

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 24, 2014

To the Family of Andrew Goodman:

As our Nation comes together to honor Andrew, I want you to know I am both humbled by and thankful for the extraordinary sacrifice he made to move our country toward a more perfect Union.

When Andy traveled to Mississippi in the summer of 1964, he hoped to make our founding ideals a reality for black Mississippians by empowering them with access to the ballot box. He knew fighting against a generations-old system of disenfranchisement was dangerous work, but he also understood that whether white or black, young or old, we all share a common humanity that is worth fighting for. And though his life was cut short at the hands of those who wielded hatred against the winds of change, his legacy lives on. We see it in the historic legislation that followed his death, and in all those who continue the work of ensuring ours is a country bold enough to accommodate the aspirations of all our people.

I am one of the many who stand on the shoulders of giants like Andy. His death forever changed our Nation, and in his example, we are reminded of the difference we each can make when we summon the courage to lift up the lives of others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn circle.