

Elizabeth Jackson

1099810

ME001

**Executive Office of The President
Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **December 11, 2012**

Correspondent: **MR. ANTHONY WHITAKER**

Subject/Description: **THANK YOU FOR WRITING, AND FOR YOUR
THOUGHTFUL GIFT.**

Scanned by
ORM

December 11, 2012

Mr. Anthony Whitaker

P6/b(6)

Dear Anthony:

Thank you for writing, and for your thoughtful gift. Our Nation will never forget the terrible events of September 11, and we pay tribute to the victims, their families and friends, and all those affected on that dark day.

My Administration is dedicated to ensuring the safety of the American people, bringing those responsible for these heinous crimes to justice, and supporting the families of the fallen. Shortly after taking office, I directed the Central Intelligence Agency to make the capture or killing of Osama bin Laden, al-Qa'ida's leader, a top priority. Thanks to the incredible skill and courage of our service members, we achieved this mission on May 1, 2011, bringing to justice a terrorist responsible for the murder of thousands of men, women, and children in the United States and around the world. Bin Laden's death does not mark the end of our efforts against al-Qa'ida, and we will remain vigilant at home and abroad as we continue working to disrupt and dismantle this terrorist network.

In the ten years that followed September 11, a generation has come of age bearing the burden of war. The American people have persevered through challenging times, celebrated great progress, and together, we have shown that the values that define us are stronger than ever. As we continue to move forward, Michelle joins me in honoring the men and women who gave their lives so others might live, and the survivors and first responders who battled injuries to help us recover and rebuild. I was proud to sign into law the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act to ensure rescue and recovery workers, residents, students, and others suffering from health consequences related to the World Trade Center disaster have access to the medical monitoring and treatment they need. Their heroism and bravery inspired our Nation to stand together, and it continues to drive us as we seek to build a better, more secure world.

Again, thank you for your kind gesture. Your generosity is much appreciated, and I am grateful for your support of our shared values. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

ok to AP
-fr

POTUS AP

BO / EO / FR / MC / clh

9/11 Response Anthony Whitaker - Steel Standing; 9/11 First Responders and Others; Gift Support.

RACE OBAMA (A)

DEC 14 2012

Contact Us - Other

Submitted: May 4, 2012 15:03
Originating Host: 24.90.23.236
Remote IP: 66.151.109.207
From: Mr. Anthony Whitaker
Email Address:

P6/b(6)

Phone:

P6/b(6)

Address (Domestic):

P6/b(6)

Topic: Other

Message:

Dear Mr. President

I approach you with the greatest respect and humility. I mailed an oversized package to you by Fedex yesterday. I hope you and the First Lady actually get a chance to read the letter and see the contents within. It is from a foundation I founded called the STEEL STANDING Memorial Foundation in connection with the tragic events of 9/11. I reside in Harlem New York. I know you have been to Harlem on several occasions, but you have yet to speak directly to the people of Harlem. Yes you had a \$25,000.00 USD per plate fundraiser at the Red Rooster, and you are coming to speak at Columbia University May 14, 2012. Yes these places are in Harlem but they do not reflect the people of Harlem, the soul of Harlem. You need to speak and hold an open free rally to the people of Harlem just like President Bill Clinton did right in front of the Harlem State Office Building. President Clinton selected Harlem as his office headquarters for a reason. This would not only send a powerful message, but the right message to a core part of your supporters, and voting block. Harlem is considered one of, if not the most famous neighborhood in the world. This is just my humble advice, but I think you need to address this prior to the 2012 election.

Wishing You All The Best In November
Anthony Whitaker



STEEL STANDING

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEW YORK CITY

Dear President, Commander-In-Chief, and First Lady Of The United States Of America, The Honorable Mr. and Mrs. Barack Obama

It is with the greatest, respect, humility and honor that I write this letter to you both. Mr. President as the Commander-In-Chief of the United States of America, I recognize that you shoulder the weight of one of the greatest responsibilities on this planet and as the First Lady Of The United States Of America, I know you shoulder much of that responsibility as his support and rock. As they say, behind every great man stands a great woman, and a great woman you certainly are. My name is Anthony Whitaker. I am an artist, graphic designer, and a technical manager at Con Edison, (New York City's electrical power utility company), residing in Harlem New York City. Over 10 years ago I was dispatched down to Ground Zero as a first responder to assist with the recovery efforts resulting from an unimaginable, and most horrific act of terrorism, which as the entire world knows took place on September 11, 2001. I personally knew 4 people who perished in this unfortunate tragedy. At that time I was a field employee working with part of a small team, whose objective was to isolate the hazardous exposed electrical grid from the immediate area of destruction, restore power to surrounding consumers, and businesses, and also to help supply power to heavy machinery utilized in the rescue efforts. I was on location for a total of 7 consecutive days and then having one day off and then returning to work the next day after, for a total of 8 days.

While working down at what appeared to be like a war zone, under obviously very frightening, and tense conditions, I had an experience that I can only best describe as being spiritual. One night while I was carrying out my work orders, I unexpectedly came face to face with the majestic steel ruin of the South Towers facade. So powerful was the physical essence of it's presence, it was almost as if I could hear the ruin speak, and this is what I heard, "I AM STEEL, I AM STANDING, I AM STEEL STANDING!!". Upon hearing this mantra in my head, I immediately experienced an emotional catharsis. At that moment I knew I could get past anything. Whatever fear and stress I possessed immediately began to subside, and being an artist I knew I had to, or somehow felt I was given the responsibility to capture this image, or to put it more precisely, to capture the sound of those words, so that when other people would look upon this image, they would hear the same message, and they also would feel and experience the same sense of psychological healing, courage, strength, resilience and rebirth. Well anyway, after a bizarre sequence of events that appeared to almost be guided by some unseen hand, I was dispatched to the exact same location 5 or 6 days later. It was very early in the morning, between 6 and 7AM EST, I captured the steel ruin on September 18th, 2001. I was facing North, the sun was rising and emitting its brilliant rays from the East, while the vantage point I positioned myself was on the Northeast corner of Albany St and Washington St. This seems so fitting due to the fact that Albany is the capital of New York and Washington is the capital of the United States of America. It is several unusual coincidences like these, in connection with this image, that can literally fill a book, which I feel make this black and white photograph so unique and special. Since the day I took this photograph many things have transpired in connection with this powerfully moving and inspirational image. A 7 foot permanent installation of this image is the first work of art to



STEEL STANDING

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEW YORK CITY

be permanently installed within the front lobby of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in Harlem, New York City. The image was the first photograph selected by The National September 11 Memorial & Museum's Senior Staff to be offered to tourist arriving from all over the world as memorabilia in the form of a poster and to this day it is still the only photographic image to be offered in this capacity. The image has also been inducted into the New York Historical Society Library and the Smithsonian's National Museum Of American History. The STEEL STANDING image also served as a wrap around cover, thereby simultaneously gracing the front, and back cover of The Amsterdam News 9/11 10 year commemorative issue. It was only the 4th image to be displayed in this capacity within the 103 year history of The Amsterdam News being in existence. At the Annual 2011 United Nations Ambassadors Ball a limited edition copy was requested to be auctioned off for charity, and one installation I am personally very proud of is, the September 11, 2001 Donations Display at The Pentagon. There are several other noteworthy places where the image is being presently displayed, and has been donated to, but one place so many people feel and have expressed that this image should be displayed, due to its global historical significance, its national and international symbolic meaning, is The White House.

I would like to donate, and personally present a special custom framed, one of one, limited edition copy as a gift to the White House. I feel that all of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, right up to the The Commander-In-Chief, exemplify the STEEL character of this great nation and country of ours to the highest degree, and being a Son of a Father who proudly served in the U.S. Navy, I can not help but feel some sense of connection to this incredibly proud legacy. This was thoroughly demonstrated by the wise leadership, courage, and decision making capabilities that was clearly displayed by you Mr. President, in the historic capture and warranted assassination of terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden, and also in the daring successful raid to rescue aid workers Jessica Buchanan and Poul Hagen Thisted from Somali pirates. It is the courage to even attempt, and pull off operations such as these that make me think of all of the brave men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, as I gaze upon the STEEL spire ruin victoriously rising towards the heavens from the ashes like a phoenix within the STEEL STANDING photographic image. That STEEL is you Mr. President, and all of the men and women who serve under you in The United States Armed Forces. Everyone of you is an inspiration to people all over this country, which sets a prime example for people to courageously confront their personal battles, such as dealing with a health issue, getting through college, managing through a tough economy, confronting a natural disaster and so on.

The First Lady Of The United States Of America, Mrs. Michelle Obama, has also exemplified the STEEL character of our great nation as well, you initiated "JOINING FORCES" which is a "comprehensive national initiative to mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned". This is something that all Americans should be involved in, because so much of the freedoms that we as U.S. Citizens enjoy is due to the sacrifices made by the women and men that proudly serve in the United States Armed Forces, and I salute you for helping make



STEEL STANDING

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEW YORK CITY

people aware and following through. I have started the STEEL STANDING Memorial Foundation, and part of the foundations mission is to donate profits from the sales of the STEEL STANDING photographic image, and memorabilia to those who have served in the military via organizations such as yours, and the Wounded Warrior Project. Maybe in the near future our two organizations will be able to JOIN FORCES.

Also Mr. President I must be honest about one thing. I have never voted in my entire life. Which means I did not vote for you in 2008. I was one of the people whom you repeatedly mentioned in your first campaign speeches that had no belief or faith in our nations political system. I just simply never experienced big government impacting my life in a way that resulted in any measurable improvement. My Father died 15 years ago, 8 months after my Son was born, thereby leaving my Mother to pay a large recently refinanced mortgage, and survive on a fixed income received from my Fathers pension , which due to inflation, was steadily losing value with each passing year. Of course I could not just standby and watch my Mother who so lovingly taught, raised, and cared for me, suffer under this heavy economic burden, so I completely took over the monthly payments which were quite considerable. Even though I now command a reasonable salary as a manager employed by New York City's premiere power utility company, the weight of this financial responsibility was quite severe over the years prior to being promoted to management, and nearly unbearable coupled with my own personal responsibilities. In the latter part of 2010 my Mother was able to take advantage of a Housing Rescue Plan, which was directly spearheaded and implemented by your administration. During the middle part of 2011 I received a phone call from my Mother and she informed me that the principal and mortgage payments had been literally cut in half. Needless to say I was in total disbelief, but to my pleasant surprise it was true. Words can not express how much this has helped and improved my financial situation. I just want to say "THANK YOU!!", but no, there is more that I can personally do. In 2012 I have decided to make a little personal history of my own. I will be voting for the first time in my life, and I will cast my ballot for you Mr. President, not because like me you are an African American, which is something I must admit, I take a degree of pride in, and understandably so, but in the overall big picture, and grand scheme of things, this amounts to little. I'm voting for and supporting you because you care, not only for Wall St. as some have falsely claimed, but you have clearly displayed by your actions, that you care for Main St. and I want other people from all walks of life, from all over this country to benefit from your caring leadership, and administration just as I have.

Once again I would like to personally present a one of a kind, custom framed, signed high-quality limited edition print to you our Commander-In-Chief, and The First Lady as a gift to the White House. I was thinking Memorial Day 2012 would be an appropriate time to do this. I am assuming there would be some event during this time where this presentation could possibly be incorporated, but of course this is up to you Mr. President and the scheduling department of the White House. Everything would be totally custom, the total size, frame, matting and all, would be approximately 7 feet tall by approximately 4 and 1/2 feet wide, but these dimensions can be adjusted if need be.



STEEL STANDING

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEW YORK CITY

STEEL STANDING is far more than an iconic black and white photograph. It is a powerful symbol of courage, strength, resilience, and rebirth because it refused to fall in the face of one of the most shocking premeditated criminal acts in human history. It literally identified itself by virtue of what it was, a huge monument of STEEL that was STANDING. This unique symbol was forged by the thousands of people whose lives were lost and sacrificed on that fateful September morning. It is a symbolic portrait of their heroic souls, that serves as a transcendent message and an inspirational authentic visual memorial. It communicates that no matter how impossible or difficult your situation may seem, if you courageously confront it with unwavering strength of character, you can ultimately overcome all of your fears and challenges of life, including death. Yes. Their souls and spirits are and will forever be STEEL STANDING!!

In closing I just want to say Thank You to both of you for taking the time out of your very busy and demanding schedules to read my letter and possibly consider my proposition. It is people like yourself and all of the men and women that proudly serve in the United States Armed Forces and who continually execute the universal qualities of courage, strength, resilience, and rebirth, that your children, my children, and countless future generations will inherit an America, and a world, that will be...STEEL STANDING!!

Once Again Thank You For Your Service. I Appreciate You Both!

Sincere and Warmest Regards,
Anthony Whitaker

Anthony Whitaker 05/02/2012

Founder and Director
STEEL STANDING Memorial Foundation
PH: 917-416-3782



Please find enclosed 6 signed special 10 Year Commemorative posters, one which is personally signed to both you Mr. President, The Commander-In-Chief, and to you the First Lady Of The United States Of America, and 6 signed magnets for you to keep and/or distribute according to your personal discretion. Also enclosed are 6 smaller signed posters which are the ones that are actually sold as memorabilia at The National September 11 Memorial & Museum here in New York City. It is the first and only photograph selected to be offered as a poster by their Senior Staff.