

more fired up in this election. I need you out there working just as hard right now in those final days. I need you knocking on doors. I need you making phone calls. I need you talking to your friends and your neighbors and telling them what's at stake on Tuesday, that every vote matters, that every voice matters.

And if you do that—if you do that, if you are willing not only to cast your vote for Martha Coakley, but if you're willing to get out the vote for Martha Coakley, then you won't just win this election. You will carry on the best progressive, forward-looking values of this proud Commonwealth and send a leader to Washington who is going to work tirelessly every single day to turn this economy around, to move this country forward, and to keep the American Dream alive in

our time and for all time. That's what Martha Coakley's about. And we need you. We need you on Tuesday.

Thank you very much, Boston. Thank you, Northeastern. Thank you, Commonwealth.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:06 p.m. at Northeastern University. In his remarks, he referred to Liz Bonacci, niece of senatorial candidate Coakley; Joseph E. Aoun, president, Northeastern University, and his wife Zeina; Victoria R. Kennedy, wife of former Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy; Pierre Eddy Laguerre, pastor, Philadelphie Haitian American 7th Day Adventist Church, Malden, MA; and State Sen. Scott P. Brown, Massachusetts senatorial candidate.

## Remarks Following an Intergenerational Conversation on the Movement *January 18, 2010*

Hello, everybody. We have just had a wonderful conversation. I want to just tell you a little bit about why we did this. I think sometimes in celebration of Dr. King's birthday we act as if this history was so long ago.

And the reason we brought together some elders and some young people very briefly was not just to visit the Oval Office and see the Emancipation Proclamation, which is going to be on loan to us, but it's also just to remind us that there were some extraordinarily courageous young people like Dr. Dorothy Height, like Mrs. Eleanor Banks and Romaine Thomas and her husband, and others who were actively involved in bringing about one of the great moments in United States history.

And so what we've done is, we've heard some stories, shared—Dr. Height's shared with us what it was like meeting Martin Luther King when he was a 15-year-old at Morehouse, visiting there. We heard from Ms. Glanton, Willie Glanton, who is a great activist in Iowa, about the work that she's done there on behalf of the movement, reminding us that it wasn't just isolated in some areas.

I am especially proud to have the Harveys here, Mr. Joseph Harvey and Ms. Mabel Harvey. Mr. Joseph Harvey is 105, and Ms. Mabel Harvey here is the spry young one at 102.

[*Laughter*] And Ms. Harvey just now was whispering in my ear, as you guys were walking in, that this must be the Lord's doing, because we've come a mighty long way. [*Laughter*] That's what she said. And so that's wonderful to hear.

We've heard from some young people here who were sharing in these stories and understanding that this is a living history. And I was very pleased to hear from Taylor Branch, author of one of the definitive biographies of the movement and Dr. King. He shared, I thought, a really interesting idea, which is that not only is Dr. King's birthday a time to celebrate service, to reflect and study on how we have helped to perfect our Union, but that it should be a day in which each of us individually also try to stretch out of our comfort zones and try to do something for others and to reach out and learn about things that maybe we've shied away from, because part of what the movement was all about was changing people's hearts and minds and breaking out of old customs and old habits.

And that's, I think, an important lesson for all of us on this day, is—are the things that we can try to do that might have seemed impossible but we know are worth doing, and can we apply those principles that we know to be true in our own lives and in our society.

So I'm just so grateful that we had this opportunity to share with everybody. And I want to wish everybody around the country a day in which they reflect on the extraordinary contributions that ordinary citizens can make each and every day to make America the most hopeful country in the world.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Raye Lyneer Thomas, husband of activist Romaine Thomas.

## Statement on the Death of Carlos Hernandez Gomez *January 18, 2010*

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Carlos Hernandez Gomez. Our paths first crossed when I was a State senator. He was a throwback in the style of Chicago's storied political reporters. He loved Chicago, and he relentlessly sought to tell its story with the commitment to truth and the insatiable curiosity that any good reporter has to have. I quickly learned that when you saw his sharp fedora in

a crowd, hard questions were coming. But Carlos always played it straight. And I always enjoyed our interactions in Springfield, Chicago, or on the campaign trail.

Carlos was a role model to many and an integral part of the Chicago story he strived to tell. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Randi and his family.

## Remarks at the "Let Freedom Ring" Concert Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. *January 18, 2010*

Thank you. To Dr. DeGioia, thank you so much; to the entire Georgetown family; to my Cabinet, who is working tirelessly each and every day on behalf of the American people; to Members of Congress who are in attendance; to dignitaries and Ambassadors; to tonight's honorees; to Coach. It is wonderful to be here this evening. It is a great privilege. Thank you.

It is a great privilege to be with all of you tonight in this place that we set aside to celebrate America's arts, but on this day we set aside to commemorate an American giant. And it's fitting that we are commemorating the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King with an evening of song. Because songs played, as all of you know, an important part in the movement that he led.

It's been said that during the movement, Dr. King and his associates would go around to different communities in the hopes of organizing and mobilizing them, and they'd know which were serious about the boycott, which had the discipline to actually help pull it off, if folks in those communities were singing free-

dom songs. And when he saw young people singing in the face of hostility, he said that's when he first saw "the real meaning of the movement." He said it was about the "faith in the future." He said that it was "based on hope." So I'm pleased to be here tonight to listen to some beautiful music that I think would have made Dr. King share a little extra faith in our future.

Of course, as we gather here to celebrate Dr. King's life with an evening of the arts, we're also mindful that this is a difficult time for our people and for our world. Across this country, Americans are struggling, and few more than African Americans, those very same inheritors of progress sown by Dr. King and the movement; too many are struggling right now. Around the world, our sons and daughters are fighting two wars. Closer to home, our Haitian neighbors are in desperate need. Across an ocean, in Africa, many people are still living amid poverty and violence and disease—of the kind that Dikembe Mutombo, who's being honored here tonight, is attacking