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## Julie Duke and Donna Ullrich: Take up task of being a better citizen

The election and inauguration of Barack Obama is seen by millions in this country and around the world as a reason to hope. As good citizens and as etiquette coaches, we include ourselves in this group. We hope for a better world; one where people are more considerate toward the Earth and toward each other.

Words like integrity, honesty, respect, responsibility, and civility come to mind when we look to the future envisioned by President Obama. He has reminded us that we have become too self-absorbed, too narcissistic. He has challenged us to act with integrity, honesty, respect, responsibility and civility toward all around us. Let us accept that challenge.

The problems that face the nation are daunting. As Obama has said, all of us must help to make the necessary changes if we are to overcome the problems.

Let us make a promise to ourselves and to our children today, that we will become better people. Let us act with integrity. Let us be honest in all our dealings. Let us respect ourselves and others. Let us be forthright in all our actions and take personal responsibility for improving the world around us. Let us embrace civility in its broadest sense and remind ourselves daily of the blessings we have of living in this great country.

It is an honor to be a citizen of the United States. Let us act with the grace that demonstrates we deserve that honor.

### Additional Facts

Julie Duke and Donna Ullrich own an Okemos consulting firm.

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