



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

**“Voting is the foundation stone for political action.”
--- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,**

“Civil Right No. 1: The Right to Vote,”
The New York Times, March 14, 1965.

On March 15, 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress and requested legislation ensuring that all Americans, regardless of color, have equal voting rights.

Eight days before, a peaceful civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama had been attacked by state and local officers of the law. The march, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was in support of voter registration. Discriminatory practices sought to limit Black Americans’ right to vote – a right guaranteed by the 15th Amendment.

The time had come for change.

President Johnson urged Congress to enact legislation removing illegal restrictions on federal, state and local elections which disenfranchised and silenced Black American voters. Two days later a bill had been drafted and, on August 6, 1965 the bill was signed into law.

On that day in March President Johnson spoke of the necessity of overcoming America’s “crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.” 55 years later the quest for equality is still of vital importance to the citizens of this nation. Much has been achieved – and much remains to be done.

Let us draw on the strength and resolve of all who fought – and continue to fight – for civil rights, and work to make this country a truly just and democratic home for all.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

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