

## Statement on the Death of James J. “Jack” Greenberg October 13, 2016

Thanks to Jack Greenberg’s devotion to justice, millions of Americans have known the freedom to learn and work and vote and live in a country that more faithfully lives up to its founding principle of equality under the law. The son of immigrants who had fled anti-Semitism, he believed that civil rights was a cause for all Americans, regardless of race or circumstances of birth. As a leader of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, he followed in the footsteps of his mentor, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and pushed our Nation to confront some of our most profound challenges.

Jack served in our Navy at Iwo Jima and Okinawa and then, at just 27 years old, he helped argue the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case that desegregated our schools. A decade later, he represented Dr. King in Bir-

mingham jail. He learned quickly that change would not come overnight: that it would take many generations, more court cases, and nationwide movements to even begin realizing the dream of civil rights for all Americans. But Jack’s calm temperament and intellectual approach to moral arguments perfectly suited him for the fight; he knew, after all, that history was on his side. Michelle and I offer our thoughts and prayers to his wife Deborah, his children, and all those who loved him dearly and have benefited from his strong sense of right and wrong.

NOTE: The statement referred to Deborah Cole Greenberg, wife, and Sarah, Ezra, David, and Suzanne Greenberg and William Cole, children, of Mr. Greenberg.

## Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Theodore Strickland in Columbus, Ohio October 13, 2016

*The President.* Hello, Ohio! Hello, Democrats! O–H!

*Audience members.* I–O!

*The President.* O–H!

*Audience members.* I–O!

*The President.* O–H!

*Audience members.* I–O!

*The President.* Oh, it is good to see you all! Thank you. I’m just warming you up. [*Laughter*] Because I know the Buckeyes have a big showdown at Wisconsin on Saturday night.

Thank you so much, everybody. Please have a seat. I have—I’m going to talk to you for a while, now. [*Laughter*] Tonight we’re here to talk about the showdown that’s happening right here in Ohio over the next few weeks. And of course, it would not be an Ohio Democratic Party State Dinner without your former Governor and your next United States Senator, Ted Strickland. Love this man. Your current Senator, who is fighting for you every single

day, Sherrod Brown. A couple of your outstanding Members of Congress, Joyce Beatty and Tim Ryan.

Now, I know the Ohio Democratic Party has been preparing for this election. You know a strong party depends on great public servants being elected at the local level and the school boards and the city councils and the mayor’s office. And your field operation has helped us win important races from Akron to Toledo, from Chillicothe to Warren. And through the spring, even as we Democrats had a hard-fought primary, you kept signing up thousands of volunteers, registering thousands of voters, organizing on campuses all across the State. You were already looking to the fall campaign. So we are going to benefit big time from the infrastructure that you’ve already got in place.

So I just want to say thank you for giving us the edge that we need. Thanks for organizing. Thanks for mobilizing. Thanks for not getting