

3 President Barack Obama  
6 The White House  
9 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
13 Washington, D.C. NW 20500

November 26, 2016

19 Dear President Obama,

32 Thank you for your outstanding selections for the 2016 Presidential Medal of Freedom.  
54 You and I are the same age (55) and obviously have a lot of the same heroes. I am a teacher of  
69 technology in Los Angeles, CA, and grew up listening to Vin Scully call Dodgers Baseball  
86 Games on the radio, and listening to Diana Ross and Bruce Springsteen's music on vinyl. I was  
100 enamored with basketball as a youngster, idolizing Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Michael Jordan. I  
117 loved going to see movies with Robert Redford, Cicely Tyson, Robert De Niro, and most of all,  
130 Tom Hanks. Bill Gates and Margaret Hamilton were outstanding innovators in technology in  
150 which to honor, and Maya Lin (a hero of mine and my son, who was studying her work in History  
169 class) for her wonderful works of Art. My wife is an avid fan of Ellen Degeneres, as you noted,  
185 for her representation of LGBT persons and as someone who is generally likeable. These were all  
198 inspired choices. I wholly enjoyed your entire presentation, including your reflections on these  
209 leaders' meaning in your life and their contributions to their fields.

222 I congratulate you, Michelle, and your staff on these selections, and appreciated your  
232 comment on how this diverse group so tremendously represented America.

249 Thank you for your years of service to our country, and hope that a future US President  
258 will honor you as past presidents have their predecessors.

280 I know you are anxious to get out on the golf course soon and relax a bit, as I do, when I  
302 have time, but also hope you will consider the idea of running for a HR seat in the in the next two  
318 years, and possibly serve as House Speaker, so you and the Democratic Party can fight to protect  
334 our country from the possibly disastrous decisions that may be made by the new President-Elect  
351 and the people he chooses to serve in his cabinet. The Democratic Party needs your leadership to  
366 fight the Republican's effort to move our country backward, receding from the progress you have  
371 forged these last eight years.

372 Sincerely,

374 *Henry Anker*

Henry Anker