



January 20, 2025

Dear President Donald Trump,

Today is your inauguration day, and also the day for honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his stand for unity and hope.

As a life-long educator, I know that what we teach today shapes tomorrow. So if people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love.

I have spent nearly a century working for human dignity and the simple right to enjoy the freedom of being an American. Lately, I've walked for miles in support of that freedom, not just for one, but for all. I've found that this promise of freedom is only as strong as those who choose to uphold it.

The question is: will you rise to the occasion or will you stand still as history passes you by?

I've learned that courage is the only thing that can turn hope into action. Leadership is more than policy—it's example.

Division is the easy choice. Unity is the courageous one. It takes leaders like you to choose that path, even if it's hard.

You have the power to teach us all what is possible when service replaces spectacle and humanity takes center stage. Let your legacy be one that lifts us, not one that weighs us down.

The road to true freedom is long, but I've walked it my whole life. Will you walk with me? Name the time and place, and I'll meet you there.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Opal Lee'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'Opal' and 'Lee' being capitalized and prominent.

Opal Lee