

- Thank you.
- On behalf of myself and First Lady Terry Ventura, I would like to thank you for inviting us tonight. This is a fantastic turnout for a very important event.
- It's always an honor to spend time with citizens who are working together to improve the lives of others.
- The problems of prejudice, bigotry and discrimination in this country won't be solved by government. They'll be solved by groups of individuals who come together to fight for a common cause – just like the NAACP.
- The cause we are here to support tonight - The Freedom Fund - is of the utmost importance. It helps combat what may be the greatest struggle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: racism. Racism is as alive and destructive as ever.
- You know, it amazes me that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in what is usually considered the most advanced country in the world, people's worth is often still judged by the color of their skin.
- Why is that? And what is the solution?
- The solution, I believe, is for every individual to recognize when the rights of others are being violated, and to step forward and fight for those rights.
- Mr. Mandela is a perfect example of how much one individual can do to protect the rights of the oppressed. I look forward to hearing him speak tonight.
- Thank you.