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The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senator, New Jersey
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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Joy!

American history is a testimony to taking on the insurmountable and achieving the impossible. Progress didn't come easy but, in America, we do hard things. We built labor unions and small businesses. Great public education and world-changing innovation. We kept the promise of Medicare and Social Security. Against bigotry and hate, we advanced equal rights for all Americans—civil rights, workers' rights, reproductive rights. The right to marry who you love.

We did this not by pitting Americans against Americans. We did it by healing rifts, bridging divides, and living up to our calling: to be a more perfect union. To make this one nation under God a little more indivisible. Trump betrays these ideals. He viciously attacks Democrats and Republicans. His put-downs know no shame: John McCain's military service. Nikki Haley's heritage. Women. People with disabilities. Trans people. Our veterans.

His is the politics of smear and fear, not inspiration and elevation. He speaks more of American carnage than American compassion. But in America, you can't lead the people if you don't love the people.

Our nominees—Kamala Harris and Tim Walz—bring joy. Descendants of immigrants. Shopkeepers and educators. People who faced pain with perseverance. Met hate with love. They're the living dreams of their ancestors. We all are our ancestors' wildest dreams. Generations who—faced with impossible odds—responded with that classic American creed: “Yes, we can.”

Some doubt our collective strength and say instead they alone can save us. Well, we're not gonna lose our faith. I believe in America. I believe in America because my elders told me no matter the challenge or obstacle, as the Gospel says, “We shall overcome.” I believe in America because our soldiers died on beaches and battlefields so that we could be free today and say: “I believe in America!” Because fighters at Stonewall, marchers in Selma, and delegates at Seneca Falls believed in America even when America didn't believe in them.

I believe in America because King dared to dream an impossible dream, because Neil Armstrong went to impossible heights, and because a Black woman in the White House will soon never seem impossible again.

America! The land of heroism and hope. The land of courage and compassion. The land where we still share common ground and common cause.

And I believe in America. Because if together we fight, then together, America, we will win.

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