

President Obama and the First Family Visit Selma

[SINGING]

THE PRESIDENT: We tell them the stories; they read about the history, but for them to actually be here and to see the bridge and to talk to these incredible heroes who helped make possible their lives -- what a treat that was.

[SINGING]

MRS. OBAMA: One of the foot soldiers was a woman who said she was 14 years old when she marched. She was so scared.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

MRS. OBAMA: The woman, who is 111, she made her go through with the march because she said, "If you walk away now, you'll let your fears guide you and rule you forever." And she went ahead with the march, but on that day, she got her head beaten in. And for me, I thought about that and thought that would have been Sasha on that day.

THE PRESIDENT: We have now gotten rid of the formal barriers to voting. That was a monumental, heroic task, and yet more than half of us, in many elections, opt out, and if there's one thing to take away from Selma, it's that there is power --

MRS. OBAMA: In that vote.

THE PRESIDENT: -- in that vote, and there's power in people getting engaged when they do. Not that all problems are solved overnight. That's why "march" is such a good metaphor because that march is one that always has a new leg to it, a new twist to it, a new bridge to cross. You know, each generation, each successive generation, has to walk that -- walk that mile.