

Carole Copeland...: It's an amazing season. We have a triple pandemic. We have Coronavirus that's going on. We have an economy that sing songs because of this health crisis that we're in. And then we have a racial revolution that's taking place that was spearheaded, the catalyst being George Floyd tragically being murdered on Memorial Day in Minneapolis, Minnesota. So we have the convergence of these three dynamic platforms that are taking place at the same time. And we have an upcoming Presidential election, of which a very interesting woman has now been tapped and identified as the Vice Presidential nominee on the democratic side, Kamala Harris, US Senator from California.

Carole Copeland...: I want to start off first of all, with my Ebony speakers who are here with me. Deborah Gould from New Orleans and from the North Carolina area, Michelle Portia and from the Atlanta, Georgia area, Nancy Lewis. I'm in Boston. We've been together for 13 years as a mastermind group. I want them to share their thoughts about Kamala Harris and the impact that she's making here in our nation and beyond, and an AKA, we have to start off with an AKA. The three of us, both Nancy, Michelle and I are members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and our wonderful AKA sister who was a chapter president for her chapter in new Orleans, she's going to start us off talking about Kamala, Debra Gould. Debra, take it away.

Debra Gould: Thank you, Carole. What an excitement just to talk about Senator Kamala Harris, not only as a Alpha Kappa Alpha woman, a graduate of Howard University, we are the founding African American Sorority in 1908. And so I am happy to say soon I will be celebrating as the golden soror in the next two years. What a historic moment, ladies, that we would have an African American woman to represent this country as the Vice President. She's sharp minded, she's knowledgeable and if any of you don't mind in this moment, raise your hand if you're a nasty woman who's going to vote Trump out. See you. And I tell you November 3rd to our public, she is the right fit. She's a perfect fit. And I ask everyone with their influence of one voice, look into my eyes, now or never, we must get out on November 3rd and vote like our lives matter. It's necessary by any means necessary.

Debra Gould: So do that. Exercise the vote our past leaders who fought so hard for each one of us and sacrificed so much for our voting rights. So please, I encourage you. The Biden-Harris ticket. We most do this together. And with that being said, I'm going to pass it on to the my [inaudible 00:03:30] lady, but, Carole, thank you for letting me lead in as a proud Alpha Kappa Alpha woman.

Carole Copeland...: Awesome. She has her pink and green on, and she's doing her... Do your hand signal again. There you go. And I have to say we are all speaking individually as members of our respective sorority, so we don't represent the sorority, but we are very proud to represent ourselves and the opinions and in the case of Debra Gould being a member of AKA and Kamala Harris is also a member of AKA. Awesome.

- Debra Gould: Yes, that was the citizen Debra Ann Washington Gould speaking.
- Carole Copeland...: And now we have citizen Nancy Lewis who happens to be a member of my sorority founded in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Nancy.
- Nancy Je Lewis: Nancy J. Lewis, out of Fayetteville, George, which is Atlanta. People don't know where Fayetteville is, it is Atlanta. Just think Atlanta. People are like where is that? It's Atlanta. I just think it's historic that Kamala Harris has. I heard her speak earlier this year at a conference. She is very well spoken and I just applaud the fact that she is the first African American, because anytime we have a first in any perspective, the first is always to be proud that a woman has made it of color to that level. So I'm very pleased and proud for her having that achievement so that's a great honor. So I just praise God that she had the honor to do it.
- Carole Copeland...: Awesome. All right. Thank you much. All right, we'll move on to North Carolina, Michelle Porchia, take it away.
- Michelle Porchi...: As has been mentioned, it's a historic event and I'm proud to see a woman, an African American and Asian woman to rise to that post. And it is something to celebrate. I actually got to hear her also. She spoke at a church here in North Carolina, and I got to see her and speak with her and I took a picture. I didn't take the picture with her, but I took a picture of my friend and her together. So she was very friendly, very poignant in what she had to say. So I'm just proud to see again, an African American Asian woman be the first step up to first Vice President nomination of the United States and just happy to see that. And it is so important that everybody get out to vote. People literally gave their lives so that people could vote. And so it's really important that you vote for whomever, but that you vote, hopefully Biden-Harris, but vote for whomever.
- Carole Copeland...: All right. Thank you so much, Soro Michelle Porchia. All right. And bringing up the rear, last week when the announcement was made that Kamala Harris had been selected by Joe Biden to be his running mate, I immediately burst out into applause. I was sitting here at the screen, working, immediately, it was a relief for me to see that he had picked somebody who was more than qualified, someone who had stood up to him and challenged him in an earlier debate about race and how she was bused out of her neighborhood and the impact that it had. And she stood up to him and at one point had gained a lot of notoriety before she dropped out of the race, but she gave him something to think about. And what I really like is the fact that he didn't back down, he didn't kowtow.
- Carole Copeland...: He realized that she was capable and strong enough to stand up on her own. And she had a point in what she had said and the fact that he wanted someone who was as strong as he, as confident as he, to be that running mate, that he needed to be in a very secure spot. So I give Joe Biden credit. I give Kamala

Harris credit for what she said. I also look at her and I look at just how life will look at this whole experience in an amazing way.

Carole Copeland...: Here Joe Biden is really the pivotal person. He worked as Vice President for a biracial man, Barack Obama. And now he has picked a biracial woman to be his running mate. What does that say about our country? What does that really say about the United States? Not the person who's in office now, who I think is disgusting, but then when you look at what is going to happen in terms of this pivotal person, this pivotal Presidential candidate who worked for a biracial man and now has brought in a biracial woman, whose mother is from the city that I love, Chennai in Tamil Nadu in India, visited that city now six or seven times. I have great friends who were there. I love India. I love Chennai.

Carole Copeland...: Her father is Jamaican and my son-in-law's Jamaican. And there's so many Jamaican friends who I know. My grandchildren are part Jamaican. So I just look at that. And then obviously she's an AKA. She came from an HBCU, Howard University. It's an time period, a pivotal time period. And our whole series of working together as Ebony speakers has really talked about pivots and change and possibilities. And here we're talking about hopefully the first biracial, Black, South Asian woman, working for a candidate who has been running for 30 plus years for President. It says an awful lot.

Carole Copeland...: It'll happen if you go out and vote, either early vote, absentee vote, run in, drive in, take in your ballot, stand in the line with your mask on. You've got to vote. If you don't vote, you don't count in terms of what you could do. You just don't count because then you turn your count over to somebody else. So that's the important thing is to vote for the candidate of your choice, but we've had this conversation about a dynamic woman, Kamala Harris. We wish her the very best in the weeks to come. Ebony speaker's peace out, mic drop. See you.