

THE HISTORIC ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE—IN HER OWN WORDS

A photograph of Kamala Harris speaking at a podium. She is wearing a dark green jacket and has her hands raised in a gesture. Behind her is a large American flag. The text 'KAMALA HARRIS' is overlaid on the image in large, bold, white and red letters.

KAMALA
HARRIS

K A M M A L A
H A R R I S

THE HISTORIC ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE—IN HER OWN WORDS

EDITED BY RICHARD CAHAN AND MICHAEL WILLIAMS

A CITYFILES PRESS E-BOOK

INTRODUCTION

Leading up to this historic election, many Americans want to know more about the woman campaigning to become president of the United States. They want to understand more about her life, her policies and her goals for the country.

That's why we designed this book. It depends on official White House photographs and her speeches. We used government photos because of their intimacy. White House photographers are permitted to be up-close and roam places off limits to press photographers. Their pictures tell of the grace and power that Harris brings to the office.

And Americans want to hear from candidates themselves. So, we relied on Harris' speeches. She has made her views unmistakable since her first days in office. She recounts her life as a Black and Asian American woman and details her life lessons. She calls attention to her heroes and challenges fellow Americans to create a better United States. She defends President Biden. And she coos about her husband.

On January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris was sworn in as the forty-ninth vice president of the United States. She became the first woman and the first person of color to be elected to the nation's second highest office. This book looks at her time in office—in words and pictures.

It starts on Inauguration Day and shows her nearly four years as vice president. In most of the early photographs, Harris and many of the people who share the frame are wearing Covid face masks—a reminder of the dangers of that time.

For most of these years, the photographs portray Harris playing a supporting role to President Joe Biden.

Starting with the photograph on July 22, 2024, one day after Biden announced he would not seek re-election, we see her as the center of attention.

We have been faithful to Harris' words, but we have condensed her language to fit the format of this book, while taking care to lead readers to the full text.

"The path that led me here in recent

weeks was no doubt unexpected," Harris told the nation in her keynote address in August to the Democratic National Convention. "But I'm no stranger to unlikely journeys."

Kamala Devi Harris was born in 1964 in Oakland, California.

Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, moved from India in 1958 at the age of 19 to study nutrition and endocrinology at the University of California, Berkeley, "a university she'd never seen, in a country she'd never visited," Kamala Harris wrote in her autobiography *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*. Her mom earned a PhD at Berkeley six years later.

Her father, Donald Harris, was born in Jamaica and moved to Berkeley to study at the university, where he received a PhD in economics. He met Gopalan in 1962 at an Afro American Association meeting on campus. They married the following year. The couple had two children, Kamala and Maya, and divorced in 1971. "They didn't fight about money," Kamala wrote. "The only thing they fought about was who got the books."

Kamala rarely speaks or writes about Donald Harris. “My father remained a part of our lives,” she wrote, but her mother took over raising their two daughters. “She was the one most responsible for shaping us into the women we would become.”

Gopalan worked as a biomedical scientist and took her two daughters to Montreal in 1976 after accepting work as a teacher and researcher. Donald Harris became a professor of economics at Stanford University.

Kamala Harris returned to the United States in 1982 to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C., and to California in 1986 to study at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She graduated in 1989 and began her law career in the Alameda County district attorney’s office, moving on to the San Francisco district attorney’s office a decade later.

In 2003, she began a remarkable string of political victories. She was the first woman and person of color to be elected the San Francisco district attorney and won re-election four years later. In 2010, she became the first woman and person of color to be elected the California attorney general and won re-election four years later. In 2016, she became the first woman and person of color to be elected to the

United States Senate from California. “When you break through a glass ceiling, you’re going to get cut, and it’s going to hurt,” she wrote in her 2019 autobiography.

That year, she announced a run for the presidency. During one of the first nationally televised debates, she criticized fellow candidate Joe Biden for his early opposition of school busing. She turned to him on stage and said: “There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day. And that little girl was me.”

But Harris’s candidacy failed to gain traction, and she dropped out later that year. She was chosen by Democratic nominee Biden to be his running mate in 2020. When the election results came in November showing victory for the Biden-Harris ticket, she famously told Biden in a congratulatory call: “We did it. We did it Joe.”

During her time as vice president, Harris has travelled to about twenty countries and met one hundred and fifty world leaders. She has presided over the Senate, casting more than thirty tie-breaking votes during this politically fractious era. She has become the leading voice in the administration’s

fight for reproductive rights following the Supreme Court’s 2022 decision to remove the constitutional right to abortion. (As a Roman Catholic, Biden felt uncomfortable in that role.) Harris was appointed to head the first White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and pushed unsuccessfully to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would have extended polling protections. She also led diplomatic efforts to stem undocumented immigration to the United States from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, but she was never “border czar” as her critics falsely labeled her.

Serving in the office is not without challenges. “Being vice president is one of the trickiest jobs in Washington,” wrote Peter Baker and Zolan Kanno-Youngs of the *New York Times*. “It comes with a nice blue-and-white plane, a lovely mansion and a decent office in the West Wing, but nothing is guaranteed. The old saw is that there are only two job requirements for the vice president in the Constitution—presiding over the Senate and checking to see how the president is feeling each morning.”

Harris was told that President Biden would not run again in the early hours of July 21, 2024. One of her first calls was to Lawrence Jackson, her official



Vice-presidential photographer Lawrence Jackson took this photo of Kamala Harris at a Black History Month celebration. February 27, 2021.

photographer who had been with her since Inauguration Day. Kamala Harris understands the importance of photography.

And so does Jackson, who took most of the photographs in this book.

“When I was fourteen or fifteen, my mom, Arlene Bolden Jackson, bought me a 35mm camera for Christmas—a Pentax K1000 black-and-silver-bodied with a 50 mm lens,” Jackson wrote in 2019. “It was a stretch financially, but she knew how much it meant for me to have it. Suddenly I began to find my ‘voice’ through capturing the world around me.”

The White House has long been part of that world. After working for a daily newspaper and the Associated Press, Jackson served for nearly eight years as an official photographer during the Barack Obama administration. Returning in 2021 was “a no-brainer,” he said after being appointed as Harris’ lead photographer.

“She’s got her own style, agenda, personality, and is becoming a part of history,” Jackson said.

This book depicts a woman who is effervescent, determined, strong and concerned. Monochrome pantsuits are her uniform in office, usually with an American flag on the lapel and often with a touch of jewelry.

We relied on the 10,000 official photographs from the Biden White House that are publicly available on photo-sharing websites. The majority of the photos are, naturally, of Joe Biden. And the White House staff has published only a few dozen photographs of Harris since the start of her run for president. That’s because the Hatch Act restricts federal employees involvement in partisan political activity. White House photographers continue to cover Harris, but there are no White House photographs online showing campaign events, none of her and running mate Tim Walz, and no photographs of the Democratic National Convention. We considered but rejected using photographs taken by her campaign team and relied on photographs by others taken during the last few months.

For the record, White House photographers are using Sony digital mirrorless cameras, which can be silent without the shutter sound. Photographers use both fixed and zoom lenses and seldom employ a flash. The photographs that they make are considered U.S. government work, which means they can be seen and used by the public.

Vice President Harris has not authorized or endorsed this book. It is a work of journalism, produced to

mark a singular moment in the nation’s history and to help supporters and non-supporters better understand Harris through her words and these remarkably intimate photographs.

The photos are placed in strict chronological order. Most of her words were spoken on the same day that the photos were taken. But on occasion we have found words she said at other times that better explain the pictures.

Some might disagree with Harris’ views—on abortion rights, immigration, gun control, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, Native Americans, Afghanistan, Covid, military and police responsibility, and her support of Ukraine and Israel—but she has been clear. Her statements since becoming vice president are in the Briefing Room section of the White House website. We’ve been careful to refer to the dates of her speeches in the last section of this book so readers can find them.

This is, of course, an unfinished story, but we decided to make it available so that more Americans can better understand Harris during the last stretch of her 108-day campaign. We initially planned to publish after the election as a historical document, but we offer it now as a work in progress. Just as the United States itself is a work in progress. ✨

THE ROAD BEGINS →

“I remember that when I was a little girl, my father wanted me to run free. He would turn to my mother and say, ‘Just let her run, Shyamala.’ And then he’d turn to me and say, ‘Run, Kamala. As fast as you can. Run!’ I would take off, the wind in my face, with the feeling that I could do anything.”



ASCENDING THE CAPITOL STEPS BEFORE TAKING THE OATHS OF OFFICE ON INAUGURATION DAY. JANUARY 20, 2021.



ON THE INAUGURATION PLATFORM, KAMALA HARRIS GREETS FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA. JANUARY 20, 2021.



AT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WITH HUSBAND DOUG EMHOFF HOLDING THE BIBLE. JANUARY 20, 2021.



FIREWORKS ABOVE THE NATIONAL MALL TO CELEBRATE THE INAUGURATION. JANUARY 20, 2021.

“It is my honor to be here. To stand on the shoulders of those who came before. To speak tonight as your vice president. In many ways, this moment embodies our character as a nation. It demonstrates who we are. Even in dark times. We not only dream. We do. We not only see what has been, we see what can be. We are bold, fearless and ambitious. We are undaunted in our belief that we shall overcome, that we will rise up.”



WITH CABINET MEMBERS IN THE GRAND FOYER OF THE WHITE HOUSE. APRIL 1, 2021.

“When President Biden and I were getting ready to take office, we knew what the country was up against. We knew we needed to be ready to go on day one. We started to plan not with abstract problems in mind but with real people in mind. The frontline workers who hold their breath from the time they get home to the time they leave work, praying that their family stays healthy. The small-business owners who keep changing their business model again and again. The women who are juggling so many responsibilities, at work and at home, and women who wish they just had a job at all. These days have been long for the American people.”



NEW OFFICIAL PORTRAITS ARE PROOFED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. MAY 13, 2021.

“There are those who will continue to say that what we’re doing now is too big and too bold. I would remind them that our nation is at its best when we do big things. Think about it: the New Deal, the Great Society. In America, when we shoot for the moon, we plant our flag on it. So, let’s seize this moment, knowing the people will feel it when we do. If we seize this moment, history is going to remember.”



MEETS WITH BORDER GUARDS AND OFFICIALS NEAR THE UNITED STATES—MEXICO BORDER IN EL PASO, TEXAS. JUNE 5, 2021.

“The work that we have to do is the work of addressing the cause—the root causes. Otherwise, we will continue to see the effect—what is happening at the border. It is going to require a comprehensive approach that acknowledges the recognition that the United States is a neighbor in the Western Hemisphere. Not only do we have a reason to concern ourselves with the root cause issues because of what we see at the border, but also because we live in that neighborhood, the Western Hemisphere. And like anyone living in a neighborhood, one must understand and see the effect and the relationship between fellow neighbors. Let’s not lose sight of the fact that we’re talking about human beings.”



WITH PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN IN A WALK THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN. JULY 2, 2021.



THE VICE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 20, 2021

IN THE WHITE HOUSE CABINET ROOM. JULY 14, 2021.



WITH (DACA) DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS RECIPIENTS AND DREAMERS IN THE EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING. JULY 22, 2021.

“The status quo of young immigrants living with uncertainty from one case to another is just simply wrong. Let’s be clear about that. To have to live with the level of uncertainty – to wonder whether there’s a knock at the door and what will that mean for you, for your family – it’s just wrong. This [American Dream and Promise Act] is about what is morally right. This is a reflection of who we say we are as a country.”



DRAPED IN A TRIBAL QUILT AT A MEETING ON NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CEREMONIAL OFFICE. JULY 27, 2021.

“The bonds between our nations are sacred. And we believe we have a duty to safeguard and strengthen those bonds, a duty to honor tribal sovereignty, to ensure tribal self-determination, to uphold our trust and treaty obligations, and to fight to make sure all Native communities have the support and the resources they need to succeed and to thrive. And to do so, we must always speak truth – no matter how difficult it is for some to hear– about our history.”



AT THE PODIUM IN THE WHITE HOUSE DELIVERING REMARKS VIRTUALLY TO THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION. JULY 27, 2021.

“We all have different reasons why we became lawyers, which include the values that our parents and our community instilled in us, the injustice that we witnessed around the world and in our own world, and the heroes who inspired us. In my own family, I saw my Uncle Sherman. He was often the first that folks would call when they were facing a crisis or when people just couldn’t make sense of a situation. Uncle Sherman was a lawyer. He helped people, and they depended on him. And I wanted to help people. In particular, to help remove the barriers that stood in their way.”



BUST OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS—ABOLITIONIST, ORATOR, WRITER, LEADER—IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CEREMONIAL OFFICE. AUGUST 18, 2021.



WATCHING PRESIDENT BIDEN TALK ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO THE TALIBAN. AUGUST 16, 2021.

“I agreed with President Biden’s decision to pull out of Afghanistan. Four presidents said they would, and Joe Biden did. And as a result, America’s taxpayers are not paying the \$300 million a day we were paying for that endless war.”



PREGAME COIN TOSS BEFORE FOOTBALL GAME BETWEEN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND HAMPTON UNIVERSITY. SEPTEMBER 18, 2021.



A MEZUZAH, SIGN OF A JEWISH HOUSEHOLD, IN THE DOORWAY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE. DOUG EMHOFF IS JEWISH. OCTOBER 7, 2021.

“Racism is real in America, and it has always been. Xenophobia is real in America, and always has been. Sexism, too. People who are perceived as Muslim know what it was like to live in our country after 9/11. Ultimately, this is about who we are as a nation. This is about how we treat people with dignity and respect. Everyone has the right to go to work, to go to school, to walk down the street and be safe. And also, the right to be recognized as an American – not as the other, not as them, but as us. A harm against any one of us is a harm against all of us.”



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN
A STONE OF

INDUSTRIAL ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO HIS LIFE
CAME TO BE AN ENCOURAGING NETWORK OF
A SINGLE GARMENT OF TRUSTY WORK
ONE DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE

MOMENT OF REFLECTION WITH PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AT THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OCTOBER 21, 2021.



RECEIVING HER COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER SHOT AT THE WHITE HOUSE. OCTOBER 30, 2021.

“My mother was in the biochemical endocrinology study section. She was a peer-reviewer. And my mother had two goals in her life: to raise her two daughters and end breast cancer. In fact, a little-known fact: My first job was cleaning pipettes in my mother’s lap. She would take us with her after school and on weekends. And I grew up then around science in a way that was taught to me by someone who was so profoundly passionate about the gift that scientists give to us. Their whole reason for being is to pursue what is possible for the sake of improving human life and condition. It is such a noble pursuit.”



ON THE BALCONY OF THE CEREMONIAL OFFICE WITH CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU. NOVEMBER 18, 2021.



MAKING CALLS ON THANKSGIVING DAY FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE. NOVEMBER 25, 2021.

On Doug Emhoff: “The first date was a blind date, and the rest is history. I have the first voicemail he ever left me. I actually do. It just rambles on and on and on, and it was just the cutest thing. I mean he just kept going and going and said, ‘I guess I’ll talk to you at some point.’ We laugh about it, but it was just the sweetest thing ever.”



WITH FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AT AN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT EVENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE. APRIL 5, 2022.

“The Affordable Care Act is the most consequential healthcare legislation passed in generations in our country. And it is something more. The ACA is a statement of purpose, a statement about the nation we must be, where all people – no matter who they are, where they live or how much they earn – can access the healthcare they need no matter the cost. Protecting the health and wellbeing of the people of our nation should not be a partisan issue. Every person in our nation should be able to access and afford the healthcare they need to thrive. Not as a privilege, but as a right.”



WALKING ALONG THE WEST COLONNADE WITH KETANJI BROWN JACKSON AFTER HER CONFIRMATION AS A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE. APRIL 8, 2022.

“When I presided over the Senate confirmation vote yesterday, I drafted a note to my goddaughter. And I told her that I felt such a deep sense of pride and joy and about what this moment means for our nation and for her future. I told her what I knew this would mean for her life and all that she has in terms of potential. The road toward our more perfect union is not always straight and it is not always smooth. But sometimes it leads to a day like today, a day that reminds us what is possible.”



AT THE U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY COMMENCEMENT IN NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, ON MAY 18, 2022.

“You all graduate into a world that’s going to need your leadership – one that is full of possibility and the promise of progress. At the same time, the world you graduate into is unsettled. It is a world where long-established principles now stand on shaky ground. Where the rule of law in places is strained. Where rules and norms are under question. We must remember, upholding a system of laws, institutions and common understandings is how we ensure the safety and security and prosperity of the United States. And this is how we preserve stability in the world.”



WITH GIANNA FLOYD, DAUGHTER OF GEORGE FLOYD, AT THE WHITE HOUSE SIGNING OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ON POLICE REFORMS. MAY 25, 2022.

“I know it is a particularly difficult day for the Floyd family. Two years ago today, a brother, a son, a father was taken from you. We will never forget what happened that day. The eyes of the world, literally, were on what happened that day. And, collectively, we remain horrified by what we witnessed. The law enforcement officers of our nation swear an oath to protect and to serve. And the vast majority do so honorably. Yet we know, too often, there is a use of biased policing and excessive force. When that occurs, it too often is not met with accountability, denying equal justice not just to individuals but to whole communities and, therefore, to our nation as a whole.”



GREETING U.S. CAPITOL AND METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICERS AND FAMILIES AT AWARDING OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS. AUGUST 5, 2022

“Like so many gathered here, I was at the United States Capitol the morning of Wednesday, January 6th. And not long after I left, the chaos began. Like Americans everywhere, my husband Doug and I watched with absolute shock as our Capitol was under siege and the people within it afraid for their lives. What we know now is in the midst of that violent attack, there were countless acts of courage. The officers of the United States Capitol Police and the D.C. Metropolitan Police risked their own lives to save the lives of others. They sacrificed so much to defend our nation. And in securing our Capitol, they secured our democracy.”



CANDLES AND SPARKLERS MARK DIWALI, THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, AT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE. OCTOBER 21, 2022.

“I have such fond memories of celebrating Diwali as a child. Like many of you, we would go to India about every other year, avoiding monsoon season and we would go for Diwali. Diwali is a holiday of hope. As with so many cultures, Diwali reminds us to see the light in our world, in each other and in ourselves. We also are reminded to shine our light in the darkness, to fight for peace, for justice, for understanding, even as powerful forces work to sow hate and division. We remember that in these moments where we see darkness, our light shines the brightest.”



SIGNING OF THE RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT, WHICH RECOGNIZES SAME-SEX AND INTERRACIAL CIVIL MARRIAGES. DECEMBER 13, 2022.



MEETING WITH UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY (THIRD FROM LEFT) IN THE CABINET ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE. DECEMBER 21, 2022.

“President Zelensky, the stakes of your fight remain high for your country and for the entire world. And it is in the strategic interest of the United States to continue our support. International rules and norms are on the line, including the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. History shows us: If we allow an aggressor like Putin to take land with impunity, they keep going. The other would-be aggressors then become emboldened. President Zelensky, as President Joe Biden and I have made clear, we will be with you for as long as it takes.”



VOLUNTEERING TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD AT MARTHA'S TABLE, A WASHINGTON, D.C., COMMUNITY CHARITY. DECEMBER 22, 2022.

“And from a very young age, I learned that when people stand together, when we join voices, knowing that the vast majority of us have so much more in common than what separates us – when we join those voices, we can drive extraordinary change. Which is why I believe in my heart and soul no one should ever be made to fight alone. We are all in this together.”



WALKING THE TARMAC AS THE SUN SETS AT LUKE AIR FORCE BASE IN MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA. JANUARY 19, 2023.

“We love our country, and we believe in the promise of America. And we know the privilege and pride that comes with being an American. I do believe it is one of the highest forms of patriotism to fight for the ideals of our country. That is how we realize the promise of America.”



PLACING MEMORIAL FLOWERS OUTSIDE A MONTEREY PARK, CALIFORNIA, DANCE STUDIO THAT WAS THE SITE OF A MASS SHOOTING. JANUARY 25, 2023.

“I would often explain this to console survivors of crime. To remind them: No one should be made to fight alone.”



DOUG EMHOFF TOURS THE FORMER WORLD WAR II AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU DEATH CAMP IN OSWIECIM, POLAND. JANUARY 27, 2023.



A MEMORIAL FOR 29-YEAR-OLD TYRE NICHOLS, KILLED BY MEMPHIS POLICE IN TENNESSEE FOLLOWING A TRAFFIC STOP. FEBRUARY 1, 2023.

“Mothers around the world, when their babies are born, pray to God. When they hold that child, [they pray] that that body and that life will be safe for the rest of his life. Yet we have a mother and a father who mourn the life of a young man who should be here today. This is a family that lost their son and their brother through an act of violence at the hands and the feet of people who had been charged with keeping them safe. This violent act was not in pursuit of public safety.”



LEADS THE SENATE PROCESSION THROUGH THE U.S. CAPITOL FOR PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. FEBRUARY 7, 2023



GREETING PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AS HE ARRIVES TO DELIVER THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. FEBRUARY 7, 2023.

“We’re all born leaders, and it’s just a matter of when people decide to turn that on.”



ON THE LAST NIGHT OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, KAMALA HARRIS INVITES “BLACK TRAILBLAZERS” TO A PARTY AT THE RESIDENCE. FEBRUARY 28, 2023.

“My early memories of our parents together are very joyful ones: a home filled with laughter and music — Aretha, Coltrane and Miles. I grew up immersed in the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement. My parents had met at a civil rights gathering. And they made sure that we learned about civil rights leaders, including the lawyers like Thurgood Marshall and Constance Baker Motley — those who battled in the courtroom to make real the promise of America. As a prosecutor, when I had a case, I charged it not in the name of the victim but in the name of the people. And every day in the courtroom, I stood proudly before a judge and I said five words: ‘Kamala Harris, for the people.’”



IN NASHVILLE WITH TENNESSEE LEGISLATORS WHO WERE SUBJECT TO AN EXPULSION VOTE FOR LEADING GUN REFORM PROTESTS. APRIL 7, 2003.

“I want to start by recognizing the Tennessee Three. A democracy says you don’t silence the people. You do not stifle the people. You don’t turn off their microphones when they are speaking about the importance of life and liberty. They understood that the voices must be heard. In order to make sure the voices were represented in that place where elected leaders are supposed to lead in a democracy, these leaders had to get a bullhorn to be heard. That happens in a democracy, too. You can’t walk around and talk about protocol. Protocol and procedures were devised to require and allow and encourage debate and discussion and, yes, dissension.”



AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH CHANEL PORCHIA-ALBERT, A NEW YORK CITY DOULA WORKING FOR EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE. APRIL 12, 2023.

“We are one of the wealthiest nations in the world, and we have one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world. Black women in America are three to four times more likely to die in connection with childbirth. Native women are twice as likely to die. Rural women are one and a half more likely to die. When it comes to Black maternal mortality, it has nothing to do with her educational level or her socio-economic level. It literally has to do with the fact that when she walks into that clinic, that emergency room, that doctor’s office, she is not taken as seriously.”



TAPING THE JENNIFER HUDSON SHOW AT WARNER BROTHERS STUDIOS IN BURBANK, CALIFORNIA. APRIL 17, 2023.

“Your voice is so important through the tragedy that you experienced. [Three members of Jennifer Hudson’s family were shot and killed in 2008.] First of all, we shouldn’t have to be presented with this false choice which suggests you’re either in favor of the Second Amendment or you want reasonable gun safety laws. I just think it is pitiful that the people in the United States Congress do not have the courage to stand up to the gun lobby, stand up to the NRA [National Rifle Association] and say, ‘Look I support the Second Amendment, but we need reasonable gun safety laws.’”



WELCOMING CONCERTGOERS TO A JUNETEENTH EVENT ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE. JUNE 13, 2023.

“America is a promise — a promise of freedom, liberty and justice. The story of Juneteenth is the story of our ongoing fight to realize that promise, not for some, but for all. On Juneteenth, we are also reminded of the duality of progress. As we fight to move forward to expand freedom, we must also fight to protect the freedoms already won. We can take nothing for granted in that regard. We fight to make sure that all Americans have the freedom to learn our country’s history in full. Because while we celebrate a holiday dedicated to teaching and honoring America’s full history, extremists across our country attempt to ban books and erase our past. Let us be very clear: Black history is American history.”



AT HER WEST WING OFFICE DESK. THE PAINTING, "WHITE DAISIES RHAPSODY" BY ALMA THOMAS, IS ON LOAN FROM THE SMITHSONIAN. JULY 18, 2023.



ARRIVING IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA, TO ATTEND A SUMMIT WITH LEADERS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS. SEPT. 5, 2023.



STUDENTS GATHER FOR A KAMALA HARRIS SPEECH AT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY IN VIRGINIA. SEPTEMBER 14, 2023.

“For many of you, when you leave here, you are going to often find yourself in rooms where you may be the only one like you, the only one that looks like you, the only one that has had your life experience. During this experience you are having here at Hampton, take moments to be very conscious about who you are surrounded by and hold on to that. Because when you walk in those rooms, I want you to remember you are not alone. I want you to remember that we’re all in those rooms with you, cheering you on.”



BOARDING AIR FORCE TWO WITH DOUG EMHOFF AT ST. LOUIS LAMBERT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. OCTOBER 6, 2023.



JOINS PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND SECRETARY OF STATE ANTHONY BLINKEN AFTER BIDEN'S REMARKS ON TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISRAEL. OCTOBER 10, 2023.



WITH SOCIAL INFLUENCER AMELIE ZILBER AND JUSTIN JONES, TENNESSEE STATE REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON IN SOUTH CAROLINA. OCTOBER 11, 2023.



AT THE NATIONAL VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN VIRGINIA. NOVEMBER 11, 2023.

“From the fields of Yorktown to the trenches of the Marne, from the beaches of Normandy to the banks of the Chosin Reservoir and the streets of Saigon, from Baghdad to Fallujah to Kandahar, you stood as one to protect our democracy and our freedom. Here on hallowed ground, we also remember those who gave their lives for our nation. We remember our service members who have not yet returned and their families. And we reaffirm our commitment to bring home all those missing in action. To be a veteran is to have truly known the true cost of freedom and to have borne it for all of us.”



KICKOFF OF THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOMS TOUR IN BIG BEND, WISCONSIN, ON THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE. JANUARY 22, 2024.

“Freedom, I believe, is fundamental to the promise of America — freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of assembly, the freedom to vote. In America, freedom is not to be given. It is not to be bestowed. It is ours by right. And that includes the freedom to make decisions about one’s own body. Fifty-one years ago today, in the case of Roe v. Wade, the United States Supreme Court recognized the fundamental constitutional right to reproductive freedom. However, nineteen months ago, the highest court in our land took a constitutional right from the people of America, from the women of America. We must restore the protections of Roe. What the United States Supreme Court took, Congress can put back in place.”



SPEAKING TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND ADMINISTRATION STAFF GATHERED IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH. FEBRUARY 9, 2024.



MEETS REPORTERS TO DISCUSS MASS SHOOTING AT SUPER BOWL VICTORY PARADE. SHE WAS AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND. FEBRUARY 14, 2024.



MARCHING THROUGH SELMA, ALABAMA, TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY. MARCH 3, 2024.

“In my West Wing office in the White House—yes, that’s where I work—I hung a piece of artwork that is the first thing I see when I walk into my office in the morning. It’s a large, framed photograph taken on Bloody Sunday depicting an injured Amelia Boynton receiving care at the foot of this very bridge. And for me it is a daily reminder of the struggle, of the sacrifice, and of how much we owe to those who gave so much before us. History is a relay race. Generations before us carried the baton. And now, they have passed it to us.”



TOURS AN ABORTION CLINIC, A FIRST FOR A VICE PRESIDENT, IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA. WITH DR. SARAH TRAXLER AND MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TIM WALZ. MARCH 14, 2024.

“Many of you have asked why I am here at this facility. It is because right now in our country we are facing a very serious health crisis, and the crisis is affecting many, many people in our country, most of whom are frankly silently suffering.”



VISITS PARENTS OF STUDENTS KILLED IN THE 2018 MASSACRE AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL IN PARKLAND, FLORIDA. MARCH 23, 2024.

“I do believe we have a duty to remember and a duty to bear witness to what happened here. This school is soon going to be torn down, but the memory of it will never be erased. And let us, through the courage and the call to action of these families, find it in ourselves to consider what they’ve been through as some level of motivation and inspiration for all of us to do more.”



WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH FAMILIES OF HOSTAGES KIDNAPPED IN THE OCTOBER 7, 2023, HAMAS TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL. APRIL 9, 2024.

“ Hamas is an evil terrorist organization. I strongly condemn Hamas’ continued brutality, and so must the entire world. From its massacre of 1,200 people to sexual violence, taking of hostages, Hamas’ depravity is evident and horrifying. The threat Hamas poses to the people of Israel—and American citizens in Israel—must be eliminated and Hamas cannot control Gaza. The Palestinian people too have suffered under Hamas’ rule for nearly two decades. As vice president, I have no higher priority than the safety of American citizens, wherever they are in the world. President Biden and I will never waver in our commitment to free the Americans and all those held hostage in Gaza. ”



DISCUSSES NURSING HOME CARE AT A CONFERENCE AT THE HMONG CULTURAL CENTER IN LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN. APRIL 22, 2024.



JOINS HILLARY CLINTON AS THEY GREET RACHEL RUTO, WIFE OF KENYA PRESIDENT WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, AT A WHITE HOUSE STATE DINNER. THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024.



U.S. SPACE FORCE GUARDIANS AT THE PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO. MAY 30, 2024.

“I think everyone recognizes how extraordinary space is. Whether it is satellites that orbit the Earth, humans that land on the Moon or telescopes that peer into the furthest reaches of the universe. Space is exciting. It spurs our imaginations, and it forces us to ask big questions. There are so many opportunities in space for our country and for all of humanity. From science, to commerce, to national security. Our space capabilities provide for global awareness, global connectivity, and global navigation. And, of course, we also know the threats we face in space.”



WALKS TO A WAITING LIMOUSINE AFTER STEPPING OFF AIR FORCE TWO IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, JULY 9, 2024.



THE DAY AFTER ANNOUNCING HER CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT, HARRIS WALKS ON THE WEST COLONNADE OF THE WHITE HOUSE. JULY 22, 2024.

“In this election, we each face a question: what kind of country do we want to live in. There are some people who think we should be a country of chaos, of fear, of hate, but we choose something different. We choose freedom.”



GREETING JOURNALIST EVAN GERSHKOVICH AND OTHERS AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS AFTER HIS SIXTEEN MONTHS OF DETENTION IN RUSSIA. AUGUST 1, 2024.

“Over many years, President Biden and I and our team have engaged in complex diplomatic negotiations to bring these wrongfully detained Americans home. We never stopped fighting for their release. And today, in spite of all of their suffering, it gives me great comfort to know that their horrible ordeal is finally over. As we celebrate today’s news, we must also keep front of mind that there are other Americans that are unjustly being held in places around the world. We will never stop fighting for their release. We will never waver in our commitment to bring home every American who has been wrongfully detained or held hostage. That is my solemn commitment to my fellow Americans, which I will always honor.”



DOUG EMHOFF MEETS MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE 2024 OLYMPICS IN PARIS, FRANCE. AUGUST 9, 2024.



WITH NEWLY ANNOUNCED VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE TIM WALZ AT RALLY IN GLENDALE, ARIZONA. AUGUST 9, 2024.

“Two middle-class kids: one a daughter of Oakland, California, who was raised by a working mother, the other a son of the Nebraska plains who grew up working on a farm. Coach Walz and I may hail from different corners of our great country, but our values are the same. And we both believe in lifting people up, not knocking them down.”



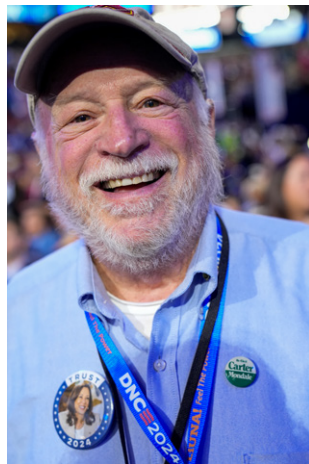
ON STAGE IN LARGO, MARYLAND, TO TALK ABOUT LOWERING THE COSTS OF MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. AUGUST 15, 2024.

“We believe deeply every senior in our nation should be able to live with security, stability and dignity. Two years ago, we gave Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for the first time in history. It is nearly impossible for a patient to negotiate lower prices by themselves. It’s one person against a huge corporation. But Medicare represents more than 65 million people. And so Medicare has collective bargaining power. And now Medicare can use that power to go toe-to-toe with Big Pharma and negotiate lower drug prices.”



ON THE LAST NIGHT OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHICAGO. AUGUST 22, 2024.

“On behalf of every American, regardless of party, race, gender or the language your grandmother speaks. On behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey. On behalf of Americans like the people I grew up with—people who work hard, chase their dreams and look out for one another. On behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on Earth, I accept your nomination to be president of the United States of America.”



CONVENTION DELEGATES IN CHICAGO. AUGUST 2024.

“With this election, our nation has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past. A chance to chart a new way forward.”



DEBATES FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP IN PHILADELPHIA. SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

“In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man. But the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious.”



TWENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS AT THE SITE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY. SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.



GREETES RESIDENTS IN SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOWNING OF UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93. SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.

“On September 11, 2001, terrorists sought to attack and destroy our way of life—our democracy, our freedoms and everything we hold dear as Americans. In that endeavor they failed. In the days that followed, we were all reminded that unity is possible in America. Together, we made clear we will not bend or break in the face of terrorism. We rallied around the victims and their families. We worked to overcome the hate and discrimination that many of our fellow Americans experienced following the attacks. And we fought for the country we love and the ideals we cherish. All of this work continues today.”



REACHING OUT TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HELENE IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. SHE LATER HANDED OUT MEALS. OCTOBER 2, 2024.



TIME OF THE SIGNS. OCTOBER 13, 2024.

“I always start my campaigns early, and I run hard. Maybe it comes from the rough-and-tumble world of San Francisco politics, where it’s not even a contact sport—it’s a blood sport. This is how I am as a candidate. This is how I run campaigns.”

“We are the heirs to the greatest democracy in the history of the world. And on behalf of our children and grandchildren, and all those who sacrificed so dearly for our freedom and liberty, we must be worthy of this moment. It is now our turn to do what generations before us have done. Guided by optimism and faith, to fight for this country we love. To fight for the ideals we cherish. And to uphold the awesome responsibility that comes with the greatest privilege on Earth. The privilege and pride of being an American.”

CREDITS AND SOURCES →

Cover photo
Photo credit: Lawrence Jackson
Kamala Harris at an event honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade. In Tallahassee, Florida. January 22, 2023

Introduction photo
Photo credit: Lawrence Jackson

Opening quote
The Truths We Hold: An American Journey, by Kamala Harris, Penguin Press, New York

Walks up the stairs
Credit: Adam Schultz

Greets Barack Obama
Credit: Chuck Kennedy

Swearing-in ceremony
Credit: Chuck Kennedy

Inauguration fireworks
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: January 20, 2021, at Celebration of America

Cabinet during Covid
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: March 2, 2021, speech to the House Democratic Caucus in Washington, D.C.

Official portraits
Credit: Carlos Fyfe
Quote: March 2, 2021, to the House Democratic Caucus

At the border
Credit: Benjamin Applebaum
Quote: June 25, 2021, at press conference in El Paso, Texas

Walk in the Rose Garden
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Cabinet room
Credit: Adam Schultz

Immigration meeting
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: July 22, 2021, meeting on immigration rights

Native Americans
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: November 30, 2022, at the White House Tribal Nations Summit

At the podium
Credit: Cameron Smith
Quote: July 27, 2021, remarks to the National Bar Association

Frederick Douglass bust
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Watching TV monitor
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: September 10, 2024, debate against Donald Trump

Coin flip
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

In the Vice President's Residence
Credit: Cameron Smith
Quote: March 19, 2021, at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia

Looking at MLK statue
Credit: Erin Scott

Receiving Covid vaccine
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: March 2, 2021, at the House Democratic Caucus

With Justin Trudeau
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Making calls
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: Aired April 20, 2023, on "The Jennifer Hudson Show"

A hug from Obama
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: April 5, 2022, on the Affordable Care Act

With future Supreme Court justice
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: April 8, 2022, on the Senate's confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

At Coast Guard Academy
Credit: Zachary Hupp
Quote: May 18, 2022, commencement address at U.S. Coast Guard Academy, May 18, 2022

With George Floyd's daughter
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: May 25, 2022, at signing of the Executive Order to strengthen public safety

Greeting Capitol Police
Credit: Erin Scott
Quote: August 5, 2021, at signing of Congressional gold medals to U.S. Capitol Police officers

Diwali celebration
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: October 24, 2022, at the White House Diwali celebration

Looking down from the White House
Credit: Yash Mori

With Volodymyr Zelensky
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: February 17, 2024, at press conference in Munich, Germany

A day of service
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: September 2, 2024, at campaign event in Detroit, Michigan

America by air
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: August 18, 2024, at campaign event in Rochester, Pennsylvania

Flower memorial
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: August 22, 2024, keynote address at Democratic National Convention

At Poland death camp
Credit: Cameron Smith

Tyre Nichols funeral
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: February 1, 2023, at memorial service for Tyre Nichols

Capitol walk
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

At the State of the Union
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: August 18, 2024, at Aliquippa (Pennsylvania) High School

House party
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: August 22, 2024, at Democratic National Convention

Tennessee Three
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: April 9, 2023, at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee

At long table
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: July 1, 2023, conversation on reproductive rights

Jennifer Hudson
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: Aired April 20, 2023, on "The Jennifer Hudson Show"

Juneteenth celebration
Credit: Cameron Smith
Quote: June 13, 2023, at Juneteenth Concert

In the office
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Arrival in Indonesia
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Students at Hampton
Credit: Polly Irungu
Quote: September 14, 2023, at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia

Boarding the plane
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

After press briefing
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Selfie time
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Motorcycle vets
Credit: Adam Schultz
Quote: November 11, 2022, at National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery

Trust Women speech
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: January 22, 2024, in Big Bend, Wisconsin

Huge crowd
Credit: Oliver Contreras Cruz

With reporters
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

March in Selma
Credit: Polly Irungu
Quote: March 3, 2024, at Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, Alabama

At an abortion clinic
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: March 14, 2024, at Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Paul, Minnesota

Greets grieving families
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: March 23, 2024, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida

Meets hostage families
Credit: Polly Irungu
Quote: August 31, 2024, statement on hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin

In front of flags
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

State dinner
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

Space Guardians
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: April 18, 2022, on the future of space at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California

Off the plane
Credit: Lawrence Jackson

After the announcement
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: July 25, 2024, video campaign announcement

Greets Russian prisoners
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: August 1, 2024, at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston

At Paris Olympics
Credit: Katie Ricks

With Tim Walz
Credit: Gage Skidmore
Quote: August 6, 2024, campaign event in Philadelphia

Drug price reduction
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: August 15, 2024, at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland

At the convention
Credit: Lorie Shaull
Quote: August 22, 2024, at Democratic National Convention

Democratic delegates
Credit: Richard Cahan
Quote: August 22, 2024, at Democratic National Convention

Harris-Trump debate
Credit: Richard Cahan
Quote: August 22, 2024, at Democratic National Convention

9/11 in New York
Credit: Adam Schultz

9/11 in Pennsylvania
Credit: Lawrence Jackson
Quote: September 11, 2024, on September 11, 2001, terrorist attack

Hurricane relief
Credit: Oliver Contreras

Campaign signs
Credit: Richard Cahan
Quote: The Truths We Hold: An American Journey

Closing quote
August 22, 2024, at Democratic National Convention

This book was not solicited, vetted or edited by the Kamala Harris for President campaign. It is a work of independent journalism by CityFiles Press, a Chicago-based publishing company that believes in the power of words and pictures.



© 2024 CityFiles Press

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by an electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages.

ISBN-13 :978-1-7338690-6-5

Edited by Richard Cahan

Produced and designed by Michael Williams

Visit us at cityfilespress.com