

Barack Obama

June 27, 2007

Barrington Irving, Jr.
15001 NW 42nd Avenue
Opa-Locka, FL 33054

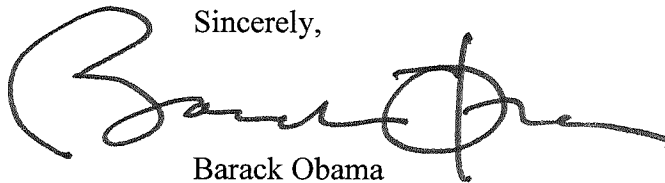
Dear Barrington,

I am honored to congratulate you on completing your solo flight around the globe. When I speak at graduations, I often urge the seniors to be humble – to remember that the world does not just revolve around them. You are the first graduating senior I know of who chose to actually revolve around the world, and your message of hope sets a powerful example for young people around the United States.

In your personal choices, you have shown yourself to be driven by the best kind of ambition: the desire not to follow the path of least resistance toward a guaranteed outcome, but rather to do what is challenging, what is risky, what keeps you engaged. *Inspiration* is more than just the name of your aircraft. It is what you are – to me and to the many thousands of well-wishers of all ages who have followed your journey with admiration and wonder.

Again, I am proud to take this opportunity to praise your efforts, and look forward to hearing more about your successes. I wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



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