

They're the authors of our history, women who shaped our destiny. They need to know that.

A woman did not magically appear on a space shuttle. It took Sally Ride's relentless commitment, Mae Jemison's boundless courage, to shatter that glass ceiling. A group of California farmworkers, they weren't just handed their rights. It took Dolores Huerta organizing and mobilizing, fighting for the dignity and justice they deserved.

Rosa Parks wasn't simply a tired seamstress who sat down by accident, she was a civil rights leader with the eye of a strategist and the heart of a warrior. She had the confidence to board on that bus, the courage to risk her own life and liberty for the sake of ours. History did not fall into her lap, she seized that moral arc and she bent it with her bare hands in the direction of justice.

That's the story that's still being written, today, by our modern day heroes like Nancy Pelosi or Sonia Sotomayor or Billie Jean King or Laverne Cox or Sheryl Sandberg or Oprah Winfrey or Mikaila Ulmer or Michelle Obama, the countless ordinary people every day who are bringing us closer to our highest ideals. That's the story we're going to keep on telling, so our girls see that they, too, are America: confident and courageous and, in the words of Audre Lorde, "deliberate and afraid of nothing."

That's the country we love, and I've never been optimistic—as optimistic as I am now

that we're going to create a country where everybody, no matter who they are or what they look like or where they come from or who they love, can make of their lives what they will. And together, we can build a world that's more just and more prosperous and more free. That's the job for all of us.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:46 p.m. in Hall B at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to 11-year-old Austin, TX, entrepreneur Mikaila Ulmer; Oprah Winfrey, chairman and chief executive officer, HARPO Entertainment Group; former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her capacity as a Democratic Presidential candidate; Dorothy Pitman Hughes and Gloria M. Steinem, cofounding editors, Ms. magazine; Lilly Ledbetter, former employee, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. plant in Gadsden, AL; Mae C. Jemison, former astronaut and physician, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Dolores C. Huerta, cofounder, United Farmworkers of America; former professional tennis player Billie Jean King, founder, Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative; actor Laverne Cox; and Sheryl K. Sandberg, chief operating officer, Facebook, Inc. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

Statement on the Death of Former Senator George V. Voinovich *June 14, 2016*

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of former Senator George Voinovich. As was clear from his 46 years in public service, George was a true patriot who dedicated his life to serving the people of Ohio. His dedication is underscored by the fact that he holds the record for being elected to more

public offices than any other Ohioan in history. George leaves behind a powerful legacy of service to his State and country that will not soon be forgotten. Michelle and I offer his wife Janet and their children and grandchildren our condolences during this difficult time.