

Democrat Scholarship Essay.

I was only 2 years old when Barack Obama was elected president. Although I don't remember it, my parents took me to an inauguration party to celebrate the change and hope that he would bring to our country. Obama's two terms as president were not only transformational, they stand out as a bright beacon of democratic ideals.

Obama was able to crash through racial barriers and rise quickly as a political leader with integrity. While researching this paper, I talked to my parents about their memories of his presidency. My mom recalled how she made 100's of phone calls during the primaries to prospective voters and how many of the people she spoke to stated that his campaign was inspirational, but he would never become the nominee. Through his grass roots approach and appealing to the youth vote, he was able to prove the doubters wrong.

During his presidency, Obama had to navigate through economic crises, international conflicts, partisan politics and racist attacks. His steady hand on the wheel, helped our country rise out of one of the worst economic downturns in our history. He endured constant attacks on his character and even his origin of birth. Through it all, he always handled it with integrity. As Michelle Obama said, "When they go low, we go high."

I think one of his most enduring pieces of legislation that he signed was the Affordable Health Care Act. By expanding access to healthcare and stopping insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions, Obama helped address an injustice in the American healthcare system. Although not perfect, the ACA is a step towards realizing the principle that universal healthcare is a basic human right.

On the diplomatic front, Obama was able to open doors and dialogue with countries that had been closed off to the United States. He helped negotiate the Iran Nuclear Deal and was able to normalize relations with Cuba. He worked to get the Paris Climate Agreement passed and dealt with terrorist issues when they arose.

As we start to look back on Obama's legacy, he will continue to stand out as the leader and champion of democracy that he is. He inspired hope in so many and was able to move past the normal party politics. He embodied the ideals of American Democracy and pushed our country forward into a space where it seemed so much is possible. His campaign slogan says it so well, "Yes, we can!"