

THE WHITE HOUSE

July 20, 2009

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to join this celebration of a truly inspiring woman, Dovey Johnson Roundtree. As an Army veteran, lawyer, and minister, Ms. Roundtree set a new path for the many women who have followed her and proved once again that the vision and perseverance of a single individual can help to turn the tides of history.

Ms. Roundtree used her experiences as one of the first African-American women commissioned as an officer in the Army, to lead a life devoted to our most prized ideals and principles. In the courtroom, she helped tear down Jim Crow laws. In her church, she became one of the first women to serve as a minister. And for decades, she has been a pillar of strength in the Washington, D.C., community.

She has clearly demonstrated that even in the face of enormous challenges, an unblinking belief in equality and justice will spur real change. I am inspired by Ms. Roundtree, and I hope that her story continues to motivate all Americans to fight for our shared values. It is on the shoulders of people like Dovey Johnson Roundtree that we stand today, and it is with her commitment to our core ideals that we will continue moving toward a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Obama*