

Administration of Barack Obama, 2011

Statement on the Observance of Kwanzaa
December 26, 2011

Michelle and I send our warmest wishes to all those celebrating Kwanzaa this holiday season. Today marks the beginning of the week-long celebration honoring African American heritage and culture through the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

We celebrate Kwanzaa at a time when many African Americans and all Americans reflect on our many blessings and memories over the past year and our aspirations for the year to come. And even as there is much to be thankful for, we know that there are still too many Americans going through enormous challenges and trying to make ends meet. But we also know that in the spirit of unity, or *umoya*, we can overcome those challenges together.

As families across America and around the world light the red, black, and green candles of the *kinara* this week, our family sends our well wishes and blessings for a happy and healthy new year.

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary as a statement by the President and the First Lady.

Categories: Statements by the President : Kwanzaa.

Names: Obama, Michelle.

Subjects: Holidays and special observances : Kwanzaa.

DCPD Number: DCPD201100970.