

I suspect is more likely to be achieved because this good man has decided to turn a horrific act into an act of love. And we welcome you and thank you.

So as you can see, this is a little different kind of speech. It's one where all I had to do was just simply talk about the accomplishments and lives of some of our citizens, and their stories speak a lot louder and a lot clearer than I could have. This is a—I always tell people, the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. The strength of the African American community has always lied in the hearts and souls of our citizens, people who refuse to allow adversity to diminish the spirit and extinguish the drive to make America live up to its promise.

And that's what we're honoring today, ordinary citizens who do unbelievably fine things. I can't think of any better way to celebrate African American History Month. And our call and our need is to continue to remember, promise belongs to everybody. And our call for this country is never

to rest until equality is real, opportunity is universal, and every citizen can realize his or her dreams in the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

And now it's my honor to introduce the Jackson High School Black History Tour Group. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony K. Dungy, head coach, National Football League Indianapolis Colts; Lovie Smith, head coach, National Football League Chicago Bears; Doris Kearns Goodwin, member, Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Advisory Committee; Dewey Parker, husband of Judge Janice Rogers Brown; civil rights leader Dorothy I. Height; Mike Norris, former pitcher, Major League Baseball Oakland Athletics; and Renee Flowers, wife of Tyrone J. Flowers, founder, Higher M-Pact. The National African American History Month proclamation of January 26 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks Following a Meeting on Voluntarism *February 13, 2007*

I just had a fascinating discussion with members of my administration and some of our citizens who deeply care about the future of the country. Laura and I want to thank you all for joining us. We had two people who actually study the importance of volunteerism to the—for the health of the country.

A couple points I'd like to make: One, we are a nation of people who take time out of their lives on a regular basis to help a fellow citizen realize the full potential of America. We've got a lot of people volunteering in the country, and one of my calls is for people to do more of it. And there's plenty of opportunities to find out where you can volunteer. You can go, for

example, on the [usafreedomcorps.gov](http://usafreedomcorps.gov) web page, and you can find programs close to you that will give you an opportunity to follow your heart.

Secondly, I fully recognize there's an important role for government in our society, but I also want our fellow citizens to know, there's a really important role for you. If you're concerned about the future of America, you can volunteer to help make our future brighter. You can mentor a child, you can teach somebody to read, you can go visit the elderly, you can feed the hungry, you can find shelter for the homeless, and you'll make a significant contribution to America. And as you do so, you'll find

you make a significant contribution to your own self-worth and your own soul.

We're heralding volunteerism here today. It is a really important aspect of American society. I'm proud of our fellow citizens who have answered the call. I encourage you to continue on. And for those of you who want to enrich your own life, you can find a way to volunteer and help somebody else, and it will do just that.

So thank you all for joining us. Appreciate your good work. God bless those of you who are volunteering. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### Remarks Following a Tour of the YMCA Anthony Bowen *February 13, 2007*

Thanks. The reason I'm here is that we're heralding volunteerism in America. No better place to come where volunteers are doing their work. One of the most important things we can do in our society is to mentor, is to serve as examples and to share knowledge with people so that everybody has a chance to realize the potential of the country. We've got mentors here, people who could be doing something other than being here today, but have chosen to mentor a child.

And so I personally want to thank you very much. And I encourage people to volunteer. One of the great things about our country is that there are millions of people around our Nation who take it upon themselves to help improve the community in which they live, by lending their talents and their time to mentor a child or teach

somebody to read or feed the hungry or provide shelter for the homeless.

My job as the President is to rally the armies of compassion and to herald those examples where people are selflessly helping out others, such as here at this YMCA, right here in Washington, DC, and to call upon our fellow citizens to recognize that by helping somebody else, you really help yourself in many ways. You strengthen your spirit, and you strengthen your soul.

So thank you all for having me. I'm thrilled to be here with the mentors and the mentorees. Volunteerism is an—has been an integral part of our country, and is today, and it needs to be in the future.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m.

### Statement on the Death of Charlie Norwood *February 13, 2007*

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Congressman Charlie Norwood. Charlie was a good friend and a strong, spirited legislator who always stuck to his principles, remembering that his duty was to represent the best interests of the citi-

zens of his district. Throughout his seven terms in Congress, he was a strong advocate for patients' rights, high-quality education, and protecting the homeland. As a lawmaker, he had the ability to deliver on