 2010 to 35.5mpg starting in 2016 and 54.5 starting in 2025
330. Facilitated investment in industrial energy efficiency to create jobs and strengthen US manufacturing while saving businesses \$100 billion over a decade.
331. Set up the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to oversee Gulf Coast restoration efforts after the 2010 BP oil spill. The money to fund the restoration efforts comes from fines against BP.
332. Engaged in the most comprehensive plan to combat climate change in a generation.
333. Ordered energy plants to prepare to produce at least 15% of all energy through renewable resources like wind and solar, by 2021.
334. Oversaw the creation of an initiative that converts old factories and manufacturing centers into new clean technology centers.
335. Guided a 418% increase in solar power capacity between 2010 and 2014.
336. As of May 2015, 74% of new electrical capacity was provided by solar and wind power.
337. Bypassed Congress and ordered EPA to begin regulating and measuring carbon emissions.
338. Oversaw a tripling in the use of wind power to generate electricity. The US now leads the world in increased wind power capacity.
339. Ordered the federal government to incorporate climate resilience and climate science into all international development in which the United States engages.
340. Fast-tracked regulations to allow states to enact fuel efficiency standards that exceeded federal standards.
341. Fast-tracked increased fuel economy standards for vehicles beginning with the 2011 model year. It was the first time such standards had been increased in more than a decade.
342. Oversaw establishment of an Energy Partnership for the Americas, to create more markets for American-made biofuels and green energy technologies.
343. Obama EPA reversed a Bush-era decision to allow the largest mountaintop removal project in US history.
344. Ordered the Department of Energy to implement more aggressive efficiency standards for common household appliances.
345. Obama EPA ruled that excess CO<sub>2</sub> is a pollutant.
346. Closed a deal with China to limit carbon emissions to slow down climate change.
347. Blocked all oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay, Alaska, one of the most pristine environments in North America
348. Signed an Executive Order to improve environmental efforts in the Arctic region and to combat climate change by better coordinating the efforts of the 23 federal agencies operating in the area.
349. Vetoed a bill to fast track construction of the parallel Keystone XL pipeline.



- 350. Expanded clean water regulations to more stringently protect all of the nation's waterways, even when states fail in their duty.
- 351. Signed an Executive Order committing the federal government to lead the way in building a sustainable economy. It's his fifth doing just that.
- 352. Banned the use of antibiotics in food served in US Government-run cafeterias and ordered agencies to only use antibiotic-free meat.
- 353. Developed new rules to address climate change and to create a significant boost to clean energy.
- 354. Negotiated and signed a virtually Republican-Proof global agreement on climate change, with 190 countries signing on.
- 355. Became one of 196 countries that signed onto a UN Framework on Climate Change.
- 356. Ordered a moratorium on new coal leasing on federal land, and they will examine the whole leasing process.
- 357. Signed a bill to better protect pipelines and to authorize greater oversight.
- 358. Signed into law a measure directing the Department of Transportation to issue guidelines for minimum standards for underground storage of natural gas.

### **There's a Lot More!**

- 359. Nominated Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court. Sotomayor is the first Hispanic Justice in the court's history, and the women represent only the third and fourth women to serve on the court, out of a total of 112 justices.
- 360. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet in history, including more women than any other incoming president.
- 361. Loosened the rules and allowed the 14 states that legalized medical marijuana to regulate themselves without federal interference.
- 362. Signed national service legislation, increasing funding for national service groups, including triple the size of the Americorps program.
- 363. Signed a bill that provided \$4.3 billion in additional assistance to 9/11 first responders.
- 364. Placed major restrictions on the ivory trade in a bid to prevent the wholesale slaughter of elephants in Africa.
- 365. Signed a bill that will seriously curb the use of animal testing and establish alternative testing methods.
- 366. Signed the Claims Resolution Act, which provided \$4.6 billion in funding for a legal settlement with black and Native American farmers who had been cheated out of government loans and natural resource royalties in the past.
- 367. To help those communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy, issued an executive order setting up the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, and asked Congress to approve \$60 billion in supplemental assistance to aid in storm recovery.
- 368. Produced 23 Executive actions designed to make it easier for law enforcement to identify those who shouldn't have guns, thus helping them enforce the law.
- 369. Expanded trade agreements to include stricter labor and environmental agreements in trade pacts like NAFTA.
- 370. Oversaw funding of the design of a new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History, which is scheduled to open on the National Mall in 2015. He protected the funding during budget negotiations.
- 371. Oversaw and passed increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.
- 372. Expanded the authority of Customs to improve enforcement of trade and customs laws and to better coordinate said enforcement among various agencies.

### **And Did You Know?**

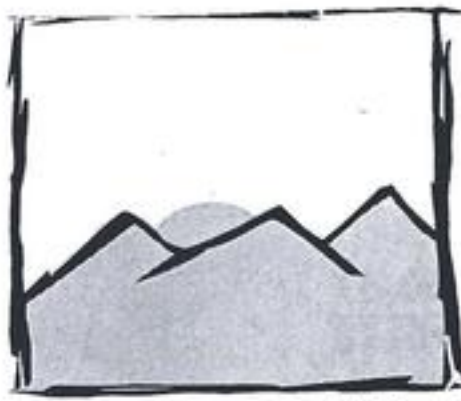
- 373. Despite the characterizations of some, Obama's success rate in winning congressional votes on issues was an unprecedented 96.7% for his first year in office. Though he is often cited as superior to Obama, President Lyndon Johnson's success rate in 1965 was only 93%.

### **And of course...**

- 374. Despite the odds, became the first black president and then, was reelected by a wide margin.

POSTED BY: LEON IRBY DATED: JUN 16, 2017





## "Awakening to Wisdom"

(By Sue Patton Thoele from "The Courage to be Yourself")

We all know there are many mountains in need of moving. Mountains of ignorance and intolerance need to be transformed into peaks of understanding and acceptance, mountains of materialism must be lowered, and mountains of inequality must be transformed into partnership, respect and egalitarianism.

With qualities of compassion, intuition, and inclusion, we are called to awaken our own wisdom and to move the mountains that block our paths. Through our wisdom, we can fashion a powerfully creative and joyful life for ourselves and institute changes that will build a better world for our children and their children's children.

As with everything else, awakening to wisdom begins with ourselves as we realize that each of us is a creation of the Divine and therefore an expression and fulfillment of Divine purpose. As they say in Hawaii, "God don't make junk!" Far from being junk, at the center of our souls, we are innately, inherently, and incredibly wise. When we awaken to and act from our wisdom, mountains will move and God will smile with satisfaction.



Life can only be understood by looking backward, but it must be lived by looking forward.



1-16-2017  
POSTED: BY: LEON IRBY DATED: ~~JULY 11, 2016~~



Message To The Universe  
Is There Anybody Out There!!!  
Will You Receive This Message?

Updated: Uploaded July 31, 2013  
Dated: July 8, 2013

President's Barack H. Obama & Nelson Mandela - Mandias & Martin Luther King, Jr.  
ABC News.com Sunday [June 30, 2013]

President Obama visited the notorious Robben Island, South Africa, prison cell where President Nelson Mandela spent 18 cruel and oppressive years.

President Obama stood looking contemplatively through the same window bars as did President Mandela.

What magical, mystical and miraculous transfiguration manifested in the monumental first South African President, Nelson Mandela and the first African American United States of America,



President reconnecting the ancient Pharaoh to President George Washington – that is – reset Barack H. Obama. Thus, letting the many colors of the rainbow lights of freedom shine. . .

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin joined with them from his Birmingham, Alabama jail cell.

*Ecclesiastes 4:14 "For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor."*

A young man came out of prison to rule as king, even though he had been born in poverty in the same kingdom.



*“Man is God’s marvelous creation crowned with glory and honor, and because of this you can’t quite hem him in. You can put him in . . . prison, but somehow his mind [imagination] will break out through the bars to scratch across the pages of history.”*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Posted by: Leon Irby    Dated: August    2016



President's Barack H. Obama & Nelson Mandela - Mandias & Martin Luther King, Jr.  
ABC News.com Sunday [June 30, 2013]

Update:

Here now to perfect my herein above captioned master piece [with copy also herein above accompanied herewith. . . ] depicting the most notable odyssey of the first African-American Black President - the Honorable Barack Hussein Obama, 44<sup>th</sup> USA President. . .  
[Posted: July 31, 2013]

Excerpts Below:

President Obama visited the Robben Island, South Africa, prison cell where President Nelson Mandela (sic) spent 18 cruel and oppressive years.

President Obama stood looking through the same window cell bars as did President Mandela.



“What a magical and miraculous transfiguration manifested in the monumental first South African President Nelson Mandela-Madisa and first African American President of the United States of America, reconnecting the ancient Pharaoh to President George Washington. That is – reset Barack H. Obama. Thus letting the many colors of the rainbow lights of freedom shine.” See below p.p. 3, 4, 6, & 9

President Obama’s accompanied and herein incorporated: Remarks by President Obama to the Kenyan People. In his own words completed my herein narrative of this magnificent and glorious odyssey.

See Below p. 1, p. 10

Must READ!!!

If you read it, you’ll have a full blown mind experience.



# Remarks by President Obama to the Kenyan People

Safaricom Indoor Arena

Nairobi, Kenya

12:00 P.M. EAT

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Hey!

AUDIENCE: Hey!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Habari Zenu! (Applause) Wakenya mpo? (Applause) It is great to be back in Kenya. Thank you so much for this extraordinary welcome. I know it took a few years, but as President I try to keep my promises, and I said I was going to come, and I'm here. (Applause) Everybody, go ahead and have a seat. I'm going to be talking for a while. (Laughter) Relax. I want to thank my sister, Auma, for a wonderful introduction. I'm so glad that she could be with us here today. And it was -- as she said, it was Auma who first guided me through Kenya almost 30 years ago.

To President Kenyatta, I want to thank you once again for the hospitality that you've shown to me -- (applause) -- and for our work together on this visit, and for being here today. It's a great honor. I am proud to be the first American President to come to Kenya (applause) and, of course, I'm the first Kenyan-American to be President of the United States. (Laughter and applause) That goes without saying.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I love you, Obama!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: I love you back. (Applause) I do.

But, as Auma was saying, the first time I came to Kenya, things were a little different. When I arrived at Kenyatta Airport, the airline lost my bags. (Laughter) That doesn't happen on Air Force One. (Laughter) They always have my luggage on Air Force One. (Laughter) As she said, Auma picked me up in an old Volkswagon Beetle, and think the entire stay I was here it broke down four or five times. (Laughter) We'd be on the highway, we'd have to call the juakali -- he'd bring us tools. We'd be sitting there, waiting. And I slept on a cot in her apartment. Instead of eating at fancy banquets with the President, we were drinking tea and eating Ugali -- (laughter) -- and Sukumawiki.

So there wasn't a lot of luxury. Sometimes the lights would go out. They still do -- is that what someone said? (Laughter) But there was something more important than luxury on that first trip, and that was a sense of being recognized, being seen. I was a young man and I was just a few years out of University. I had worked as a community organizer in low-income neighborhoods in Chicago. I was about to go to law school. And when I came here, in many ways I was a Westerner, I was an American, unfamiliar with my father and his birthplace, really disconnected from half of my heritage. And at that airport, as I was trying to find my luggage, there was a woman there who worked for the airlines, and she was helping fill out the forms, and she saw my name and she looked up and she asked if I was



related to my father, who she had known. And that was the first time that my name meant something. (Applause) And that was recognized.

And over the course of several weeks, I'd meet my brothers and aunts and uncles. I traveled to Alego, the village where my family was from. I saw the graves of my father and my grandfather. And I learned things about their lives that I could have never learned through books. And in many ways, their lives offered snapshots of Kenya's history, but they also told us something about the future. My grandfather, for example, he was a cook for the British. And as I went through some of his belongings when I went up-country, I found the passbook he had had to carry as a domestic servant. It listed his age and his height, his tribe, listed the number of teeth he had missing. (Laughter) And he was referred to as a boy, even though he was a grown man, in that passbook.

And he was in the King's African Rifles during the Second World War, and was taken to the far reaches of the British Empire -- all the way to Burma. And back home after the war, he was eventually detained for a time because he was linked to a group that opposed British rule. And eventually he was released. He forged a home for himself and his family. He earned the respect of his village, lived a life of dignity -- although he had a well-earned reputation for being so strict that everybody was scared of him and he became estranged from part of his family.

So that was his story. And then my father came of age as Kenyans were pursuing independence, and he was proud to be a part of that liberation generation. And next to my grandfather's papers, I found letters that he had written to 30 American universities asking for a chance to pursue his dream and get a scholarship. And ultimately, one university gave him that chance -- the University in Hawaii. And he would go on to get an education and then return home. And here, at first he found success as an economist and worked with the government. But ultimately, he found disappointment -- in part because he couldn't reconcile the ideas that he had for his young country with the hard realities that had confronted him.

And I think sometimes about what these stories tell us, what the history and the past tell us about the future. They show the enormous barriers to progress that so many Kenyans faced just ~~one~~ generations ago. This is a young country. We were talking last night at dinner -- the President's father was the first President. We're only a generation removed. And the daily limitations -- and sometimes humiliations -- of colonialism -- that's recent history. The corruption and cronyism and tribalism that sometimes confront young nations -- that's recent history. But what these stories also tell us is an arch of progress -- from foreign rule to independence; from isolation to education, and engagement with a wider world. It speaks of incredible progress. So we have to know the history of Kenya, just as we Americans have to know our American history. All people have to understand where they come from. But we also have to remember why these lessons are important.

We know a history so that we can learn from it. We learn our history because we understand the sacrifices that were made before, so that when we make sacrifices we understand we're doing it on



behalf of future generations. There's a proverb that says, "We have not inherited this land from our forebears, we have borrowed it from our children." In other words, we study the past so it can guide us into the future, and inspire us to do better. And when it comes to the people of Kenya -- particularly the youth -- I believe there is no limit to what you can achieve. A young, ambitious Kenyan today should not have to do what my grandfather did, and serve a foreign master. You don't need to do what my father did, and leave your home in order to get a good education and access to opportunity. Because of Kenya's progress, because of your potential, you can build your future right here, right now. (Applause)

Now, like any country, Kenya is far from perfect, but it has come so far in just my lifetime. After a bitter struggle, Kenyans claimed their independence just a few years after I was born. And after decades of one party-rule, Kenya embraced a multi-party system in the 1990s, just as I was beginning my own political career in the United States. Tragically, just under a decade ago, Kenya was nearly torn apart by violence at the same time that I was running for my first campaign for President. And I remember hearing the reports of thousands of innocent people being killed or driven from their homes. And from a distance, it seemed like the Kenya that I knew -- a Kenya that was able to reach beyond ethnic and tribal lines -- that it might split apart across those lines of tribe and ethnicity. But look what happened. The people of Kenya chose not to be defined by the hatreds of the past -- you chose a better history. (Applause) The voices of ordinary people, and political leaders and civil society did not eliminate all these divisions, but you addressed the divisions and differences peacefully. And a new constitution was put in place, declaring that "every person has inherent dignity -- and the right to have that dignity respected and protected." A competitive election went forward -- not without problems, but without the violence that so many had feared. In other words, Kenyans chose to stay together. You chose the path of Harambee. (Applause)

And in part because of this political stability, Kenya's economy is also emerging -- and the entrepreneurial spirit that people rely on to survive in the streets of Kibera can now be seen in new businesses across the country. (Applause) From the city square to the smallest villages, MPesa is changing the way people use money. New investment is making Kenya a hub for regional trade. When I came here as a U.S. senator, I pointed out that South Korea's economy was the same as Kenya's when I was born, and then was 40 times larger than Kenya's. Think about that. It started at the same place -- South Korea had gone here, and Kenya was here. But today, that gap has been cut in half just in the last decade. (Applause) Which means Kenya is making progress.

And meanwhile, Kenya continues to carve out a distinct place in the community of nations: As a source of peacekeepers for places torn apart by conflict, a host for refugees driven from their homes. A leader for conservation, following the footprints of Wangari Maathai. (Applause) Kenya is one of the places on this continent that truly observes freedom of the press, and their fearless journalists and courageous civil society members. And in the United States, we see the legacy of Kip Keino every time



a Kenyan wins one of our marathons. (Applause) And maybe the First Lady of Kenya is going to win one soon. (Laughter and applause) I told the President he has to start running with his wife. (Laughter) We want him to stay fit. (Laughter)

So there's much to be proud of -- much progress to lift up. It's a good-news story. But we also know the progress is not complete. There are still problems that shadow ordinary Kenyans every day -- challenges that can deny you your livelihood, and sometimes deny you lives. As in America -- and so many countries around the globe -- economic growth has not always been broadly shared. Sometimes people at the top do very well, but ordinary people still struggle. Today, a young child in Nyanza Province is four times more likely to die than a child in Central Province -- even though they are equal in dignity and the eyes of God. That's a gap that has to be closed. (Applause) A girl in Rift Valley is far less likely to attend secondary school than a girl in Nairobi. That's a gap that has to be closed. (Applause)

Across the country, one study shows corruption costs Kenyans 250,000 jobs every year -- because every shilling that's paid as a bribe could be put into the pocket of somebody who's actually doing an honest day's work. (Applause) And despite the hard-earned political progress that I spoke of, those political gains still have to be protected. New laws and restrictions could close off the space where civil society gives individual citizens a voice and holds leaders accountable. Old tribal divisions and ethnic divisions can still be stirred up. I want to be very clear here -- a politics that's based solely on tribe and ethnicity is a politics that's doomed to tear a country apart. (Applause) It is a failure -- a failure of imagination.

Of course, here, in Kenya, we also know the specter of terrorism has touched far too many lives. And we remember the Americans and Kenyans who died side by side in the attack on our embassy in the '90s. We remember the innocent Kenyans who were taken from us at Westgate Mall. We weep for the nearly 150 people slaughtered at Garissa -- including so many students who had such a bright future before them. We honor the memory of so many other innocent Kenyans whose lives have been lost in this struggle.

So Kenya is at a crossroads -- a moment filled with peril, but also enormous promise. And with the rest of my time here today, I'd like to talk about how you can seize the moment, how you can make sure we leave behind a world that's better -- a world that we borrowed from our children. When I first came to sub-Saharan Africa as President, I made clear my strong belief that the future of Africa is up to Africans. (Applause) For too long, I think that many looked to the outside for salvation and focused on somebody else being at fault for the problems of the continent. And as my sister said, ultimately we are each responsible for our own destiny. And I'm here as President of a country that sees Kenya as an important partner. (Applause) I'm here as a friend who wants Kenya to succeed.

And the pillars of that success are clear: Strong democratic governance; development that provides opportunity for all people and not just some; a sense of national identity that rejects conflict for a



future of peace and reconciliation. And today, we can see that future for Kenya on the horizon. But tough choices are going to have to be made in order to arrive at that destination. In the United States, I always say that what makes America exceptional is not the fact that we're perfect, it's the fact that we struggle to improve. We're self-critical. We work to live up to our highest values and ideals, knowing that we're not always going to achieve them perfectly, but we keep on trying to perfect our union.

And what's true for America is also true for Kenya. You can't be complacent and accept the world just as it is. You have to imagine what the world might be and then push and work toward that future. Progress requires that you honestly confront the dark corners of our own past; extend rights and opportunities to more of your citizens; see the differences and diversity of this country as a strength, just as we in America try to see the diversity of our country as a strength and not a weakness. So you can choose the path to progress, but it requires making some important choices. First and foremost, it means continuing down the path of a strong, more inclusive, more accountable and transparent democracy. (Applause)

Democracy begins with a peacefully-elected government. It begins with elections. But it doesn't stop with elections. (Applause) So your constitution offers a road map to governance that's more responsive to the people -- through protections against unchecked power, more power in the hands of local communities. For this system to succeed, there also has to be space for citizens to exercise their rights. And we saw the strength of Kenya's civil society in the last election, when groups collected reports of incitement so that violence could be stopped before it spun out of control. And the ability of citizens to organize and advocate for change -- that's the oxygen upon which democracy depends.

Democracy is sometimes messy, and for leaders, sometimes it's frustrating. Democracy means that somebody is always complaining about something. (Laughter) Nobody is ever happy in a democracy about their government. If you make one person happy, somebody else is unhappy. Then sometimes somebody who you made happy, later on, now they're not happy. (Laughter) They say, what have you done for me lately? (Laughter) But that's the nature of democracy. That's why it works, is because it's constantly challenging leaders to up their game and to do better. And such civic participation and freedom is also essential for rooting out the cancer of corruption.

Now, I want to be clear. Corruption is not unique to Kenya. (Laughter) I mean, I want everybody to understand that there's no country that's completely free of corruption. Certainly here in the African continent there are many countries that deal with this problem. And I want to assure you I speak about it wherever I go, not just here in Kenya. So I don't want everybody to get too sensitive. (Laughter) But the fact is, too often, here in Kenya -- as is true in other places -- corruption is tolerated because that's how things have always been done. People just think that that is sort of the normal state of affairs. And there was a time in the United States where that was true, too. My hometown of Chicago was infamous for Al Capone and the Mob and organized crime corrupting law

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enforcement. But what happened was that over time people got fed up, and leaders stood up and they said, we're not going to play that game anymore. (Applause) And you changed a culture and you changed habits.

Here in Kenya, it's time to change habits, and decisively break that cycle. Because corruption holds back every aspect of economic and civil life. It's an anchor that weighs you down and prevents you from achieving what you could. If you need to pay a bribe and hire somebody's brother -- who's not very good and doesn't come to work -- in order to start a business, well, that's going to create less jobs for everybody. If electricity is going to one neighborhood because they're well-connected, and not another neighborhood, that's going to limit development of the country as a whole. (Applause) If someone in public office is taking a cut that they don't deserve, that's taking away from those who are paying their fair share.

So this is not just about changing one law -- although it's important to have laws on the books that are actually being enforced. It's important that not only low-level corruption is punished, but folks at the top, if they are taking from the people, that has to be addressed as well. (Applause) But it's not something that is just fixed by laws, or that any one person can fix. It requires a commitment by the entire nation -- leaders and citizens -- to change habits and to change culture. (Applause) Tough laws need to be on the books. And the good news is, your government is taking some important steps in the right direction. People who break the law and violate the public trust need to be prosecuted. NGOs have to be allowed to operate who shine a spotlight on what needs to change. And ordinary people have to stand up and say, enough is enough. (Applause) It's time for a better future. And as you take these steps, I promise that America will continue to be your partner in supporting investments in strong, democratic institutions. (Applause)

Now, we're also going to work with you to pursue the second pillar of progress, and that is development that extends economic opportunity and dignity for all of Kenya's people. America partners with Kenya in areas where you're making enormous progress, and we focus on what Kenyans can do for themselves and building capacity; on entrepreneurship, where Kenya is becoming an engine of innovation; on access to power, where Kenya is developing clean energy that can reach more people; on the important issue of climate change, where Kenya's recent goal to reduce its emissions has put it in the position of being a leader on the continent; on food security, where Kenyan crops are producing more to meet the demands of your people and a global market; and on health, where Kenya has struck huge blows against HIV/AIDS and other diseases, while building up the capacity to provide better care in your communities.

America is also partnering with you on an issue that's fundamental to Kenya's future: We are investing in youth. (Applause) We are investing in the young people of Kenya and the young people of this continent. Robert F. Kennedy once said, "It is a revolutionary world that we live in," and "it is the young people who must take the lead." (Applause) It's the young people who must take the lead. So

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through our Young African Leaders Initiative -- (applause) -- we are empowering and connecting young people from across the continent who are filled with energy and optimism and idealism, and are going to take Africa to new heights. (Applause) And these young people, they're not weighted down by the old ways. They're creating a new path. And these are the elements for success in this 21st century.

To continue down this path of progress, it will be vital for Kenya to recognize that no country can achieve its full potential unless it draws on the talents of all its people -- and that must include the half of Kenyans -- maybe a little more than half -- who are women and girls. (Applause) Now, I'm going to spend a little time on this just for a second. Every country and every culture has traditions that are unique and help make that country what it is. But just because something is a part of your past doesn't make it right. It doesn't mean that it defines your future. Look at us in the United States. Recently, we've been having a debate about the Confederate flag. Some of you may be familiar with this.

This was a symbol for those states who fought against the Union to preserve slavery. Now, as a historical artifact, it's important. But some have argued that it's just a symbol of heritage that should fly in public spaces. The fact is it was a flag that flew over an army that fought to maintain a system of slavery and racial subjugation. So we should understand our history, but we should also recognize that it sends a bad message to those who were liberated from slavery and oppression. And in part because of an unspeakable tragedy that took place recently, where a young man who was a fan of the Confederate flag and racial superiority shot helpless people in a church, more and more Americans of all races are realizing now that that flag should come down. (Applause) Just because something is a tradition doesn't make it right.

Well, so around the world, there is a tradition of repressing women and treating them differently, and not giving them the same opportunities, and husbands beating their wives, and children not being sent to school. Those are traditions. Treating women and girls as second-class citizens, those are bad traditions. They need to change. (Applause) They're holding you back. Treating women as second-class citizens is a bad tradition. It holds you back. (Applause) There's no excuse for sexual assault or domestic violence. There's no reason that young girls should suffer genital mutilation. There's no place in civilized society for the early or forced marriage of children. These traditions may date back centuries; they have no place in the 21st century. (Applause)

These are issues of right and wrong -- in any culture. But they're also issues of success and failure. Any nation that fails to educate its girls or employ its women and allowing them to maximize their potential is doomed to fall behind in a global economy. (Applause) You know, we're in a sports center. Imagine if you have a team and you don't let half of the team play. (Laughter) That's stupid. (Laughter and applause) That makes no sense. And the evidence shows that communities that give their daughters the same opportunities as their sons, they are more peaceful, they are more prosperous, they

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develop faster, they are more likely to succeed. (Applause.) That's true in America. That's true here in Kenya. It doesn't matter.

And that's why one of the most successful development policies you can pursue is giving girls and education, and removing the obstacles that stand between them and their dreams. And by the way, if you educate girls -- they grow up to be moms -- and they, because they're educated, are more likely to produce educated children. (Applause) So Kenya will not succeed if it treats women and girls as second-class citizens. I want to be very clear about that. (Applause) Now, this leads me to the third pillar of progress, and that's choosing a future of peace and reconciliation.

There are real threats out there. President Kenyatta and I spent a lot of time discussing the serious threat from al-Shabaab that Kenya faces. The United States faces similar threats of terrorism. We are grateful for the sacrifices made by Kenyans on the front lines as part of AMISOM. (Applause) We're proud of the efforts that we're making to strengthen Kenya's capabilities through our new Security Governance Initiative. We're going to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in this fight against terrorism for as long as it takes. (Applaus.)

But, as I mentioned yesterday, it is important to remember that violent extremists want us to turn against one another. That's what terrorists typically try to exploit. They know that they are a small minority; they know that they can't win conventionally. So what they try to do is target societies where they can exploit divisions. That's what happens in Iraq. That's what happens around the world. That's what happened in Northern Ireland. Terrorists who try to sow chaos, they must be met with force and they must also be met, though, with a forceful commitment to uphold the rule of law, and respect for human rights, and to treat everybody who's peaceful and law-abiding fairly and equally. (Applause.)

Extremists who prey on distrust must be defeated by communities who stand together and stand for something different. And the most important example here is, is that the United States and Kenya both have Muslim minorities, but those minorities make enormous contributions to our countries. These are our brothers, they are our sisters. (Applause) And so in both our countries, we have calls that allow us to be divided. This is true for any diverse society. And Kenya is rich with diversity -- with many dozens of tribes and ethnicities, and languages and religious groups. And time and again, just as we've seen the dangers of religious or ethnic violence, we've seen that Kenya is stronger when Kenyans stand united -- with a sense of national identity.

That was the case on December 12, 1963, when cities and villages across this country celebrated the birth of a nation. It was true in 2010, when Kenya replaced the anarchy of ethnic violence with the order of a new constitution. (Applause) So we can all appreciate our own identities, our bloodlines, our beliefs, our backgrounds -- that tapestry is what makes us who we are. But the history of Africa -- which is both the cradle of human progress and a crucible of conflict -- shows us that when define ourselves narrowly, in opposition to somebody just because they're of a different tribe, or race, or

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religion -- and we ignore who is a good person or a bad person, are they working hard or not, are they honest or not, are they peaceful or violent -- when we start making distinctions solely based on status and not what people do, then we're taking the wrong path and we inevitably suffer in the end.

(Applause) This is why Martin Luther King called on people to be judged not by the color of their skin but the content of their character. (Applause) And in the same way, people should not be judged by their last name, or their religious faith, but by their content of their character and how they behave. Are they good citizens? Are they good people?

In the United States, we embrace the motto: E Pluribus Unum. In Latin, that means, out of many, one. In Kenya, Harambee -- we are in this together. Whatever the challenge, you will be stronger if you face it not as Christians or Muslims, Masai, Kikuyu, Luo, any other tribe -- but as Kenyans. And ultimately, that unity is the source of strength that will empower you to seize this moment of promise. That's what will help you root out corruption. (Applause) That's what will strengthen democratic institutions. That's what will help you combat inequality. That's what will help you extend opportunity, and educate youth, and face down threats, and embrace reconciliation. So I want to say particularly to the young people here today, Kenya is on the move. Africa is on the move. You are poised to play a bigger role in this world -- (applause) -- as the shadows of the past are replaced by the light that you offer an increasingly interconnected world. And in the light of this new day, we have to learn to see ourselves in one another.

We have to see that we are connected, our fates are bound together. Because, in the end, we're all part of one tribe -- the human tribe. (Applause) And no matter who we are, or where we come from, or what we look like, or who we love, or what God we worship, we're connected. Our fates are bound up with one another. Kenya holds within it all that diversity. And with diversity, sometimes comes difficulty. But I look to Kenya's future filled with hope. And I'm hopeful because of you, the people of Kenya, especially the young people.

There are some amazing examples of what's going on right now with young people. I'm hopeful because of a young man named Richard Ruto Todosia. Richard helped build Yes Youth Can -- I like the phrase, Yes Youth Can -- (applause) It became one of the most prominent civil society organizations in Kenya, with over one million members. And after the violence of 2007, 2008, Yes Youth Can stood up to incitement, helped bring opportunity to young people in places that were scarred by conflict. That's the kind of young leadership that we need. (Applause) I'm hopeful because of a young woman named Josephine Kulea. (Applause) So Josephine founded Samburu Girls Foundation. And she's already helped to rescue over 1,000 girls from abuse and forced marriage, and helped place them in schools. (Applause) A member of the Samburu tribe herself, she's personally planned rescue missions to help girls as young as 6 years old. And she explains that, "The longer a girl is in school, everything for her -- for her income, for her family, for this country -- everything changes." She gives me hope.

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I'm hopeful because of a young woman named Jamila Abass. So Jamila founded Mfarm, which is a mobile platform that is already used by over 14,000 people across Kenya. Mfarm makes it easy for farmers to get information that lets them match their crops with what the market demands. And studies show that it can help farmers double their sales. So here's what Jamila said: "I love Kenya because you feel you are home anywhere you go." Home anywhere you go -- that's the Kenya that welcomed me nearly 30 years ago as a young man. You helped make me feel at home. And standing here today as President of the United States, when I think about those young people and all the young people in attendance here, you still make me feel at home. (Applause) And I'm confident that your future is going to be written across this country and across this continent by young people like you -- young men and women who don't have to struggle under a colonial power; who don't have to look overseas to realize your dreams. Yes, you can realize your dreams right here, right now. (Applause)

"We have not inherited this land from our forebears, we have borrowed it from our children." So now is the time for us to do the hard work of living up to that inheritance; of building a Kenya where the inherent dignity of every person is respected and protected, and there's no limit to what a child can achieve. I am here to tell you that the United States of America will be a partner for you every step of the way. (Applause) God bless you. Thank you. Asante sana. (Applause)

END

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POSTED: BY: LEON IRBY DATED: JAN. 16, 2017  
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## MOMENTS IN LIFE

When the door of happiness closes, another opens;  
but often times we look so long at the  
closed door that we don't see the one,  
which has been opened for us.

Don't go for looks; they can deceive.  
Don't go for wealth; even that fades away.  
Go for someone who makes you smile,  
because it takes only a smile to  
make a dark day seem bright.  
Find the one that makes your heart smile.

Dream what you want to dream;  
go where you want to go;  
be what you want to be,  
because you have only one life  
and one chance to do all the things  
you want to do.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet,  
enough trials to make you strong,  
enough sorrow to keep you human and  
enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily  
have the best of everything;  
they just make the most of  
everything that comes along their way.

The brightest future will always  
be based on a forgotten past;  
you can't go forward in life until  
you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying  
and everyone around you was smiling.  
Live your life so at the end,  
you're the one who is smiling and everyone  
around you is crying.