

of those who were referenced. And my good friend Ernest Green; Bob Johnson of the black entertainment network; and others who came.

I want to say so many things, and yet I think I should say so little, because I have already heard so much wisdom and humor—[*laughter*]—and passion and music. I'm going to do a test when I get back on the airplane, when I go back to the back of the airplane. [*Laughter*] I'm going to ask Weldon Latham and Bob Johnson and Ernie Green and all my staff members what they remembered about this long ceremony. Everyone will remember you, young man, because you remind us of what all this is all about. And you are a stern rebuke to the cynics who say we cannot do better.

I will remember something that the rest of you couldn't know, and that is that Coretta Scott King still has a beautiful voice and can hit all the high notes. I will remember this as the first time in my life I ever got to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" 2 days in a row because we sang it in church yesterday. I will remember that the mayor wants to be buried by a Southern preacher so he can stay on Earth one more hour. [*Laughter*] I remember that it was so cold in Washington Dick Gregory was willing to go to hell to get away from it. [*Laughter*] I will remember all this incredible music and David Arnold, whom I had never heard before, and my friend and brother Wintley Phipps, who can still bring tears to my eyes. For purely personal reasons, I will never forget the way you all stood when the mayor mentioned my wife's name, and I thank you for that. I will never forget my friend Governor Miller quoting Kris Kristofferson's song and thinking there's still a place for all us Southern rednecks in this church. [*Laughter*]

I am glad to see my good friends; I see Edwin Moses and Sonny Walker out there. And those of us who are your fans, Mr. Fishburne, are glad to see you here. Thank you. Thank you very much.

I was sitting here thinking, as everyone else spoke and I kept marking things through with my remarks, what might I say here? What would Dr. King say if he sort of showed up, sidled down the aisle? I think he would have enjoyed this, don't you? All the laughing, all the singing, all the wisdom, all the passion. I think he would have said amen when Congressman Mfume reminded us of that magnificent passage from

Genesis, you can kill the dreamer but not the dream.

I think he'd be pretty proud of how far his hometown has come. The King Center is keeping the dream alive. Atlanta has more foreign corporations than any other American city headquartered here with this mayor and that police chief and that sheriff over there. Less than 200 days from today, the whole world will be looking at Atlanta when the Olympics come. The city too busy to hate will be the city the world will see. I think he would like that.

You know, only three Americans have ever had a holiday named for them by the Congress. Two were Presidents: George Washington helped to create our Union; Abraham Lincoln laid down his life to preserve it. Martin Luther King never held any elected office, but he is the third because he redeemed the moral purpose of the United States. He reminded us that since all of us are created equal—and that's what the Constitution says—all of us are equally entitled to the full benefits of American citizenship.

In this holiday we celebrate the life of a man who challenged us to face our flaws and to become a better nation, to use our great power in the service of peace and justice. That was his dream, and that is the spirit of this holiday. And that is why it is a good thing that all over America this is a legal national holiday. It is altogether fitting that if we can lay down our labors for a little while once a year to think about how we started, and we lay down our labors a little while once a year to think about how we might have been torn apart but we stayed together, that we take one day a year to remember that we have to live by the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States.

When we were coming in here, Rodney Slater, who is now the Federal Highway Administrator but was with me when I was Governor, reminded me, Mrs. King, that 10 years ago today I sent, on an early morning, 30 young children from Arkansas to Atlanta to march in the parade. And those children thought they had died and gone to heaven. [*Laughter*] They knew they were part of something that matters.

So if Dr. King were here today, how would he tell us that it matters? I just returned, as all of you know, from a visit to our brave men and women serving as peacekeepers in Bosnia. I think he'd be pleased by that, don't you? Our