

25TH
ANNIVERSARY

ESSENCE
MAGAZINE

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July 28, 1995

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Scarborough, Ontario M1W2V4
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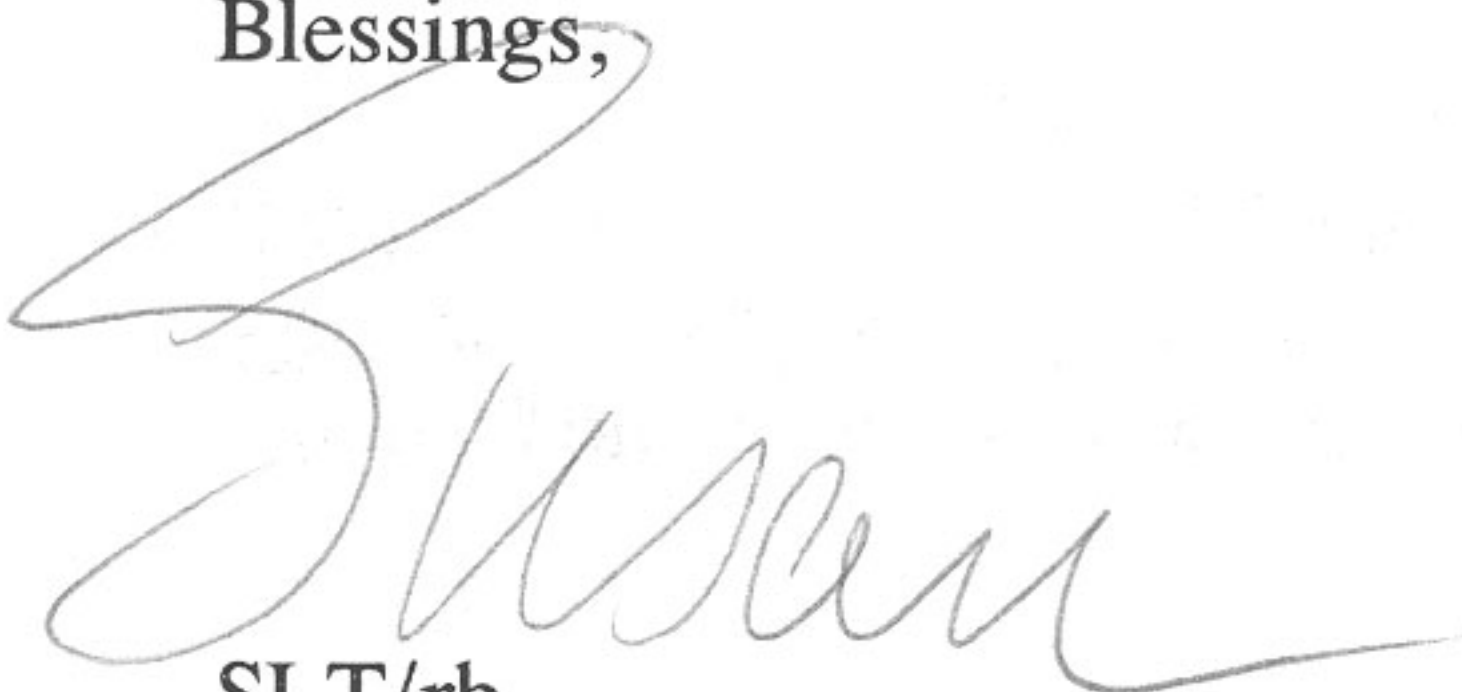
Dear Group Members,

Thank you for being a wonderful and special part of the of the Essence Music Festival, a colossal African-American cultural and musical extravaganza and possibly the largest gathering of Black folks in American history. Your exceptional performance helped to make our commemorative twenty-fifth anniversary event a tremendous success.

The Essence Music Festival attracted upwards of 143,000 sisters and brothers to the New Orleans Superdome over the July Fourth weekend, including some of our most highly regarded national leaders. But most important, the festival enabled our people from across the country and globe to reunite, reflect, celebrate and honor our rich heritage, talent, intellect and beauty. And we are so proud to say that not a single negative incident occurred during the entire weekend; in fact, it was the love-in that Black America so desperately needs.

The Essence family and I are forever grateful for your support and wish you the greatest success with your career and your many other endeavors.

Blessings,



SLT/rb