http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/obama-farewell-address-s5.jpg

The President stepped beyond the daily give and take of elections, policies, and the news cycle to rekindle our faith in the American democratic system of government. It was a call to all of us citizens to take up our burden of citizenship.

CHICAGO - On Tuesday, January 10, 2017, President Barack Obama delivered his farewell address to the American people, thanking his supporters, celebrating the ways we have changed this country for the better these past eight years, and offering his vision on where we all go from here.

But it was more than that. In his 56 minute remarks, the President stepped beyond the daily give and take of elections, policies, and the news cycle to rekindle our faith in the American democratic system of government. It was a call to all of us citizens to take up our burden of citizenship, to renew our efforts and commitment to self government, to get involved, before that government of, by, and for the people slips into history.

It was a speech of historic importance that can only be appreciated by listening to it without interruption. And so, it is presented on YouTube and below.

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An excerpt from the President's address:

"It's easy to lose sight of that in the blizzard of our minute-to-minute Washington news

cycles. But America is a story told not minute to minute, but generation to generation -- a story written by parents, and teachers, and veterans, and neighbors who've taken on the call of citizenship, working together, without fanfare, to form a more perfect union.

"Over the course of my life, I've been reminded time and again that change can happen -- that ordinary people can come together to achieve extraordinary things. And I've seen that truth up close over these last eight years.

"We've made America a better, stronger place for the generations that will follow. We've run our leg in a long relay of progress, knowing that our work will always be unfinished. And we've reaffirmed the belief that we can make a difference with our own hands, in our own time. That's the imperative of citizenship -- the idea that, with hard work, and a generous heart toward our fellow Americans, people who love their country can change it."

- President Barack Obama