



## Congress of the United States

A MESSAGE FROM  
**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TULSI GABBARD**

IN CELEBRATION OF THE  
**2017 MAHATMA GANDHI DAY &  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE**



*Aloha and Namaste Friends,*

*Mahalo to all of the families, visitors, performers, and champions for peace who are gathered here today to celebrate the 12th annual Mahatma Gandhi Day & International Day of Nonviolence.*

*Mahatma Gandhi taught the world that we cannot be truly fulfilled if we only live for ourselves. He took inspiration from both the Bhagavad Gita, and the Bible's New Testament, and the wisdom from both scriptures can be found both in his message of selfless service, and the example he set with his life. He taught the world that we cannot be truly fulfilled if we only live for ourselves. We cannot overcome the divisive challenges facing our communities if we do not first sincerely respect and love one another, in spite of our differences of nationality, race, ethnicity, or religion. As we think about how each of us can affect positive change in our community, across the country, and in the world, let us always remember the lessons of Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

*I truly believe in this statement. The quality and fabric of a person or measure of success does not consist of how many medals you wear on your chest, how many awards you've received, how much money you make, or the title next to your name. It has nothing to do with race, or gender, or rank, or religion. These qualities do not define us or our success. It's actually what is in our hearts, our motivation, why we do what we do every day—that's what matters. When we work with a service attitude, give back to our community, and put others before ourselves, we can find great happiness and purpose in life. This is the ultimate message of Mahatma Gandhi, who we are honoring here today.*

*As we face the many challenges that lie before us, let us be inspired by the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Muhammed Ali, Martin Luther King, and so many others who have come before us and showed the power of peace. As we join hands together, let us confront hatred with love. Confront bigotry with Aloha. Confront fear with truth. Let us truly live Aloha in our actions, in our words, and in our hearts.*

*Mahalo nui loa to the Gandhi International Institute of Peace, its president Dr. Raj Kumar, the Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, Event Coordinators, guests, and everyone who worked to make today's celebration possible. Thank you for your work to share Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and the lessons he dedicated his life to perpetuating—peace, love, humility, faith, and servant-leadership.*

*With aloha,*

*Tulsi Gabbard*

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard

Serving the People of Hawaii's 2nd District

*Presented on this 2nd day of October 2017*