

**LETTERS TO**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**OBAMA**

Americans Share Their Hopes and Dreams  
with the First African-American President

Edited by Hanes Walton, Jr., Josephine A.V. Allen,  
Sherman Puckett, and Donald R. Deskins, Jr.



# LETTERS TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

Americans Share Their Hopes and Dreams  
with the First African-American President

*Edited by*

Hanes Walton, Jr., Josephine A.V. Allen,  
Sherman C. Puckett, and Donald R. Deskins, Jr.

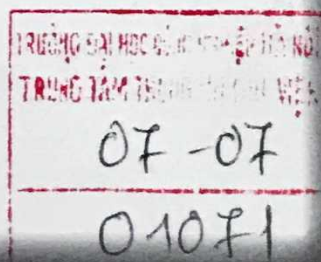


GIFT OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION  
NOT FOR RE-SALE

QUÀ TẶNG CỦA QUỸ CHÂU Á  
KHÔNG ĐƯỢC BÁN LẠI



Skyhorse Publishing



# CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Introduction: Letters to President Barack Obama</i>	1
1. The Historical Moment	23
2. Presidential Character	28
3. Michelle, Malia, Sasha, and the Puppy	43
4. African-Americans	49
5. Campaign Workers	59
6. Election Night	79
7. President Bush	96
8. Kids and High School Students	101
9. University Students	118
10. Multiracial Citizens	138
11. International Perspectives	146
12. Opposition and Apprehension	165
13. Congratulations	186
14. Poems	206
15. Hope	218
16. Praise for America	233
17. Religion	242
18. The Inaugural Events	246
19. Vice President Biden, Hillary Clinton, and the Cabinet	255
20. Public Policy	260
21. Economic Policy	304
22. Automobile Industry Policy	325
23. Energy Policy	336
24. Educational Policy	341
25. Foreign Policy	351
26. Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East	362
27. The Future	371



Copyright © 2009 by Skyhorse Publishing, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without the express written consent of the publisher, except in the case of brief excerpts in critical reviews or articles. All inquiries should be addressed to Skyhorse Publishing, 555 Eighth Avenue, Suite 903, New York, NY 10018.

Skyhorse Publishing books may be purchased in bulk at special discounts for sales promotion, corporate gifts, fund-raising, or educational purposes. Special editions can also be created to specifications. For details, contact the Special Sales Department, Skyhorse Publishing, 555 Eighth Avenue, Suite 903, New York, NY 10018 or [info@skyhorsepublishing.com](mailto:info@skyhorsepublishing.com).

[www.skyhorsepublishing.com](http://www.skyhorsepublishing.com)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Letters to President Obama : Americans share our hopes and dreams / edited by Hanes Walton, Jr. ... [et al.].

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 978-1-60239-714-9 (alk. paper)

1. Obama, Barack--Correspondence. 2. American letters. I. Walton, Hanes, 1941-  
E908.A4 2009

973.932092--dc22

2009006054

Printed in the United States of America

## DEDICATIONS

*From Hanes*

*To Edna and Pope Lane for their  
generosity of spirit and success*



*From Josephine*

*To Damani, Jasmine, Jenea, and Mariya,  
the embodiment of hope and  
visions of peace, prosperity, and happiness for us all*



*From Sherman*

*To his friend Cheryl for her wonder of  
character, love, and support*



*From Donald*

*To Lois for her love and steadfastness*

