2015: A CENTURY OF BLACK LIFE

SPEECH FOR

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SAMPLE

Hello everyone and thank you for being here today. This year we are proud to celebrate Black History Month with the theme, “2015: A Century of Black Life.” I thought it was more than coincidental that a friend shared something she saw in passing. It was a poem written by Patrick Phillips that began:

“It will be the past

and we will live there together.

Not as it was to live

but as it is remembered.

It will be the past

We’ll all go back together...”

Each year we recognize and commemorate different aspects of our history and heritage, but to me this year is a special one. This year we focus on the past one hundred years: Where we came from, the struggles we’ve endured, and the progress we’ve witnessed. We will live together in the past. We will acknowledge our strength and resilience along the way, and we will honor all who preceded us as we build on the shoulders of those who refused to take “NO” for an answer. Although some may think that looking back keeps us from looking forward, I believe in a journey filled with knowledge to help guide us to the future.