

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 14, 2016

I send greetings to all those gathered for the presentation of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Congressional Patriot Award, and I am pleased to join in honoring Representative Sam Johnson and Representative John Lewis.

Our Nation's first patriots did not fight to replace the tyranny of a king with privileges for a few or the rule of a mob. Our Founders gave us a republic—a government of, by, and for the people—and entrusted each generation to safeguard our founding creed. On our journey to secure our highest ideals, a spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation is imperative. Even when our destiny has felt out of reach, it has been through the work of individuals on both sides of the aisle, resolving to put aside their differences, that we have been able to sow the seeds of progress.

The Bipartisan Policy Center has striven to be that catalyst for change among the discord and division within our democracy. By facilitating a dialogue that is inclusive and understanding, your work reminds us of the responsibilities we have to one another and of the obligations we all share in forging a future of opportunity and security for all.

A better politics does not mean we agree on everything, but it requires that there be bonds of trust between all our people. As you come together in common purpose and look toward our shared future, I wish you all the best for a memorable evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, consisting of a large 'B' and 'O' with a stylized 'a' and 'b' in between, followed by a horizontal line.