

It would be a refutation of the forgiveness expressed by those families if we merely slipped into old habits, whereby those who disagree with us are not merely wrong, but bad, where we shout instead of listen, where we barricade ourselves behind preconceived notions or well-practiced cynicism.

Reverend Pinckney once said: "Across the South, we have a deep appreciation of history. We haven't always had a deep appreciation of each other's history." What is true in the South is true for America. Clem understood that justice grows out of recognition of ourselves in each other, that my liberty depends on you being free too, that history can't be a sword to justify injustice or a shield against progress, but must be a manual for how to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, how to break the cycle. A roadway toward a better world. He knew that the path of grace involves an open mind, but more importantly, an open heart.

That's what I've felt this week, an open heart. That, more than any particular policy or analysis, is what's called upon right now, I think; what a friend of mine, the writer Marilynne Robinson, calls "that reservoir of goodness, beyond, and of another kind, that we are able to do each other in the ordinary cause of things."

That reservoir of goodness. If we can find that grace, anything is possible. If we can tap that grace, everything can change.

Amazing grace. Amazing grace.

[At this point, the President sang the first verse of the hymn "Amazing Grace," joined after the first line by audience members, as follows.]

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
was blind but now I see.

[The President continued his remarks as follows.]

The President. Clementa Pinckney found that grace. Cynthia Hurd found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Susie Jackson found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Ethel Lance found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. DePayne Middleton-Doctor found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Tywanza Sanders found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Daniel L. Simmons, Sr., found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Myra Thompson found that grace.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Through the example of their lives, they've now passed it on to us. May we find ourselves worthy of that precious and extraordinary gift as long as our lives endure. May grace now lead them home. May God continue to shed His grace on the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:49 p.m. in the TD Arena at the College of Charleston. In his remarks, he referred to South Carolina State Sen. Vincent Sheheen; and Dylann S. Roof, suspected gunman in the June 17 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC.

Statement on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture June 26, 2015

Today we mark the anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Torture, a document that affirms the inherent dignity of all

members of the human family. The United States helped draft the Convention, and we have long sought to eradicate torture and all

forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world.

Generations of Americans have understood that we must always act with conscience, even in the chaos of war and even when our adversaries may not. Torture is not only inconsistent with our Nation's most deeply held values, but also undermines our national security: by emboldening repressive regimes, by serving as a pretext for terrorist recruitment and violent extremism, and by damaging our reputation as a force for good in the world.

As President, I have made clear that the United States legally prohibits torture without exception and that all U.S. personnel are prohibited from engaging in torture at all times and in all places. I have also reaffirmed our commitment to the Convention Against Torture. No nation is perfect, and the United States must openly confront our past, including our mistakes, if we are to live up to our ideals. That is why I ended the CIA's detention and interrogation program as one of my first acts in office and supported the declassification of key details of that program as documented by the

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. I also strongly support Congress' efforts to codify key elements of the Executive order I issued in 2009 on Ensuring Lawful Interrogations.

Torture is unfortunately still too prevalent in the world today, which is why the United States must continue to play a leading role to eradicate it and address the needs of its victims. The United States is the largest supporter of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and supports a broad range of programs that seek to rehabilitate and reintegrate torture victims. We also back efforts to eradicate torture through human rights training for security forces, capacity building, and improving prison and detention conditions around the world.

Today I salute all the men and women striving to end the scourge of torture. I thank them for reminding governments around the world that upholding the fundamental commitment to human dignity not only makes us who we are, but also makes us stronger and more secure.

The President's Weekly Address

June 27, 2015

Hi, everybody. Five years ago, we finally declared that in America, health care is not a privilege for a few, but a right for all. And this week, after more than 50 votes in Congress to repeal or weaken this law, after a Presidential election based in part on preserving or repealing this law, after multiple challenges to this law before the Supreme Court, we can now say this for certain: The Affordable Care Act still stands, it is working, and it is here to stay.

On Thursday, when the Court upheld a critical part of the Affordable Care Act, it was a victory for hard-working Americans all across this country whose lives are more secure because of this law. This law means that if you're a parent, you can keep your kids on your plan until they turn 26. If you're a senior or an American with a disability, this law gives you discounts on your prescriptions. You can't be charged more just because you're a woman.

And you can't be discriminated against just for having a preexisting condition.

This law is working exactly as it's supposed to and, in some ways, better than we expected it to. So far, more than 16 million uninsured Americans have gained coverage. Nearly one in three Americans who was uninsured a few years ago is insured today. The uninsured rate in America is the lowest it's been since we began to keep such records.

The law has helped hold the price of health care to its slowest growth in 50 years. If your family gets insurance through the workplace, not through the Affordable Care Act, you're paying about \$1,800 less per year on average than you would be if trends before this law had continued, and that's good for workers, and it's good for the economy.

The point is, this is not some abstract political debate. For all the misinformation campaigns