**15834 Nettie Johnson**

Unity

We just came out of one of the most divisive, angry election cycle in the history of the United States. Yet, this country has set the example of what a true free country should be for 240 years. We have stood as the most unique nation on planet earth. There are other countries who claim to be democracies but none of them have our history and none of them have proved as successful as the U.S.

Our country was formed by a wide variety of people from many different countries with differing cultures and beliefs. But, they came to America for the same reason, freedom to live their lives without oppression and freedom to choose their government. In every election there is one who wins and one who loses, one party who wins and one party who loses. In our country those decisions are for a limited period of time and the next election they both present their side and the people choose again by voting. The reason for this is so that we never again have to live under a king or a dictator. Is our system perfect? No, that’s simply not possible. But, it’s the best system on earth.

Look at other countries. The majority of them are in constant conflict socially and politically. People live under constant worry that their lives will be upended by some new problem, whether political or social or economic. Very few countries offer women as much freedom as in the United States. Most countries have huge divides between the rich and poor with very few opportunities for a middle class or for people to rise above the station in which they were born.

## The United States is the only nation on earth where someone can be born in poverty and grow up and become president of the United States. James A. Garfield, the 20th president was born into poverty. He grew up in a log cabin in Ohio with four siblings. Abraham Lincoln also had a humble beginning. Harry S Truman grew up on a farm and learned his leadership skills in the military. The United States gives any natural born citizen the legal right to seek the office of President of the United States. That’s quite a dream for a small child, to know that they can go after whatever their dream is for life.

## That dream is only possible by the unity in our country. We are a unique country that believes in the unique individuality of its people. We have people from Europe, Asia, Africa, Mexico and South America. Because of this we also have a little bit of each of these cultures woven into our national culture. We are now seeing people come to us from the Middle East. Whenever a new culture tries to weave itself into our culture there is always some stress and fear over the differences between them and us. But, over time we have been able to overcome these differences and learn to work together to continue to make this nation the greatest on earth.

## I firmly believe that despite the challenges we have in our nation today, that we will overcome them and make our nation great once again. We will learn how to weave our likes and dislikes and the things we share along with our differences and the atmosphere will settle down. I fully believe we will overcome the hot tempers of this election cycle and settle into working together to find that national unity once again.