

Change doesn't happen overnight, but it happens as long as we don't purposely give our power away. Every obstacle put in our path should remind us of the power we hold in our hands each time we pull that lever or fill in that oval or touch that screen. We just have to harness that power. We've got to create a national network committed to taking action. We can call it the National Action Network.

So I want you to go out there and redouble your efforts. Register more voters. Help more folks to get their rights. Get those souls to the polls. If they don't let you do it on Sunday, then do it on Tuesday instead. I know it's better going to the polls on Sunday because you go to church, you're getting a little meal. [Laughter] You got the bus waiting for you. I understand. But you can do it without that if you—if we have to.

We're at a time when we're marking many anniversaries. And it's interesting for me—I've been on this Earth 52 years, and so to see the progress we've made is to see my own life and the progression that's happened. You think about *Brown v. Board of Education* and the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and Freedom Summer. And with those anniversaries, we have new reason to remember those who made it possible for us to be here. Like the three civil rights workers in Mississippi—two White, one Black—who were murdered 50 years ago as they tried to help their fellow citizens register to vote. James Chaney and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner be-

lieved so strongly that change was possible, they were willing to lay down their lives for it. The least you can do is take them up on the gift that they have given you. Go out there and vote. You can make a change. You do have the power.

I've run my last election, but I need you to make sure that the changes that we started continue for decades to come.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:02 p.m. at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Barbara R. Arnwine, president and executive director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Clayola Brown, president, A. Philip Randolph Institute; Melanie L. Campbell, president and chief executive officer, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Marc H. Morial, president and chief executive officer, National Urban League; Frederick D. Haynes III, senior pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, TX; Tyrone Crider, pastor, Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago, IL; former White House Counsel Robert F. Bauer and Benjamin L. Ginsberg, partner, Patton Boggs LLP, in their capacity as Cochairs of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration; 2012 Republican Presidential nominee W. Mitt Romney; and Wisconsin State Sen. Dale W. Schultz.

Statement on the Retirement of Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns April 11, 2014

Since I met Bill in Moscow in 2005, I have admired his skill and precision. Since I took office, I have relied on him for candid advice and sensitive diplomatic missions. He has been a skilled adviser, consummate diplomat, and inspiration to generations of public servants. Given his vital role on our leading priorities, earlier this year, I asked him to delay his retirement, and I'm grateful to him and Lisa for do-

ing so. The country is stronger for Bill's service.

NOTE: The statement referred to Lisa Carty, wife of Deputy Secretary Burns. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a photograph of the President having lunch with Deputy Secretary Burns in the Private Dining Room at the White House on February 18.