

PART ONE

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened."

Billy Graham

Women of Courage

Alison Massa Piepmeier, Ph.D., 43



Look at her beautiful smile

This book is being dedicated to Alison Piepmeier, an American scholar, feminist, and journalist. She was director of Women's and Gender Studies and associate professor of English at the [College of Charleston](#). She contributed a column for the [Charleston City Paper](#) and has written editorials for [The New York Times](#) Motherlode blog. Mrs. Piepmeier died August 12, 2016, of brain cancer. Ms. Piepmeier dedicated her life to writing about subjects such as same-sex parents, women's rights, raising disabled children and the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement. At her death she spoke into the future, "I don't presume to know what a next life would be like. I don't even know what to imagine. In a next life, I hope I would be in a place where people would need me, where there is something meaningful to do. A next life without work, without purpose, would be disappointing." Even at her death Alison Piepmeier spoke of new things life and adventure. She said she wants her legacy to live on through her students. It takes courage to live. It takes courage to wake every day and try to make something of your life knowing you will meet unfathomable challenges. Alison Piepmeier met these challenges and made something of her life that we shall always remember in her writing. God Bless. She served us all. Author of Girl Zine.

WHY YOU SHOULD READ THE BOOK WOMEN OF COURAGE

Are you ready to lead with confidence?

Are you having hard time finding your courage?

Do you know what to do with issues like shame, guilt, codependency, resentment, depression, loneliness, anger and anxiety?

You CAN take control of your life, reach your full potential, and create unprecedented happiness and success now.

Have you ever asked any of the following questions like?

- ✚ How can I achieve my goals and keep my life in balance?
- ✚ How can I discover new purpose in lifestyle?
- ✚ How to find the old me again that seems lost and gone forever?
- ✚ How to know if you need to seek help and where to go?
- ✚ How to reclaim your own wellness?

**DISCOVER HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURAGE AND REAP
EXCITING REWARDS,
SO YOU CAN STOP FEELING STUCK AND DEFEATED**

If you're thinking of how to be courageous as a woman, then this book is for you.

“Women of Courage” is a book that motivates women to have Self-belief, Self-worth, and Self-actualization.

In this book, you shall learn:

1. How to find your purpose and know who you're as a woman
2. How to own your voice and make an impact where you are
3. How to unleash the potential within you
4. How to turn your challenge into success as a woman
5. How to be self-determined, independent and self-entrepreneur
6. How to stand out and be courageous among your peers

THIS IS NOT A WISHFUL THINKING. IT'S FOR REAL!

The book "Women of Courage" helps to:

1. Instill in women passion, purpose, and vision to achieve sustainable results by loving and believing in their own self.
2. It exposes women to real-life challenges and on how to live a more fulfilled, happy and purposeful lives which portray who you are, what you think, and what you want to achieve.
3. It helps women learn how to reclaim yourself, your life and accomplishment
4. It allows women to identify and embrace their personal strength, increase self-confidence, identify obstacles and how to overcome them on journey to become independent.

WOMEN OF COURAGE - (YOUR NOW, IS NOT YOUR FUTURE)

*Are you a woman aiming to stay dominated, get inspired and be focused? Then, the book "Women of Courage" is for you! Be prepared as the book will take away all of the guesswork and show you how to stay positive and achieve success like those who inspires you in life. **The book, Women of Courage" helps to***

- Encourage and inspire women to embrace their unique individualities
- It helps women to overcome perceived limitations and live their dreams with the right support and education

WOMEN OF COURAGE - (CREATE YOUR OWN MANTRA)

The book exposes and empowers women to believe in "yes-I-can" attitude to life. It helps them to get inspired, unlock potential and reignite take charge attitude among them. "Women of Courage" helps women to identify and pull out hidden treasure so that you can

understand your purpose, act on your passion, and realize your dreams.

WOMEN OF COURAGE - (MAKE A CHANGE)

The book "Women of Courage" encourage and empowers women to have deep knowledge, insight, direction and understanding of issues and in ability to instill excellence in people on how to stay self-motivated and focus on their strengths instead of weaknesses, on their powers instead of their challenges.

The book, "Women of Courage" helps

- Women and individuals express their voice to master efficient leadership and objective.
- Helps to provide awareness where women can discover their strength and passion through a nurturing and supportive environment.
- Teaches women how to harness their strengths and be real architects of the society and on how to find their talents and create their business based on what they love and want to actualize.

WOMEN OF COURAGE - (MAKE AN IMPACT WHERE YOU ARE)

*The book "Women of Courage" helps to encourage women with the mindset on how to drive organizations to measurable actions, clarity, increased productivity and profitability. **The book "Women of Courage" helps women to***

- Understands how to increase production in an age diverse workplace by igniting efficient communication and collaboration.

- Find out what makes them intensely valuable and trustworthy to the other side, opening smart alternatives to lying and competitive escalation.
- Learn to measure how people perceive them by improving their psychological influence, trust development and conflict resolution.

One of the most effective ways of getting ahead in life is by learning from the mistakes and successes of other people, this way one can avoid the mistakes other people made and possibly achieve success faster. This is one of the reasons why you cannot afford not to read the series "Women of Courage".

In these series of books, we have chronicled the lives and times of several women, who by sheer courage conquered the world around them. These are ordinary women like all of us, but they were determined to do extraordinary things. From the story of their lives, you will learn how to stop living a mediocre life and start conquering your world and living on your own terms.

For them, failure was not an option, rather it was an opportunity to recharge and reach for their goals again. They have shown tremendous courage so much that their lives could easily serve as a template for other women to emulate.

Let us warn that these series are not ordinary books, they are books that will challenge you, push you and of course inspire you to gain your life again.

Therefore, if you have reached a sticking point in your life and you seem stuck, feeling like there is no way out, having a sense of growing tiredness coming from seeing all of your dreams and visions of success, stability and passion get obscured with the lack of experienced guidance and knowledge necessary for success – learning from women of courage may be the most important thing you've read this year.

We all know that living a passionate life in a hectic and busy 21st century is getting increasingly harder.

Women of Courage series will provide you with all the inspiration, courage and role model you need in order to get inspired, take life in your hands and start living as bravely as passionate as you deserve!

Most of the aspiring individuals such as yourself end up missing on a huge number of opportunities due to the lack of proper ideas and tools that would allow you to overcome any psychological barriers, limiting beliefs, fears and lack of creativity that you could potentially face during your journey as a successful woman.

This lack of proper guidance manifests itself in lowered performance and productivity and failure to unleash your full potential and show the world what you can truly do.

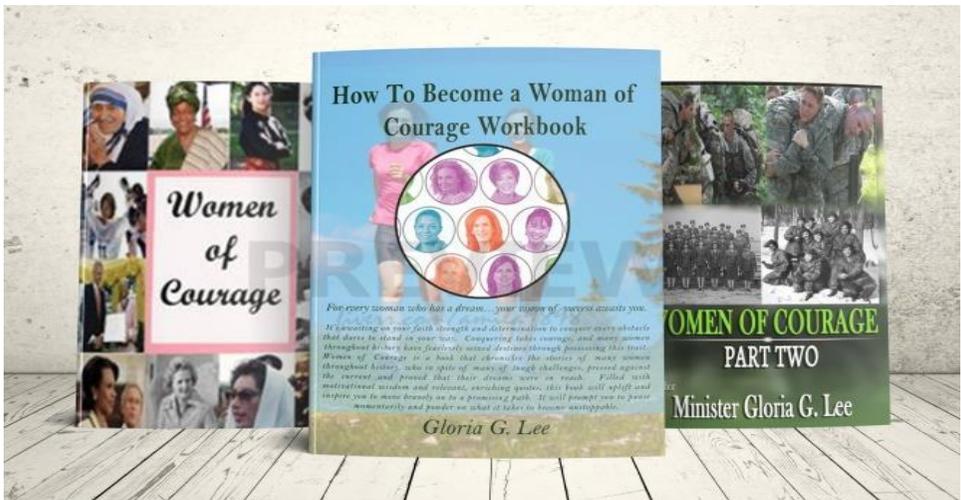
If you are lacking the attitude and psychology, proper resources, or vision to make your **dreams** a reality combined with dissatisfaction with the execution of your plans, but you remain firmly dedicated to

making your ambitions a reality– you will certainly derive the most benefit from the incredible Woman of Courage series help you achieve the results you're after.

If you are serious about taking your life to a whole new level and enjoying the intricate privileges of creativity, fearlessness and success that all the brave woman who have changed the world are equipped with – you are at the right place.

Don't leave your future to chance – get a new sense of strength, inspiration, and courage with Woman of Courage series. You'll be so glad you did – guaranteed!

Thoughts of the Author of Women of Courage



I think it is extremely important that you to know why I wrote Women of Courage. I want to turn death into life.

If I do a good job at writing this essay, it should spur other women to take up the cause of recording and publicizing the history of women for future generations. Who and what we are is important? What we think why we love, and work is just as important to the wellbeing of a person as breathing. There is no reason why women should go back to drinking sherry in the basement to swallow their rage and having abortions in the back allies. There is no reason why a 13-year-old girl from Nigeria should be married off to a 40-year-old man against her will or an India woman be burned alive by her mother for refusing a marriage proposal. Nor should young girls in the United States be forced to marry their elderly uncles or cousins. All over the country women are blocked by laws and customs and obligations from realizing their dreams. Women of Courage tells the stories of more than a thousand women through history who have changed their lives and made the world better, by working, by learning and taking courage. This series teaches the importance of courage in achieving the great things of life. What makes these books unique is that they highlight women that have taken up courage silently and whose contribution has led to the great success stories of other women we all know about today. Some very silent achievements but significant contributions to the independence women enjoy today. The book Women of Courage is carefully crafted into two volumes and a handbook discussing women who challenged their fear to live the life they wanted. There are 12 outstanding women of courage pictured on the front cover of the books. They include Mother Theresa, who stood out in her time by doing humanitarian services and women who served in the armed forces. This series motivates you to look beyond those things you think you couldn't do. It gives you the insight into your innate abilities that your fear has suppressed. The women discussed in Women of Courage proves the quote made by Colin Powell, "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

Women of Courage was written for the 50-year-old woman who does not know how to drive because her husband insisted on doing all the driving. Women of Courage was written for the 60-year-old

woman who still wants to return to school after facing the laughter of her peers. Women of Courage was written for all the women trying to reclaim their lives after being forced into prostitution. Women of Courage was written for the young Haitian child abducted while trying to work or sold into sexual slavery because her mother could not afford to feed her. Women of Courage was written for all the children left motherless upon the murder of their mother. Women of Courage was written for the woman who still dreams of a meaningful life after sleeping beneath an ineffectual man. Women of Courage was written for the young girls who are relegated to sitting in the back seat of the family car while their brother sits up front with their father. Women of Courage was written for the young woman whose mother allowed her genitals to be mutilated according to an antiquated custom. Women of Courage was written for the woman who is always trying to get the attention of her best girlfriend's husband. Women of Courage was written to force this woman to answer the question, "Why out of all the men in the state are you trying to attract someone else's husband?" Women of Courage was written to bring hope and light into the lives of women to rectify the injustice done to women by a history written by men. The United States Supreme Court denied Lilly Ledbetter justice. Men shall be paid more than women for the same work. Goodyear does have the right to discriminate based on gender. Imagine Ms. Ledbetter's humiliation. "It was not right I had to stand up for myself. I am not worthless "Lilly Ledbetter, 2012. Yet most of all Women of Courage was written to tell women the most powerful woman in the world is you if only you believe. Stand up and make an accounting of your life. Live for something and die for something. The chose is yours.

As the author of Women of Courage, I amassed the experiences of hundreds of women and offered these experiences for you to draw from in your everyday life. I believe that if you read how other women have lived the spark of courage will be ignited in you and you will live a more fulfilling and productive life. The book Women of Courage is about success, it is about winning at all costs. The author of Women of Courage drives home the fact that women need jobs and education just like men to fulfill their dreams. Women should not allow themselves to be discouraged by family from seeking a higher education or to be discouraged from seeking employment in fields previously dominated by men. There are

examples of women in the books, who worked to be physicists, generals, mathematicians etc. Let these women be your guide.

All of us have only one life to live. Why not live that life doing what you want to do and being the person you want to be? The author went to great lengths to give you information to build your self-esteem, how to restore your faith in yourself and how to stop negative thinking. Wake up the dream inside you once more. Develop a plan to realize this dream and let no one tell you, you cannot succeed. Forget yesterday and embrace today and look forward to tomorrow. You will find only pain living in the past. Tell yourself you choose to receive all that life has to offer. You are going to go out, meet new people, eat new foods and travel to places you have never seen before.

The *Woman of Courage* isn't your typical "comic relief" book. You won't be enthralled while reading it. The sole aim of the book is to educate women, irrespective of status or color, of the need to show courage and stand up for their rights. Unlike many other educational books, the *Woman of Courage* connects real life scenarios to each topic discussed. As a way of enlightening, you on what to expect from the book, we have highlighted below five of the top takeaways from the book: *Women of Courage* demonstrates:

- **Women are vital to a nation's growth:** Have you ever wondered why many countries around the world wallow in poverty? Well, the truth is that most of these countries overlook the key to their nation's prosperity – the women. In many of these countries, inequality in pay, underrepresentation in leadership positions and lack of access to necessary supplies have shortchanged the contributions of women to the economy. Former President, Barack Obama recognized this. And by signing the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, he was able to speed up the recovery of America from the recession.
- **Domestic violence is a symptom, not a problem:** You would have heard countless times that domestic violence is one of the biggest problems in America. It is a false notion. Domestic violence is never a problem. Rather, it is a sign that something is wrong in the system of our society. The

continuous existence of domestic violence in our nation can also be deduced as a symptom of the mental health of men. The primary reason why it is tagged a problem is only meant to shy women away from the real cause and appropriate solutions.

- **Violence against women is America's greatest health problem:** Neither cancer nor HIV is our most significant health problem as a nation. Instead, it is the endless violence against women and children. Women are the backbones of their families. When they are abused or murdered, their families don't remain the same. And when families are destabilized, what do you think will become of the offspring? The majority will end up in foster homes, where they will grow up to be poor, uneducated, and likely end up in prisons.
- **Women have the power to reduce violence against women:** While it is unarguable that men are the ones to be blamed for the violence against women, the reality is that nothing can be done significantly about this menace without the women. Women have the power to cause as much as 30% reduction in the violence against women. However, this will only be possible if all women for once put behind their differences and accept the responsibility to do something about this problem as a group and not individually. In the *Women of Courage*, you will learn 39 ways by which women can help reduce the violence against women.
- **Reading is a necessity:** One of the major problems of women in America is the poor reading culture. A lot of women don't read. Women do not read enough. Reading has enormous power in our lives in diverse ways. In fact, to survive as a woman in this man-centered society, you need to read as many books as you can. Not reading means, you have accepted to be isolated. And like Joseph Brodsky said, "There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them." The *Women of Courage* offers you the perfect opportunity to expand your knowledge and become a better and more courageous woman.

The purpose of my writing is to affect a change in the status of women living in America thereby improving their lives and the lives of their children and the lives of women living in foreign lands.

What women do in America is viewed all around the world and there are consequences to our actions. I introduced the subject of courage to cause women to look at themselves differently. Women are more than their breast and buttock size. We are more than the caricatures we see on television designed to keep us mentally enslaved by using Botox and breast implants to improve our beauty. We have to look further than a cosmetic jar for the meaning of our lives. We must know that the foundation of our lives depends on our ability to think and to think clearly and concisely. We must realize we need to see ourselves managing our lives not suffering through our lives hoping for a better existence in the hereafter. The foundation of our efforts to affect a change in our lives is the realization that what we think of ourselves governs all of our actions. Women have poor self-images of themselves and this needs to change. The cause of poor self-images is due to comparisons made by others during maturation. When our sisters, brothers, fathers or mother or grandparents compare us to others our self-image is affected. Our self-image becomes how well we measure up to someone else. Her hair is blonder than mine. She is taller than me. She will grow up to be a model. I do not look good in blue. When we stop making comparisons and assumptions in the home women will be well on their way to become stronger individuals.

The women in this country need to see the sacrifice made by millions of women years ago and the sacrifice made by millions of women today should make women appreciate themselves. Women need to learn our freedom was purchased by the deeds of women before us. No one gave this freedom to us. Good or bad the women in this country stood up and accounted for themselves. We are much more than lipstick and bras. Contrary to popular opinion, thousands of women have died trying to be free. Women raped and murdered on college campuses were trying to be free. Waitresses murdered after working late were trying to be free. Women murdered walking to and from work were trying to be free. Women who divorced their husbands were trying to be free. Women working alone in convenience stores were trying to be free. Women joining our armed forces were trying to be free. Do you know how many of these women were returned home in body bags? Let no one tell you that women have not died trying to be free. The freedom these women sought was caused by self -

determination. Every day when women go to college, wait on tables, walk to and from work, or divorce their husbands they exhibit courage. *** Do you know how many divorced women are murdered each year in this country by their ex-husbands after they become determined to be free. Do you know how many married women attending college are murdered each year e.g., Mrs. Kaiden Ramsey, 22, 2009 – New York, Monica Long, 21, 2003 –Virginia, Mrs. Nancy Lynn Wanless, 21, 1991 – Oklahoma, and Mrs. Diana Gonzalez, 2010 - California. Do you know how many women are assaulted on the street going to or from work: e.g., Between December 30, 1987, and January 19, 1987, Mr. William Marguetty, 28, of Massachusetts stabbed four women on the streets of Quincy and Milton. He attacked the women in broad daylight. Two women were walking to work, and another woman was jogging. Aphrodite Plakias, 28, was stabbed December 30, 1986, and Kelda Caldwell, 28, was stabbed January 16, 1987. Both women were from Quincy. Patricia Sullivan, 42, of Medford was stabbed January 19, 1987. She was walking to work. The women survived the attack. After Mr. Marguetty was arrested and charged with the murder of Ann Gillietti he was charged with assaulting the four women. February 26, 1988, Judge Roger J. Donahue of the Norfolk Superior Court sentenced him to 80 years in prison for stabbing four women. The judge said, "This is a case that demands severe punishment."

These women had taken control of their lives and were trying to determine their destiny. Their actions took courage. Yet no one addresses the courage exhibited by women. Women are still relegated to the position of sex objects. Every day we see women prancing across our television screens adorned with red lipstick and large breasts. Our youth are told to aspire to be like these women. No one has told our young women about the courage exhibited by women attempting to determine their lives without their breasts and buttocks.

Who has told the young women of our nation that many of the women assaulted and or raped and murdered in Northern Mexico were assembly line workers trying to make a living to take care of their family? There is no way these murders should continue, on our borders. When HIV/AIDS began to affect the male population then a cure became a priority. Women need to respond to how our

nation establishes priorities. Our young are still being told even by their mothers, to aspire to have big breasts or large buttocks. No one cares whether you can think or not.

During my research I learned history never describes women with respect to courage. Newspapers and television have totally disregarded showing women working in the trenches of society. Newspapers, magazines, and television continue to feed women a daily diet of beauty. When have you heard these mediums describe women with respect to reading, with respect to knowledge or courage? Never! Women are always described with respect to perfume, lipstick, and brassieres. The lipstick industry alone is a billion-dollar industry because of this fact. And to further insult women these industries are run by men. We never think that it takes courage for a woman to live. We never look at the amount of violence inflicted upon women every day and we never think about what courage it takes to face this violence day in and day out. If you want to know the courage it takes to be a woman read the stories of the Black women lynched in this country. These women refused to be raped and sexually abused and subjugated by their master and his wife. I bet it never occurred to you that Black women and little Black girls especially in the South, have been raped in this country for more than 500 years. They were raped by farm hands, foremen or anyone else that felt like raping a woman. Black women were supposed to raise their sons to believe in and support their White masters. Do you know the name of the first White man ever convicted in Mississippi for raping a Black woman? Do you know the year this conviction took place? It took courage for Black women to walk the street in Mississippi. Have you ever considered the number of Black women raped in their own homes in the South by police officers? Rape is not race specific it never has been. Do you know the number of Mexican juveniles raped in this country? Read, read read; you will be surprised at what you will learn.

I wrote this book so it would have a profound effect on your life so you can become a woman of courage. This book was written as a vehicle for change. It was written to be used as a tool for you to become a woman of courage. Women are constantly talking to themselves, constantly questioning their behavior. Is my buttock too big? Do I look too fat in this skirt? Will Bob ask me to marry

him? How often do you look at a woman's eyebrows and wish your eyebrows were shaped like hers (looking in someone else's garden)? This book will bring the constant questioning into focus. This book was written so you can take the information we discuss and pass this information on to your child, cementing the possibility of your child's survival. The women in this book waged some terrible battles to win over society. There was a great deal of suffering yet only small drops of blood were shed. These women fought until they were exhausted. They fought until they were sick. Some endured malnutrition just to get an education. Measure yourself. How many days can you go without eating just to sit in a classroom to read a book? These women fought their mothers and fathers for their freedom. They wanted to design the environment in which they lived. These women refused to do as they were told. They refused to sit down and cry. They refused to be relegated to drinking sherry in the cellar just to comfort oneself. They refused to be sedated by tranquilizers after their husbands squander their inheritance or select the home in which they would live. Or their husband stayed out late with his mistress. They refused to allow the church to determine how many children they would have. These women boarded steamships to the orient. They boarded planes to Africa and rallied in Europe just to be free. As you read, think about their lives.

These women left their sisters behind their friends behind in the quest for a new future. There is a woman discussed within who changed her name so she could practice her profession in her adopted country. Imagine changing one's name just to be accepted. Is not your name the most private caveat? Who are you without your name? I wonder if you will identify her. We have women refusing to be maids, refusing to be schoolteachers, refusing to work at any job society said was fitting for a woman. We have a woman who joined the military as a man so she could be gainfully employed. She did not want to work in a boarding house cleaning sheets. After her enlistment in the military ended her country betrayed her and denied her a pension. There are women in this book who wanted to fly helicopters, run into burning buildings to rescue people. These women wanted to stand at an operating table as a surgeon and practice the hand of God by curing a patient. They believed if I could imagine it I can do it.

As you read you will be stirred. You will reflect on the choices you made or are making as your life develops before you. Are you really finished with your life at the age of 55 or 75? Really! Have you stopped dancing? Is celebrating your birthday now a perfunctory activity? So, what is new? As you read one thing is going to be made perfectly clear, we have lots of unsung heroes among the women living in our communities. And the reason why we have unsung heroes living in our community is because we do not applaud courage in women. We do not look for this characteristic in women. It is not a desired trait. We do not celebrate the woman raising children alone. Yet this woman has great courage. Think about your life. What have you left undone, or left unsaid? Read *Women of Courage* and learn life is not over unless you give up on your dreams.



The new

Virginia Attorney General Republican Jason Miyare thanked the women of Virginia for electing him by withdrawing the state from a lawsuit that seeks to force the federal government to recognize Virginia's 2020 vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and add the text to the Constitution. In a court filing, Miyares asked that the commonwealth be dismissed as a party to the lawsuit, which was initiated by his Democratic predecessor and is currently on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Constitutional amendments must be ratified by three-quarters of the states, or 38. So thank the ladies of Virginia for voting for this man and cutting their throats at the same time. This is called voting

against one's own interest. It is now common knowledge that the only way a republican can win an election is by cheating by stopping their opponents from voting. Women shall return to a time where they were told to grow up and act in a proper fashion.

**WOMEN OF
COURAGE**



"For most of history, Anonymous was a woman."

Virginia Woolf 1882 - 1941

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Other books by Gloria G. Lee:

Be Not Defeated in Hard times
Know Your Enemy
The Trial Of The Mind
It is Time You Start Walking With God
If You Believe In God You Do Not Belong In Prison
Light A Candle in My Name
God's Encouraging Words To Heal Your Mind, Soul and Body
You Are The Prophet of Your Life
The Devil's Cauldron
Murdered Voices
The Wall

Edited: Valerie Cumming, M.A., author, teacher
Jonathan Lee-Ames Hop, M.A. author
David C. Shaw, author

Do This In Remembrance of Me. 2002117872

Volume One The Deadliest Moment - Part One and Two
Volume Two Murder in the Family - Part One and Two
Volume Three The Career Rapist - Part One, Two and Three
Volume Four The Recidivist - Part One, Two and Three
Volume Five The Ultimate Punishment
Volume SixAnd Suddenly
Volume Seven The Silent Killer

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This book contains extremely sensitive information; our apologies and condolences to the reader if this information is regarding a relative, loved one and or friend. Although this book contains in certain areas explicit descriptions of violence, extreme care was taken to allow the victims as much dignity as possible. As you read you will realize these descriptions were made to expand our understanding of violence and to prevent violence against women and children and violence in our communities.

"It is difficult to imagine or to underestimate the price many of these women paid in the currency of loneliness, self-doubt, ridicule, and insult. They were often considered to be in flagrant violation of the laws, written and unwritten, of God and man. Many were jailed for their beliefs and activities. They were seen to be violating the natural order, the way "everyone" knew things were supposed to be. They persevered against odds that should have been overwhelming--and they triumphed."

--Quote: Phyllis J. Read and Bernard L. Witlieb in *The Book of Women's Firsts*

FROM THE PUBLISHER

"Happy is he who has laid up in his youth, and held fast in all fortune, a genuine and passionate love of reading."

Rufus Choate (1799– 1859) American Lawyer,
Politician and Orator

Since you are reading this page, you are trying to make up your mind whether or not you want to purchase this book. The cover has attracted you, so you have decided to open the book and browse. As for the question do you want to purchase this book? My answer to you is 'Yes.' It is a resounding yes. Yes, you want to purchase this book because reading this book will change your life. Reading is an activity like none other. The consequences of reading are extraordinary just as the consequences of not reading are extraordinary where you will live your life in darkness. You can sit before an orchestra where the music will thrill you to passion and for a while your spirit will soar. You can turn the radio on in your car and the music will carry you away but there is nothing like reading. Reading will not only transport you to another place and time reading will change the circumstances of your life forever. Reading will not only carry you to the future where you will see possibilities, but reading will allow you to visit the past where you will see potential.

Music provides a temporary high for your respite from your surroundings whereas reading will lead you to a permanent relief from everything around you. Reading can change your reality transforming you into a new person. You can read one paragraph in a book and say, "why not" or "of course." You can read another book and say, "I never thought of that" and you can read a third book and say "If only I had known this before?" You can see one word on the page and say to yourself "that can be me". "I have possibilities in my life." Once you begin reading in earnest you will realize that you can learn equally from reading about how a man

failed in his life and as well as how a man succeeded in his life. In fact, learning how a person failed is a good road map for success, because failure always provides you with an alternative point of view.

Think of the man who decided to construct the streetlight, or to design the fire hydrant, or to design the light bulb. Where did these ideas come from; what was the source of their inspiration? One source of these inventions was reading. Reading allows for the accumulation of information. When this information is assimilated in the human brain an idea is born. One invention sparks another invention that sparks another great idea until finally man is raised to an enhanced state of existence. Reading provides the recipe for originality.

A man says to himself there must be a better way. He goes to a library trying to find that better way. He reads and reads and reads assimilating information looking for that better way. If he does not find that better way in the books he has read, he has still learned something. He has learned that he must invent the better way. This time he begins to read books looking for ideas to help him as he invents. In the book Father Hunt, by Rex Stout (1886-1975), who wrote over 70 detective novels, the character, Nero Wolfe, makes a brilliant point that I will never forget regarding how an idea is born. Rex Stout wrote Father Hunt in 1968. I read the book in 1976 and I still remember Nero Wolfe's preoccupation of how his sidekick, Archie Goodman, came up with the idea of a silver abacus being owned by Paul Revere. Archie Goodman told Nero Wolfe that he used the possible existence of a silver abacus owned by Paul Revere to gain an interview with a wealthy businessman. Paul Revere never owned a silver abacus but the possibilities of such an item triggered the imagination that allowed for the interview.

During the publication of this book, I spoke to three men each man made a negative comment regarding reading. One man said that no one would read each individual name on the list in the book; the second man said no one would purchase the books people were too busy worrying about money to read or to purchase a book. In hard times no one buys books. What American woman would be interested in what I had to say to purchase a book? The third man said some of the books were too large that no woman would take

the time to read the books. He said the number of pages in each book would immediately turn women off. No woman or man would purchase a book consisting of four hundred to five hundred pages. Needless to say, I was disheartened for a second. Then I sat and thought about their comments. Their words were not complimentary to women or to people in general. There is nothing to life during hard times but meat and potatoes. Grayness had descended on the earth. Life was so brutal that reading could be ignored. I decided to persevere. These men had to be wrong. I continue to believe that reading regardless of the number of pages in a book is seen as an activity that enriches the soul and enlightens the mind leading men and women to greater and greater heights and inventions. The fate of America will be decided by how well we nourish our minds and assimilate information to continue our growth. I shall continue to believe that people will see that reading leads to a better life.

When you read, you can learn to eat healthy and to better manage your money and life. Reading allows you to quickly prepare for a dinner party or help you impress a friend. When you read you are open to adventure and confidence bathes your spirit. Reading is the commencement of light and cessation of darkness. Reading is the activity that puts the soul to take flight. If you desire a change in the status and wealth in your life, then reading is an activity that you can ill afford not to do.

Do not share this book or give this book away for this is my seed to you and to the Lord. These books represent ten years of my life where I decided to serve the Lord and to work on His behalf. Your growth from my seed will carry my spirit into the next generation. This book should be read over and over again until the information is planted into your heart (spirit) and comes out of your mouth as a creative force signifying your connection with the Lord who created you.

I say, as long as a woman can be sold or exchanged for a chicken; women have no power in the world. Just because you see women on the nightly news reporting daily events does not mean women have power. It merely means women are reporting the news under the control and guise of men. If men own or control all the factories and manufacturing facilities and all the ships in the world women have no power. Power is seized never given. Stop priding yourself on being quiet. The baby who cries the loudest is the baby that is first fed.

Why do you want to be quiet as a church mouse because surely, no one will hear or listen if you do not make a sound?

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Having courage is a test for us all.



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*Women
of
Courage*



It is my pleasure to introduce to you a new author by the name of Gloria Lee. She is a woman of survival, determination, and indomitable strength. Her entire life has been dedicated to overcoming obstacles and winning. She has survived a heart operation and breast cancer, weathering several surgeries over a scant few years. She believes in mastering her circumstances. Her mother taught her losing was not an option. A person is to work at a problem until that problem is overcome or death arrives. She is a woman who comes from a humble childhood and obtained her first job at the age of 7. She earned her first dollar walking the streets with her grand aunt pushing a cart collecting scrap metal and cardboard. Her second after school jobs were sweeping and cleaning a barber shop and a pool hall. The young Gloria began a lifelong love affair with literature at an early age that has manifested into the book you now hold in your hand.

In 1963, Gloria enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. In 1976 she was an aid worker with the International Red Cross. Working in Malaysia and Indonesia, she helped rescue ethnic Chinese refugees arriving in boats from Vietnam. Imagine being on a small boat rescuing people and you cannot swim. When she returned home she donated her time to tutoring young children in both math and reading. Gloria knows the ups and downs of life. She has gone from being an owner of a successful business to living a year with her young son in her car. Her vast experience as an aid worker, soldier, an administrator, and a homeless person prepared her as a writer. You will truly enjoy her method of introducing subjects such as prostitution, religion, murder, adultery, and incest. Her books are filled with so much information you will want to reread her books just to make certain you did not miss anything. She deliberately introduces information to help save lives.

Her passion for writing, reading, and most of all, justice for the weakest in our society, shines through in her work. My personal favorite has yet to be released. That would be the series "Do This In Remembrance of Me." These eight volumes discuss the murders of over 20,000 American women. Through her research, Gloria has dissected how violence plagues our society, and what everyone can do to empower themselves. You may find her work chilling and you may be surprised, but what makes Gloria Lee's writing so endearing is she is speaking from a place of authenticity

that few writers can claim. Therefore, I find I can seldom put her books down. She can be reached at yithril11@netzero.net for speaking engagements or to learn more about her ministry. You can learn more about her books at <https://touchedbythelightliteracyprogram.com>

Terri Redwine, CEO Prosperity Village

Why Women of Courage

To the young women of the world my heart and soul went into writing the *Women of Courage* series. I do not know why God gave me such a passion for righting wrongs or advocating for the poor and abused. All I know is that each day I got up early in the morning and work through the night to write these books. This has been my greatest passion. I will not falter until I bring you this information. I truly believe no woman must sell her body to live. It is wrong and men should not force an entire gender into poverty and ignorance just to maintain power over the world.

That women and children constitute the largest part of the most vulnerable in our society is well beyond doubt. Even with the spate of civilization, women's position in the society still leaves much to desire. Is it the endless and numerous crimes against womanhood all over the world? Or the preposterous society's perception of a woman as a substance, one that has nothing to offer than her body and household responsibilities? The fact is, we have been enthralled for too long. And our silence has become totally unreasonable.

As a woman, have you ever asked yourself why the society views you as a lesser being to a man? Have you ever wondered why only a few women are in the history books, even though the contrary is the case? Have you ever been bothered about why women are left out of various leadership positions, even with their extensive contributions? Well, the answer is a no-brainer. Women are very powerful beings. The strength we exude in carrying out our daily lives even with the way the society frowns at us is seen as a threat to the domineering nature men in the society. And as such, discriminating, segregating, and subjugating us in every facet of the society is seen as the key to limiting our power. This is the reality we have had to live with. But it's time to change, don't you think? Will you prefer to continue to remain silent and continue to strive through this great inhumanity? Or fight for the elevation of your rights and that of the oncoming female generations?

The book *Women of Courage* was written as a means of proffering detailed answers to the questions above and much more. In this book, you will read about how females of different ages, statuses, and colors took courage to live exemplary lives, even though most of them were of humble background. Most of the book talks about

the life travails of over 700 women who displayed courage in actualizing not only their dreams and ensuring that women are recognized in the America.

You will read of how **Rosa Parks** and other women stood up and fought for the liberation of black women. You will also learn about how **Ms. Paul, Lucy Burns** and several others the women ensured the passage of the famous 19th amendment. You will also read about how different women had to go through trauma and agony to fight for justice.

The *Women of Courage* aims to inspire every woman regardless of age, color, or status of the need to rise and fight for our rights. Most importantly, the book seeks to expand our understanding of the violence against women and children in America and all over the world as well as how to put an end to it once and for all. By reading the 500-page book, you will be correcting the notion that women are poor readers. And like Rufus Choate (1799-1859) said, “Happy is he who has laid up in his youth, and held fast in all fortune, a genuine and passionate love of reading.”

Chapter 1

Women of Courage – Aim High

“Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold.”

Helen Keller 1880 - 1968

Every day, the television and radio tell stories of male courage as if the characteristic of courage is gender specific. We thought it only fitting here to tell the story of female courage. Courage is a characteristic that is normally assigned to the male member of a species. Very little if any notice is given to the female probably because courage and heroics are associated with physical combat and women have been considered incapable of physical combat. In this book we attempted to correct this perception and expand the definition of courage to include the woman.

It takes courage for a woman to live much more courage than she is given credit. Single women and married women have the courage to get up every morning and service her children (making all the decisions) and take them to all their activities. She must have courage to go to work every day knowing she maybe assaulted, or molested by her boss, coworkers, or customers. She must have courage to stand at a bus stop at dawn with her children or drive to and from work at night knowing she is the primary target for violence. She must have courage to manage her husband and his baggage. She must have courage every night to go to sleep not knowing whether her husband has decided she is in the way of his mistress and his happiness that he has finally decided to kill her in her sleep. Some women have courage to manage their husband's mistress and all of his other paramours so her children can be raised in a two-parent household. Women have the courage to have life insurance purchased in her name.

It takes courage to end toxic relationships. It takes courage to withstand criticism to keep children away from your sisters and brothers or parents who refuse to change their bad behavior. It takes courage to live to seek an education when everyone around you is saying education is hopeless. Pay attention to the life of Dr. Anna Pauline Murray. She went without eating to get her education. I personally know of a nurse who wandered the streets of Detroit and outlying areas picking up pop bottles to supplement her income so she could get through nursing school. What are you willing to do to change your circumstances? It takes courage to say I am the exception; my life will be different. It takes courage to

make clear, concise decisions of who we want in our lives and who we do not want in our lives. It takes courage to ignore gossiping coworkers and seek the promotion you want. Change does not come without pain. It takes courage to say hello to someone you do not know at a conference and not be afraid that you will be rebuffed. It takes courage to persist at your efforts of self-improvement. It takes courage to get up every morning looking for a job, believing in yourself saying this day will be different.

Finally, women have the courage to follow their heart and seek their own destiny despite the pitfalls placed in their way by a society that wants the woman to return to the home. Sit down shut up and behave yourself. Here is some sherry you can drink in the cellar.

In this book we discuss more than 152 women who refused to remain in the home. These women took a chance on themselves. They believed their dreams were possible. They believed in marriage, and they believed in children, but they also believed in themselves. These women had to discipline their minds, control their emotions, make clear and concise decisions, and ignore the taunts of the naysayers. Bessie Coleman wanted to fly. Toni Stone wanted to play baseball. Dawn Steel wanted to head a Hollywood studio. Candace Beinecke wanted to head a prominent law firm. Halle Berry wanted to be an actress. Because these women had the desire they tried. Lori Arviso Alvori wanted to be a doctor, so she packed up her belongings and returned to school. Lori Alvori dreamed of all the good she could do. Mary Lou Taylor wanted a flag for her brother, so she picked up a phone and change the course of history. Robin L. Ahrens wanted to be an elite law enforcement officer, so she took a deep breath and completed an employment application and put a gun in her hand. Twenty women wanted to say more than just $2 + 2 = 4$ to their children. They wanted to calculate the distance from here to the moon, so they packed their bags and head to the nearest university. Their efforts have earned them a place in history. These are the women who have gone before you. These are the women who tried. These are the women who overcame self-doubt. Imagine being the wife of a governor, then the wife of a president, then a United States senator, then the 67th U.S. Secretary of State, the third woman to hold this office. Twenty women changed the course of history by calling to arms the American woman to fight for

the right to vote and custody of her body. These are the women who have gone beyond mere talk they have aimed high. *The Webster's Dictionary* defines courage as: "The quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face difficulty, danger or pain." We believe that the women discussed in the following pages can be described by this definition. Their courage was largely ignored by society until several women learned to read and write and demanded independence. These women learned you fight fear with knowledge and that courage is the better emotion.

These are women who wanted it all; women who wanted love, marriage, children, and a career. We discuss women who found themselves the first women to take certain career paths and women who had the courage to face the monsters that are living among us. Courage is sometimes considered synonymous with bravery and fortitude, yet courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, hardship, uncertainty, and intimidation in the face of discouragement. As you read see if you agree that the women mentioned were indeed courageous. We believe the courage these women exhibited is best described by the quote of Charles Dubois, "The important thing is this: To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become." There is a price one pays to become someone new. It is important that women look to the future for a brighter day, but it is equally important that women look to the past because therein lies our encouragement. There have always been women of valor. Joan of Arc (Roman Catholic Saint), Sojourner Truth and Amelia Earhart are fine standards, but the fight began long before they appeared on the scene. Be assured the fight began as soon as Lucy of Africa left the trees and began her journey through history. From the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Andrew Jackson, Mark Twain, Keshavan Nair, and Margaret Chase Smith and Douglas MacArthur it takes courage to live. Do you have such courage?

"Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“One man with courage makes a majority.”

Andrew Jackson

“It is curious—curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare.”

Mark Twain

“With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity.”

Keshavan Nair:

“Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.”

Margaret Chase Smith:

“Last, but by no means least, courage—moral courage, the courage of one's convictions, the courage to see things through. The world; is in a constant conspiracy against the brave. It's the age-old struggle--the roar of the crowd on one side and the voice of your; conscience on the other.” General Douglas MacArthur

General Douglas MacArthur earned his place in history because he was persistent, he refused to be defeated

Courage has never been the problem in life fear has been the culprit. Those of us who have been given a large dose of fear never experience change or courage in our lives and more the pity. Take the advice read, read, read because with knowledge fear dissipates causing life to begin. Knowledge shines a light on the crevices of darkness causing fear to leave. God said let there be light and there was light, and life followed. If you read, knowledge will follow, and life will begin. Whenever you feel hesitancy the emotion of fear is lurking at your door. You dispel fear by seeking knowledge about the think you fear the most. Ignorance is derived from fear, procrastination is derived from fear, the root of bullying and violence is fear; panic and alarm, are all forms of fear. When

fear is not confronted disaster strikes (WWII). When you allow fear to control your life, and you do not exhibit courage:

- Opportunities pass you by,
- Prison awaits your son, and
- Prostitution awaits your daughter.
- Children are raped in their beds,
- Girls have babies at the age of 12
- Boys do not matriculate pass the 8th grade,
- The grass dies, and the birds leave the area.
- Windows do not get fixed,
- Garbage collects in the neighborhood,
- The job is given to the not so better man, and Murder becomes an answer.

It is simply maddening to go to one's grave with regrets. Let the regrets be because you acted and made a mistake not because a mistake was made from no action. Your best position is to be afraid of being afraid of preventing action in the way of progress. Take your position from God's scriptures. Even if you do not believe in God, read the scriptures. This is good information to remember when times are dark.

Isaiah 51:12 The Lord says, "I am the one who strengthens you. Why should you fear mortals, who are no more enduring than grass?"

Isaiah 51:13-16...why should you live in constant fear of the fury of those who oppress you, of those who are ready to destroy you? Their fury can no longer touch you.I have given you my teaching, and I protect you with my hand."

Proverb 29:25 It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you will be safe.

Courage Verses From The Bible

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:7

Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

Deuteronomy 31:23

The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.

Joshua 1:7

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:18

Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey your words, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"

Joshua 2:11

When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

Joshua 5:1

[*Circumcision at Gilgal*] Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the

courage to face the Israelites.

Joshua 10:25

Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight."

The next time you feel frightened remember these words of a Black woman who worked 50 years to see her people free.

"Remember, we are not fighting for the freedom of the Negro alone, but for the freedom of the human spirit a larger freedom that encompasses all mankind.

"Until the killing of black men, black mothers' sons, becomes as important to the rest of the country as the killing of a white mother's son. We who believe in freedom cannot rest until this happens."
1964 Ella Baker - 1964

"The development of the individual to his highest potential for the benefit of the group."

Below is a speech made by First Lady Michelle Obama July 31, 2014. The speech itself is an act of courage. Mrs. Obama's words are soft and eloquent, yet she stands before an audience that is mostly male and tells them it is wrong to deny an education to females. She says it is wrong for men to continue to mutilate the genitals young girls. She says it is wrong to force women into a life of poverty and prostitution by denying females an education. She says it is wrong for a father to put his son before his daughter. She says it is wrong to deny anyone the right to self-determination. Finally, she asked men do they see women as equals. We offer the speech here in its' entirety. A video of her speech can be seen <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/first-lady-asks-leaders-change-gender-attitudes/>

We thank Lawrence O'Donnell of MSNBC for calling our attention to the speech. After reading the first lady's speech, ask yourself should women continue to allow men to separate them based on their bust or buttock size.

The White House

Office of the First Lady

For Immediate Release
July 30, 2014

Remarks by the First Lady at the Summit of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

The Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

11:01 A.M. EDT

MRS. OBAMA: Oh, my goodness. Look at you all! (Applause.) Oh, please sit, sit. Rest. (Laughter.) How has everything been? Exciting? So, you've talked to a lot of important people -- my husband, he was here. (Applause.) That's good. And a few other people? You've been traveling around the country doing great things. It is such a pleasure, and such an honor and a joy to join you here today for this wonderful summit.

Let me start by thanking John for that beautiful introduction, but more importantly, for his outstanding leadership for young people -- in particular, young girls -- in Uganda. And I want to take a moment to thank all of you for being part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Yes. (Applause.) We have been so excited about your presence here in this country. We have been so excited.

Now, I've had the opportunity to read through your bios, and I have to tell you that I am truly in awe of what you all have achieved. Many of you are barely half my age, yet you already have founded businesses and NGOs, you've served as leaders in

your government, you've earned countless degrees, you know dozens of languages. So, you all truly represent the talent, the energy and the diversity that is Africa's lifeblood, and it is an honor to host you here in the United States. (Applause.) We're so proud.

Now, from what I've heard, you all have been making good use of this time here. You've been learning serena new skills, questioning old assumptions, and having some frank conversations with experts and with each other about the challenges and opportunities in your countries. And I want to use our time together today to continue that dialogue. Today, I want us to talk — and I mean really talk. I want to speak as openly and honestly as possible about the issues we care about and what it means to be a leader not just in Africa but in the world today.

Now, one of the issues that I care deeply about is, as John alluded to, girls' education. And across the globe, the statistic on this issue is heartbreaking. Right now, 62 million girls worldwide are not in school, including nearly 30 million girls in Sub-Saharan Africa. And as we saw in Pakistan, where Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen, and in Nigeria where more than 200 girls were kidnapped from their school dormitory by Boko Haram terrorists, even when girls do attend school, they often do so at great risk.

And as my husband said earlier this week, we know that when girls aren't educated, that doesn't just limit their prospects, leaving them more vulnerable to poverty, violence, and disease, it limits the prospects of their families and their countries as well.

Now, in recent years, there's been a lot of talk about how to address this issue, and how we need more schools and teachers, more money for toilets and uniforms, transportation, school fees. And of course, all these issues are critically important, and I could give a perfectly fine speech today about increasing investments in girls' education around the world.

But I said I wanted to be honest. And if I do that, we all know that the problem here isn't only about resources, it's also about attitudes and beliefs. It's about whether fathers and mothers think their

daughters are as worthy of an education as their sons. It's about whether societies cling to outdated laws and traditions that oppress and exclude women, or whether they view women as full citizens entitled to fundamental rights.

So, the truth is, I don't think it's productive to talk about issues like girls' education unless we're willing to have a much bigger, bolder conversation about how women are viewed and treated in the world today. (Applause.) And we need to be having this conversation on every continent and in every country on this planet. And that's what I want to do today with all of you, because so many of you are already leading the charge for progress in Africa.

Now, as an African American woman, this conversation is deeply personal to me. The roots of my family tree are in Africa. As you know, my husband's father was born and raised in Kenya -- (applause) -- and members of our extended family still live there. I have had the pleasure of traveling to Africa several times over the years, including four trips as First Lady, and I have brought my mother and my daughters along with me whenever I can. So, believe me, the blood of Africa runs through my veins, and I care deeply about Africa's future. (Applause.)

Now, the status of women in Africa is also personal to me as a woman. See, what I want you all to understand is that I am who I am today because of the people in my family -- particularly the men in my family -- who valued me and invested in me from the day I was born. I had a father, a brother, uncles, grandfathers who encouraged me and challenged me, protected me, and told me that I was smart and strong and beautiful. (Applause.)

And as I grew up, the men who raised me set a high bar for the type of men I'd allow into my life -- (applause) -- which is why I went on to marry a man who had the good sense to fall in love with a woman who was his equal -- (applause) -- and to treat me as such; a man who supports and reveres me, and who supports and reveres our daughters, as well. (Applause.)

And throughout my life -- understand this -- every opportunity I've had, every achievement I'm proud of has stemmed from this solid foundation of love and respect. So given these experiences, it

saddens and confuses me to see that too often, women in some parts of Africa are still denied the rights and opportunities they deserve to realize their potential.

Now, let's be very clear: In many countries in Africa, women have made tremendous strides. More girls are attending school. More women are starting businesses. Maternal mortality has plummeted. And more women are serving in parliaments than ever before. In fact, in some countries, more than 30 percent of legislators are women. In Rwanda, it's over 50 percent -- which, by the way, is more than double the percentage of women in the U.S. Congress. Yes. (Applause.)

Now, these achievements represent remarkable progress. But at the same time, when girls in some places are still being married off as children, sometimes before they even reach puberty; when female genital mutilation still continues in some countries; when human trafficking, rape and domestic abuse are still too common, and perpetrators are often facing no consequences for their crimes -- then we still have some serious work to do in Africa and across the globe.

And while I have great respect for cultural differences, I think we can all agree that practices like genital cutting, forced child marriage, domestic violence are not legitimate cultural practices, they are serious human rights violations and have no place in any country on this Earth. (Applause.) These practices have no place in our shared future, because we all know that our future lies in our people -- in their talent, their ambition, their drive. And no country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half of its citizens.

And I know this firsthand from the history of my own country. A century ago, women in America weren't allowed to vote. Decades ago, it was perfectly legal for employers to refuse to hire women. Domestic violence was viewed not as a crime, but as a private family matter between a man and his wife.

But in each generation, people of conscience stood up and rejected these unjust practices. They chained themselves to the White House gates, waged hunger strikes in prison to win the right to

vote. They took their bosses to court. They spoke out about rape and fought to prosecute rapists, despite the stigma and shame. They left their abusive husbands, even when that meant winding up on the streets with their children. (Applause.)

And today in America, we see the results of those hard-fought battles: 60 percent of college students today are women. Women are now more than half the workforce. And in recent decades, women's employment has added nearly \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy -- yes, trillion. (Applause.)

Now, are we anywhere near full economic, political, and domestic equality in the United States? Absolutely not. We still struggle every day with serious issues like violence against women, unequal pay. Women are still woefully underrepresented in our government and in the senior ranks of our corporations.

But slowly, generation after generation, we've been moving in the right direction because of brave individuals who were willing to risk their jobs, their reputations, and even their lives to achieve equality. And it wasn't just brave women who made these sacrifices. It was also brave men, too -- (applause) -- men who hired women, men who passed laws to empower women, men who prosecuted other men who abused women.

So, to all the men, my brothers here today, I have a simple message: We need you to shake things up. (Applause.) Too often, women are fighting these battles alone, but men like you, progressive men who are already ahead of the curve on women's issues, you all are critically important to solving this problem.

And that starts by doing a little introspection. And I say this not just to the 250 of you who are in the room today, but to men around the world. Men in every country need to look into their hearts and souls and ask themselves whether they truly view and treat women as their equals. (Applause.) And then when you all encounter men in your lives who answer no to that question, then you need to take them to task. You need to tell them that any man who uses his strength to oppress women is a coward, and he is holding back the progress of his family and his country. (Applause.)

Tell them that a truly strong, powerful man isn't threatened by a strong, powerful woman. (Applause.) Instead, he is challenged by her, he is inspired by her, he is pleased to relate to her as an equal. And I want you to keep modeling that behavior yourselves by promoting women in your companies, passing laws to empower women in your countries, and holding the same ambitious dreams for your daughters as you do for your sons.

And to the women here, my sisters --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you!

MRS. OBAMA: And I love you. I do. (Applause.) Which is why I want us as women to understand that oppression is not a one-way street.

See, too often, without even realizing it, we as women internalize the oppression, we face in our societies by believing harmful messages about how we should look and act, particularly as women of color — messages that tell us that we're ugly or irrelevant, that we don't deserve full control over our bodies, that we should keep our mouths shut and just do as we're told. And then, too often, we turn around and impose those same beliefs on other women and girls in our lives, including our own daughters.

For example, in countries across the globe, there are women who still support and carry out the practice of genital cutting. There are women who are still insisting on marrying off their young daughters or keeping them home from school to help with the housework.

And then there are the more subtle harms that we afflict -- inflict on each other -- the harm of spurning our sisters who don't conform to traditions because we're jealous or suspicious of their courage and their freedom; the harm of turning a blind eye when a woman in our community is being abused because we don't want to cause conflict with our neighbors by speaking up.

And I imagine that for some of you here today, getting your degree might have meant disobeying or disappointing your families. Maybe while you've been acing your studies and thriving in your career, you have a grandmother who has been wringing her

hands because you're not yet married. (Laughter and applause.) But, my sisters, you all are here today because you have found a way to overcome these challenges, and you have blossomed into powerful, accomplished women. And we need you all to help others do the same.

All of us, men and women on every continent, we all need to identify these problems in ourselves and in our communities, and then commit to solving them. And I say this to you not just as lawyers and activists and business leaders, but as current and future parents. Because as a mother myself, I can tell you that this is where change truly happens. With the behavior we model, with our actions and inactions, every day, we as parents shape the values of the next generation.

For example, my parents never had the chance to attend university, but they had the courage and foresight to push me to get the best education I could. And they weren't threatened by the prospect of me having more opportunities than they had -- just the opposite. They were thrilled.

And that's what should drive us all: The hope of raising the next generation to be stronger, smarter and bolder than our generation. (Applause) And that is exactly the kind of work that so many of you are already doing in your families and your communities, which is why I'm so proud of you.

I could name all of you, but there are a few of you that I will remark on. Mahamadou Camara from Mali. (Applause.) He is working to educate women about micro-credit and accounting so that they can run their own businesses and build better lives for their children. In Liberia, Patrice Juah. (Applause.) She founded Miss Education Awareness Pageant to inspire girls to pursue higher education and have opportunities their parents never dreamed of. And in Burundi, Fikiri Nzoyisenga. (Applause.) He created a youth coalition to fight violence against women because he doesn't want anything to hold them back from pursuing their dreams.

This is where Africa's future lies -- with those women-run businesses, with those girls attending university, and with leaders like you who are making those dreams possible. And the question

today is how all of you and young people like you will steer Africa's course to embrace that future. Because ultimately, that's what leadership is really about. It's not just about holding degrees or holding elected office. And it's not about preserving our own power or continuing traditions that oppress and exclude.

Leadership is about creating new traditions that honor the dignity and humanity of every individual. Leadership is about empowering all of our people -- men, women, boys and girls -- to fulfill every last bit of their God-given potential. And when we commit to that kind of leadership across the globe, that is when we truly start making progress on girls' education. Because that's when families in small villages around the world will demand equal opportunities for their daughters. They won't wait. That's when countries will willingly and generously invest in sending their girls to school, because they'll know how important it is.

And we all know the ripple effects we can have when we give our girls a chance to learn. We all know that girls who are educated earn higher wages. They're more likely to stand up to discrimination and abuse. They have healthier children who are more likely to attend school themselves.

So, no matter where you all work, no matter what issue you focus on -- whether it's health or microfinance, human rights or clean energy -- women's equality must be a central part of your work. It must. (Applause.) Because make no mistake about it, the work of transforming attitudes about women, it now falls on your shoulders. And it's up to you all to embrace the future, and then drag your parents and grandparents along with you. (Laughter.)

And I know this won't be easy. I know that you will face all kinds of obstacles and resistance -- you already have. But when you get tired or frustrated, when things seem hopeless and you start thinking about giving up, I want you to remember the words of the man whom your fellowship is now named -- and I know these words have been spoken many times. As Madiba once said, "It always seems impossible until it is done." And I, oh, I know the truth of those words from my own history and from the history of my country.

My ancestors came here in chains. My parents and grandparents knew the sting of segregation and discrimination. Yet I attended some of the best universities in this country. I had career opportunities beyond my wildest dreams. And today, I live in the White House, a building -- (applause) -- but we must remember, we live in a home that was constructed by slaves.

Today, I watch my daughters -- two beautiful African American girls -- walking our dogs in the shadow of the Oval Office. And today, I have the privilege of serving and representing the United States of America across the globe.

So, my story and the story of my country is the story of the impossible getting done. And I know that can be your story and that can be Africa's story too. (Applause.) But it will take new energy, it will take new ideas, new leadership from young people like you. That is why we brought you here today.

We've done this because we believe in Africa, and we believe in all of you. And understand we are filled with so much hope and so many expectations for what you will achieve. You hold the future of your continent in your hands, and I cannot wait to see everything you will continue to accomplish in the years ahead.

Thank you. God bless. (Applause.)

END

11:26 A.M. EDT

How often in our nation's schools does anyone discuss the forces applied against women to make them conform, to give up their sovereignty, to subjugate their desires to make free choices regarding their lives? When during maturation do schools discuss the disenfranchisement of women? When during maturation are girls encouraged to become surgeons or mathematicians? When during maturation has a teacher ever told you to keep the words, I can, on your tongue as you face the opposition to keep you barefooted and pregnant? We say again it takes courage to open a bakery shop after years of prostitution. It takes courage to ask to be admitted to a college at the age of 70. It takes courage to seek a nursing degree after years of being told you are stupid. It takes

Mary Lou Taylor

A Flag for Andy

Andy Muns was a dispersing officer (new paymaster) working aboard the USS Cacapon in the Subic Bay Philippines in 1968. The USS Cacapon was a refueling ship based in the Subic Bay in the Philippines. Subic Baby was the forward staging area for U.S. forces in Vietnam. January 17, 1968 Officer Muns disappeared off his ship. It was assumed by the military that he stole \$8,600 from the ship's safe and went AWOL.

For years Andy Mum's family never heard a word from their son and brother. Mr. Mum's father died at the early age of 57 after suffering for several years not knowing what actually happened to his son. He died of a massive heart attack after grieving silently for years for his son. Andy Muns family decided to have him declared legally dead. They requested a flag for the memorial service. The family was told because Andy Muns was not honorably discharged the family could not receive a flag.

Andy Mun's sister, Mary Lou Taylor, became upset when she was refused an official flag for her brother after having him declared legally dead. She wanted her family honor restored. She made up her mind she was going to get a flag for Andy. At her insistence she had the NCIS reopen her brother's case. She could not believe her brother was a thief and a deserter. In the back of her mind, she was probably thinking about her father and how he suffered not knowing what happened to his son. Mary Lou Taylor, "It broke my father's heart ... He literally had a heart attack three years later," said Taylor. "I'm not blaming the Navy for his heart attack, but it was harder than just losing a son." The NCIS told Ms. Taylor they needed a good reason to reopen her brother's case. Persistently Ms. Taylor began to search for members of Andy's crew, for anyone who could remember what happened aboard the ship the

day Andy disappeared. Finally, she accumulated enough evidence that the NCIS reopened Andy Mun's cases. There was \$51,000 in the ship's safe why did Andy Mun just take \$8,600? After a lengthy investigation it was learned Andy Mun was killed because he caught a crew member stealing from the ship's safe. No one ever suspected that Andy Mun was an innocent victim who died protecting his ship. Full honors were restored to Andy Mun. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery and his sister, Mary Lou Taylor, was given an American flag.

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/almuns.htm>

Councilwoman LaToya Cantrell



This picture says more about the newly elected mayor of New Orleans, Councilwoman LaToya Cantrell, than any speech. She spoke on the street. There was nothing between her and her audience as she spoke asking people to elect her. She asked people to Vote November 18, 2017 and elect her mayor. That they did. She became the first female mayor in the history of New Orleans, Louisiana. She won 60% of the vote.



Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
The first woman to be elected to Congress
from Wisconsin. She has been a Democratic
member of the United States House of
Representatives since 1999, representing
Wisconsin's 2nd congressional district.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Born December 15, 1942



On November 14, 2003, she became the
first female governor of Louisiana. She served
from January 12, 2004, to January 14, 2008.
Alaska, Delaware, Michigan and Vermont have
all elected female governors.

Candace K. Beinecke



Carol Moseley – Braun
Born August 16, 1947

Became the first and only Black woman as of 2009 to be elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992; The first woman to defeat an incumbent senator in an election and the only female senator from Illinois. She serves as a senator from the state of Illinois from January 5, 1993 to January 3, 1999. She also served as United States Ambassador to New Zealand 1999 to 2001. She is a practicing attorney. Carol Moseley Braun elected to the United State Senate after her opponent, Senator Alan Dixon, a democrat from Illinois voted October 15, 1991, for Clarence Thomas to become a Supreme Court judge. He voted against the will of the people. Senator Alan Dixon had won 29 straight elections up until that time. The country is suffering from Clarence Thomas because of Senator Alan Dixon's vote. Women were not allowed to wear pants on the U.S. Senate floor until 1993. In 1993, Senators Moseley Braun and [Barbara Mikulski](#) wore pants onto the floor in defiance of the rule. Finally, the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms [Martha Pope](#) to allow women to wear pants on the floor so long as they also wore a jacket.



Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm

(November 30, 1924 - January 1, 2005)

In 1972, she became the first Black woman to seek nomination as the Democratic presidential candidate. “I want history to remember me not just as the first black woman to be elected to Congress, not as the first black woman to have made a bid for the presidency of the United States, but as a black woman who lived in the 20th century and dared to be herself.” She was married.

First Lady Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton

Born October 26, 1947



In the year 2001 she became the first (First Lady) to become a United States Senator. Her words, "There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard. There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. There cannot be true democracy unless all citizens are able to participate fully in the lives of their country." [July 11, 1997]. In 2009 she became the 67th Secretary of State under President Barack Obama and the third woman to hold this position.



Judy May Chu, Ph.D., 53

(D-CA 2009-present)
Born July 7, 1953

Judy Chu is the first Chinese American woman elected to the House of Representatives for the California 32nd district. She took office July 16, 2009. She is married.



Officer Gail A. Cobb, 24
Badge #321

"Her death established the fact that the criminal
makes no distinction between the sexes"
Officiating Chaplain

She was a Washington, D. C. police officer working as a patrolman. She was killed in the line of duty on Friday, September 20, 1974. She was the first female police officer killed in the line of duty in the country, the nation's first African American policewoman and the first female Washington, D.C. police officer killed. The bullet that killed Officer Cobb went through her wrist and her police radio and then penetrated her heart. She died at the scene.



Martha Layne Collins

Born December 7, 1936 in Bagdad, Kentucky. She was the first women to be elected Lt. Governor of the State of Kentucky. She is a democrat. (1984 to 1988) She remains the only women to be a governor of the state of Kentucky. Mrs. Collins is currently Executive Scholar in Residence at Georgetown College. She has not run for office after her service as governor. Martha Collins is a wife and mother. The highest position yet held by a woman in Iowa and Mississippi is that of Lt. Governor.



Bessie Coleman, 34

January 26, 1892 to April 30, 1926

The first U.S. woman to be licensed as a pilot. In November 1920, she was accepted by the Ecole d'Aviation des Freres Caudron at Le Crotoy in Somme. She flew a French Nieuport Type 82. After a ten-month course, Bessie Coleman obtained her Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) license on June 15, 1921. She finished the course ten months early. She had the desire to fly and that she did. Ms. Coleman died after falling from her Curtiss Biplane in 1926.



Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
Born May 28, 1947

The first woman to be elected Bishop in the African American Episcopal Church. She is an officer of the AME Church's Council of Bishops. On September 3, 2003, Bishop McKenzie was awarded the Union Theological Seminary's highest honor, the Union Medal, during the 168th Convocation at the James Memorial Chapel in New York City. The Union Theological Seminary was founded in 1836 and is an independent, ecumenical graduate school of theology. Bishop Vashti McKenzie is also the National Chaplain of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

U.S. A. F. Lt. Col. Eileen Marie Collins, 42



The only thing that is left of Daisy Bates is pictures of her and the memories in the minds of the people who knew her. She did not live a sad life, nor did she cry out in pain at the circumstances of her life. She had to accept that her mother was killed by three White men and that the White men would not be prosecuted for the murder and that her father had to abandon her to friends because he was threatened. Remember this was the south. White men loved snatching black women off the streets and raping them. Her mother probably fought back, and the men killed her. Through all of this Daisy Bates focused on others. She wanted the children in Arkansas to get a better education, so she advocated for integrated schools. She was the NAACP president when the US Supreme Court ruled segregated schools were unconstitutional. She started a newspaper after her husband's death. She worked tirelessly for others until her death November 4, 1999.

Dame Eugenia Charles



Dame Eugenia Charles was the first Dominican woman to work as a lawyer. Disgusted with the dress code of Parliament she arrived one morning dressed in a bathing suit. July 21, 1980, she

Killed in Line of Duty – End of Watch

Officer Julie Engelhardt Lansing, Michigan February 13, 1988
Officer Abigail Powlett, 34 Plainsfield, New Jersey March 15, 1985
Officer Joyce Anne Carnegie, 38 Orange, New Jersey April 1999
Officer Gail A. Cobb Washington D.C. September 20, 1974
Officer Sherlyn Fleming, 52 Detroit, Michigan February 7, 2001
Officer Lauretha Vaird 43 Phil., Pennsylvania January 2, 1996
Officer Cheryl Weiden Seiden, 33 Metro Dade Florida July 28, 1982
Officer Patricia Rosado, 27 Brooklyn, New York April 9, 2000
Officer Elizabeth Edwards, 26 Hardin County, Illinois February 12, 2006
Erin S. Frasier, 18 U.S.A.F Security Police March 13, 2006
Officer Maria Cecelia Rosa, 30 Long Beach, California March 28, 2006
Detective Vicky O. Armel, 40 Fairfax, Virginia May 8, 2006
Trooper Wendy G. Everett, Circleville August 5, 1988
Officer Irma Lozada N.Y. City Transit P.D. September 21, 1984
Officer Alma B. Walters Meridian, Mississippi P. D. December 28, 1985

Killed by An Intimate Partner

Officer Milta Bruetsch
Officer Denna Fredericka Campbell, 24
Officer Elizabeth Cobbs
Officer Sharron Randolph
Officer Mary Margaret Rollins
Officer Carol Roketa
Sgt. Alesia Rhodes 1989
Officer Brenda Sexton 31
Sgt. Cheryl Tiller
Lt. Sharon E. Moore ex-husband
Detective Griselda Espinal, 38,
See Volume Five, The Ultimate Punishment - Do This In
Remembrance of Me – for other female officers.

Marie Sklodowska Curie
November 7, 1867 to July 4, 1934



Won the Nobel Prize twice in her lifetime for her pioneering work with radioactivity and radium - Nobel Prize in Physics (1903) and again Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1911) She is the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two sciences. She was a wife and a mother. She was born in Poland as Marja Fklodowska. She died in France

Nancy Lopez

Mexican American
Born January 6, 1957 -

The first women ever to shoot all four rounds of the event in the 1960s (U.S. Women's Open). She won the LPGA in 1978, 1985 and 1989. She is in the World Golf Hall of Fame. She won the New Mexico Women's Amateur at age 12, and the [U.S. Girls' Junior Championship](#) in 1972 and 1974, at ages 15 and 17, respectively. She resides in Albany, Georgia. She is a wife and a mother.



Maria Szumska Dabrowska

Author. Born: Russaw, Poland. Died: Warsaw, Poland. Wrote critically acclaimed saga, *Noce I dnie*, 1932-34. Explored the potential of human growth amidst social change.

engendered by nonviolent struggles for justice and equality like the one that made this day possible." January 20, 2009

Senator Feinstein was the first Californian and the first woman to be assigned to lead the joint congressional committee that was charged with planning the U.S. presidential inaugural ceremony and the luncheon. Senator Feinstein said she marveled at how far the United States has progressed in race relations.

"The doors are open. "And we've got a bright, young, energetic president who happens to be African-American. And the American people are rejoicing. . . . It really is history in the making."

She introduced Barack Obama as the new president at a luncheon at the Capitol by saying, "This nation is in good hands. May those hands remain stable and steady. . . . We salute you, Mr. President."

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There were 240,000 tickets, available for the inauguration and 5,000 portable and more than 24 jumbo TV screens. Dianne Feinstein was the first female President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, San Francisco's first (and, so far, only) first female mayor 1978, the first woman to serve in the Senate from California, and the first woman to chair the Senate Rules Committee and Senate Intelligence Committee.

Mcclatchy Newspapers

Judge Geraldine Bledsoe Ford

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height
Civil rights Activist



On March 24, 2004 at the age of 92, she was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, during the 108th Congress' first session in the United States Capital Rotunda, for her service to the nation. The gold medal is Congress' highest honor. The medal has been bestowed upon 300 people since the award was first granted in 1776. Dr. Height said she accepted the medal "on behalf of the millions of people, particularly women, whose work goes unnoticed." She served more than 30 years as the president of the National Council of Negro Women and as a leader of the YWCA. She also worked to promote AIDS education. She also served as National President of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Incorporated from 1946-1957. Dr. Height is currently the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. She was an honored guest at the inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20, 2009. Imagine being awarded a scholarship to a college only to arrive at that college and be told you cannot be accepted for admission because the college only admits two African American students per academic year. In 2016 Ms. Height became the 15th Black woman named in the collection of forever postage stamps. The person and their achievements will be remembered. Significant events in the life of this country.

P.D. James, 94
Born August 3, 1920
Died November 27, 2014
Self- educated



In 1993, she became the first female to serve as one of the twelve governors of the BBC. She was recently named a Baroness to serve in the House of Lords. She was dubbed Baroness James of Holland Park in 1991. She performs public services, such as the Children's Act, which gives adopted children the right to learn the identity of their natural parents, now one of three female governors of the BBC. She began writing in the 1950's. She created detective Adam Dalgliesh and sold millions of books.

Sally Kristen Ride

Born May 26, 1951

The first American woman in space



Mae Carol Jemison, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Keck, 48
BA, MSW (Carleton), Ph.D. (Toronto)

"For many people, welfare fraud is actually a
crime of survival."

"People do not have enough money . . . This is
nothing short of a war on the poor."

Jennifer Keck



Jennifer Keck was an Associate Professor at Laurentian University in Canada. She was a feminist and a social activist. She was born January 12, 1954. She died of breast cancer on June 12, 2002. Jennifer Keck earned her Ph.D. in social work at the University of Toronto in 1995.

In August 2001, the death of Kimberly Rogers was reported in the local Sudbury newspapers. Ms. Rogers' death was unique because she was being held under house arrest for welfare fraud. Police authorities held Ms. Rogers in a house during a heat wave, and she died on August 9, 2001. Ms. Rogers was eight months pregnant. Imagine a system of justice that would hold a pregnant woman in a locked house in a heat wave. Imagine the death of a mother and child all in the name of justice. The state must be avenged for the money stolen. We imagine when Kimberly Rogers died the Sudbury government felt she had paid her debt for her wrongdoing. Imagine being put to death for welfare fraud. Kimberly Rogers was suffering from chronic depression. Just because she was suspected of a crime, Ms. Rogers was treated as if she was not human? He who is without sin throw the first stone.

Angry over the death of Ms. Rogers, Professor Jennifer Keck formed the Committee to Remember Kimberly Rogers. In keeping with her efforts, we report Kimberly Rogers' death within these pages, now we speak of Professor Keck.

The testimony to one's life is what is said after one is dead. In the words of Anne-Marie Mawhiney, Dean of the Faculty of Professional Schools at Laurentian University, regarding Jennifer Keck, "She was highly committed to social justice. She really felt that with determination, the world would be a better place. I really think that she left the world a better place because of her work."

Ms. Keck always seemed to be organizing something, said her friend and colleague Laurie McGauley. "Whether it was as a founding member of the Sudbury Women's Centre in the early 1980s, as a member of the board of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, as an executive member of the Circle of Strength: Sudbury Breast Cancer Support Group, or as a friend and mother, she always had a new idea or project on the go." According to Laurie McGauley, "You always knew when Jennifer Keck was in the room." Mrs. Keck was a wife and a mother.

Barbara Charline Jordan

February 21, 1936 – January 17, 1996



The first Black woman to serve the state of Texas as a Congresswoman. She served in the U.S. House of Representatives from the Texas's 18th district from 1973 to 1979. She was the first African American female to serve as president *pro tem.* of the state senate and served one day, June 10, 1972, as acting governor of Texas. She was a keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 1992. She is buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, she was the first black woman interred there. Her papers are housed at the Barbara Jordan Archives at Texas Southern University. Many of her speeches were collected in a 2007 publication from the University of Texas Press, Barbara Jordan: Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder.

Karen Clark and Leroy Brown Jr. 8

To Kill a Witness

Karen Clark and her 8-year-old son, Leroy Brown, were murdered in Bridgeport, Connecticut January 7, 1999. Her son, Leroy, was scheduled to be a witness against a man who was being accused of murder. Russell Peeler Jr. and his brother, Adrian Peeler, 23, were charged with the murder of Ms. Karen Clark and her son, Leroy Brown Jr. The brothers did not want to be tried together. Russell Peeler was found guilty June 2000 of two counts of murder. Russell Peeler was a drug dealer who arranged for someone to murder Leroy Brown Jr. and his mother. The prosecution believes Adrian Peeler was the gunman.

Russell Peeler had been accused of murdering Rudy Snead in 1998 in a Boston Avenue barbershop, but he did not want to go to prison so he decided to have Leroy Brown Jr. killed. Leroy Brown was scheduled to appear as a prosecution witness against Russell Peeler in this case. Mr. Peeler was out on bail when Karen Clark and her son were murdered. The mother and son were not given police protection. Apparently in the state of Connecticut a person can be given bond if accused of murder.

When Mr. Russell Peeler was tried for the murder of Leroy Brown the prosecutor informed the court, he was asking for the death penalty. During Russell Peeler's trial it was learned Mrs. Clark's neighbor helped in the murders by getting Mrs. Clark to open her door. The woman pleaded guilty to conspiracy. Imagine a woman helping in the murder of a woman and her child. What is left inside a person who helps to murder a woman and a child? How or what was she enticed with to help get Mrs. Clark to open her door. During the penalty phase of Mr. Peeler's trial, the woman testified she was given a handful of crack cocaine to let him know when the boy and his mother were home. On the evening of January 7, 1999, she called Russell Peeler after she spotted Ms. Clark and her son coming home after grocery shopping. A few minutes later, Peeler's younger brother, Adrian Peeler, arrived at her house. The woman said she knocked on Karen Clarke's door and when the victim opened it, Adrian Peeler rushed into the house. The woman testified that Peeler killed Clarke as her wounded son screamed for his mother and then shot the boy in the head. Russell Peeler's hommies also testified during the penalty phase of his trial. They

said Russell Peeler repeatedly told them he was going to kill B.J. (Leroy Brown) to prevent him from testifying.

December 10, 2007, the jury decided that Mr. Russell Peeler Jr., 35, should die for his crime and recommended he be sentenced to death. Mr. Peeler became the ninth person on the state's death row. Judge Robert Devlin Jr. said he supported the jury's verdict that death was the only appropriate punishment for Mr. Peeler. Judge Devlin said, "One can only imagine the stark terror experienced by Karen Clarke and her young son Leroy Brown moments before their deaths. "And these deaths were from the gun of an assassin sent to kill them by this defendant. . . . I order you to be taken to a place designated by the commissioner of corrections to be put to death by means of lethal injection."

In 2009 Connecticut state legislators began to discuss abolishing the state's death penalty statutes. What is going to happen if another Mr. Russell Peeler appears on the scene?

A Witness Was Murdered

Essay written for all of the witnesses murdered in this country while trying to do their civil duty.

Patricia Parks, 28 - February 4, 1972 New York
Crystal Jenkins - El Dorado, Arkansas 2006
Jessica Trujill - San Juan Puerto Rico
Chrishaunna Gladden - Wash. D.C. October 5, 1996
Linda Harris, 20 and her father, Thomas Wooten, March 15, 1975
New York
Sisters Yvonne Rivera and Gladys Rivera Stewart, October 3, 1974
Eduardo Samaniego, California, August 17, 14-year-old male
Maria Gutierrez, 43 August 1992, Los Angeles, California
Melinda Stevens, 1996 Ohio due to testify in drug case

Rape Victims murdered to prevent testimony

Art student Katherine Jo Allen of Kansas City, Missouri was shot to death on August 19, 1979 after agreeing to testify against her accused attacker, Larry Jackson. She was abducted from her apartment. Walter Blair Jr., a former cellmate of Jackson's was charged with capital murder. The Prosecutor said Blair was paid \$6,000 to kill Ms. Allen. Mr. Blair was sentenced to death January 16, 1981 (age 19). He was executed July 21, 1993 (age 32). Mr. Larry Jackson was never tried for the rape or murder of Katherine Jo Allen.

Addie Wheeler was raped in 1978. She agreed to testify against her alleged rapist, Dale Patterson. Her body was found September 1978. She was shot to death. December 1978 Dale A. Patterson was convicted of capital murder in the slaying of Addie Wheeler. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Sandra Caswell, 40, was physically handicapped and lived in Kansas City, Missouri. November 1979, she told police she was raped by two men. James K. Betts, 28, and Everett Joseph Stanfield, 45, were arraigned on sexual offense. They were released on bond - Betts on \$10,000 bond and Stanfield on \$15,000 bond. Five weeks later Sandra Caswell was dead. She disappeared November 24, 1979. Her body was found December 11, 1979. Mr. James Betts and Elias Frank Brooks Jr. were charged with murder and were ordered held without bond. We found a James Betts in prison but not a Mr. Brooks.

Valerie Spears, 50, and her daughter, Devin N. Spears, 14, were shot to death July 20, 2002, in the basement of their home in Binghamton, NY. Devin Spears was scheduled to testify July 30, 2002, against Valerie Spears son-in-law, Vernon E. Parker Jr., 33. Mr. Parker was accused of molesting Devin Spears. He is the husband of Mrs. Spear's eldest daughter. Devin agreed to babysit her newborn niece at her sister's home. On her way home, Devin told her sister she had been abused and they reported it to Baltimore County police. The abuse occurred July 2001 in the couple's home while Vernon Parker was alone with Devin. July 24, 2002, Vernon E. Parker Jr., 33, and an associate, Robert L. Williams Jr., 34, were charged with first-degree murder. Mr. Parker was a father of two. A 911 call was made from Ms. Spears home. The police response time was five minutes, but the assailants had fled. A child was in the house when the two females were killed. Vernon Parker was convicted October 2004 on three counts of first-degree murder. Robert Williams was convicted of three counts of first-degree murder February 2005. March 30, 2005, Judge Martin E. Smith told the two men they had, "absolutely no hope of seeing the light of day as a free man." He sentenced both men to life in prison without parole. The last thing that Judge Smith said to the men is, "I hope you think of Devin and Valerie every day of the rest of your life, and I certainly hope you live a long life." Judge Smith said what the two men did was so horrific and evil that it shocked the conscience. The crime was a brutal, cold-blooded murder. He called each man "a true danger to society."

The court testimony showed Mr. Parker was the shooter and Mr. Williams was the lookout. Both men were bounty hunters. Parker and Williams were spared a possible death sentence when the state appeals court overturned New York's capital punishment law in June 2004. Vernon Parker and Robert Williams were both facing a capital trial at the time.

Christine Soulliere, 18 was raped by three men and shot four times in the head April 21, 1992, in Michigan. She did not want to testify she was afraid for her life. The police escorted her to court, but she was not given police protection thereafter thus her death.

Jessica Trujill lived in San Juan Puerto Rico. She was shot to death

in a cane field after agreeing to be a witness. She saw a man murdered. Her assailant was a police officer.

December 18, 2003, Mr. Charles Pona, 22, was sentenced to life in prison plus twenty years for ordering the murder of Jennifer Rivera, 15, of Providence, Rhode Island. Ms. Rivera was scheduled to testify in court that she saw Mr. Pona running from the 1999 murder of Hector Feliciano. Mr. Pona must serve fifty years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

Mrs. Helen Greenwood, 35, a biochemist lived in California. She was raped in 1985. She was strangled to death in her front yard a year later after agreeing to testify against her rapist. Her assailant was eventually apprehended and tried in 2001. His DNA was found under Helen Greenwood's fingernails. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Helen Greenwood's father and husband died before her murderer was convicted. Her death devastated both their lives. Her assailant was a successful accountant.



Heroes come in all sizes, shapes and colors and often times a hero can be a woman. It takes courage to walk alone fighting against a system you believe is wrong. Lilly Ledbetter was one such person. She was a supervisor working for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Corporation in Alabama. She worked for the company 18 to 20 years. She learned she was being paid 15 to 40% less than her male counterparts in the company. When she learned of the disparity she sued for lost wages. Imagine Ms. Ledbetter's humiliation. She worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber for 20 years thinking she was doing a good job and being rewarded for her labor. Can you imagine her humiliation and pain upon learning she was paid less than her male counterparts; all of those years she worked believing she was being paid righteously for her labor. She probably cried not because of the money but because of the blow to her self-esteem. She was probably amazed that this secret was kept so long. How could people look in her face knowing of the disparity in wages? Day in and day out she went to this company to work, doing as she was told. She controlled her days off. She arrived at work on time. She took courses to improve her performance, yet this is how she was rewarded, being paid less than her male counterparts. Think she was paid less than the poorest performing male in her rank. Lilly Ledbetter won her legal battle proof one person can make a difference just by having the courage to say no. The court awarded her \$340,000. This was a significant victory because historically many large corporations including the government paid females less than males working in the same capacity.

January 29, 2009, President Barak Obama signed into law a bill in her name. All sixteen female senators voted for the passage of this bill and were present at the signing.

Two of The Oldest Living Female Veterans

Two of the oldest living female veterans in the United States are Doris Jackson, 88 and Janice Daniel, 80. Both women are in the Carl Vinson Veteran's Hospital in Dublin, Georgia. Doris Jackson was a nurse's assistant during the Korean War 1950 to 1956. Janice Daniel was a Marine. She served in California.

Hattie McDaniels, 57

June 10, 1895 – October 26, 1952

The first Black man or woman to win an Academy Award for her role in the movie *Gone With The Wind*, 1939. She played the role of Mammy. Clark Gable was present at all of Hattie McDaniel's Movieland parties. She was also the first Black woman to sing on the radio. She was born in Wichita, Kansas.



Hattie McDaniels was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1975, and in 2006 became the first black Oscar winner honored with a US postage stamp. The "Oscar" that Hattie won was placed in the keeping of Howard University in Washington, D.C. The statute disappeared during racial unrest on the Washington, D.C., campus in the late 1960s. She died of breast cancer.

Mrs. Ida Wells



What a joy it would have been to have the privilege to speak to Ida Wells to explore her thoughts to embrace her passion and tenacity. Ida Wells was born in 1862 by age 16 both her parents were dead of yellow fever, and she was responsible for the welfare of her six siblings. She taught as a teacher and was paid \$30.00 while white teachers were paid \$80.00 per month. She completed college. Ida Wells's life was peppered with violence and controversy. She was in and out of trouble at the universities she attended because she was outspoken. She believed black people had the right to sue. She was in and out of trouble in the community because she became a journalist started a newspaper and began to write and protest the lynching of black men. How she managed to stay a live is a miracle. When three of her friends were lynched because black people were shopping in their store instead of the stores owned by White men Ida Wells protest caused her to leave Memphis, Tennessee. Two of the biggest lies told by White men were that Black men are lazy. They must be beaten and made to work and that Black men are always raping White women when actually the reverse is true. Black men are a superior worker that is why they were abducted from Africa. And White men loved demonstrating their racial superiority by raping Black women therefore no one born in the United State can say they are pure White. There were too many babies sired by White slave owners for anyone in this country to brag that they are pure White. Three black men were killed in Tennessee because white men were angry that Blacks stop shopping in their stores where most of the time Blacks were cheated because they could not count.

Patricia A. Madrid

received the calling to God when she was six years old. She says she remember the occasion vividly. She and her sister, Juella Walls, and other children were sitting on a bench during a revival when the pastor extended the invitation for people to join the church. Selma Walls Moore said when she heard his words she stepped forward and as she began to walk toward the altar the entire bench of children began to walk with her. Her sister told her whatever you do I want to do. Wherever you go I want to go so the two of them began a life with Christ. Selma Walls was 6-years old and her sister, Juella Walls, was four years old.

Rev. Moore has lived in three states, Michigan, California, and Arkansas and in each state, she helped to establish a church. She said she received the calling to preach in 1966 but she did not answer the call until 1976, three years after returning to Arkansas to care for her mother. March 6, 1973, she returned home and reestablished herself in the St. Luke AME Church. January 18, 1976, she received her license and began to pastor a church. She was the pastor of Spring Hill AME Church, St. Andrew AME Church, the Redfield Circuit AME Church, and Mt. Zion AME Church. She retired October 8, 2000, after twenty-one years of service. She is still contributing to the community. July 30, 1999, Rev. Moore was presented with a certificate of appreciation for helping the St. Luke AME Church with the vacation Bible Study Program. May 9, 2004, she was again given a certificate of appreciation to recognize her many contributions to the church and the community. When you look over her life you find that from April 14, 1923, to April 16, 2005:

She was living when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. She was living when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She was living when Nina Simone, Nancy Wilson and Billie Holiday began to sing.

She was living when James Earl Chaney, 21, Andrew Goodman, 20, and Michael Schwerner, 24, were murdered June 21, 1964 in Mississippi while working on the "[Freedom Summer](#)" project of the [Congress of Racial Equality](#) (CORE) to register blacks to vote. In 1964 only 5% of voting age blacks were registered to vote. By 1969 66.5% of voting age blacks were registered to vote, 5.5% above the national average. The death of these three men deeply affected the blacks in Mississippi.

She was alive and heard the South African music of Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba

She was living when Thurgood Marshall took the oath as justice of the United States Supreme Court.

She was living when Rosa Parks decided she wanted to sit down on a city bus.

She was living when Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize.

She was living when the first Oprah Winfrey show aired on television.

She was living when President Reagan said "Tear down that wall"

She was alive when Nelson Mandela visited the United States

She was living when American armed forces arrested Manuel Noriega for shipping drugs to the USA.

She was living when the first Black man, Denzel Washington, and first Black woman, Halle Berry, simultaneously won an Oscar.

She has lived under 16 United State Presidents:

Calvin Coolidge	1923-29
Herbert Hoover	1929-33
Franklin D. Roosevelt	1933-45
Harry Truman	1945-53
Dwight Eisenhower	1953-61
John F. Kennedy	1961-63
Lyndon Johnson	1963-69
Richard Nixon	1969-74
Gerald Ford	1974-77
Jimmy Carter	1977-81
Ronald Reagan	1981-89
George H. W. Bush	1989-1992
William J. Clinton	1993-2000
George W. Bush	2001-2008
Barak Obama	2009 – 2016

Thank you Rev. Selma L. Moore for a lifetime of work and dedication. Rev. Moore is still serving the community of Pine Bluff

Tae Satoya
Japanese Olympian
June 12, 1976 -

The first Japanese woman to win a gold medal in a Winter Olympic competition. She is a Japanese freestyle skier. She won the Olympic title in the mogul's event at the 1998 Winter



Olympics. She finished third at the 2002 games. She began skiing at the age of 4.



Mamie Johnson

Born September 27, 1935

Mamie Johnson was one of three Black women who played in the Negro leagues. Ms. Johnson also played for the Indianapolis Clowns a female counterpart to the Harlem Globetrotters. Her batting average ranged from .262 to .284. She played the position as pitcher. She weighed 100 pounds. Mamie Johnson was also a licensed nurse for 30 years. She loved the game of baseball.



First Lady Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama became the First Lady of the United States of America January 20, 2009. She is married to the first Black president elected in the United States of America. Her husband, Illinois Senator Barack Hussein Obama, became the 44th president elect November 4, 2008, shortly after 11 p.m. Eastern Time after winning 62,443,218 votes to his opponent's 55,386,310 votes. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. administered the oath of office to President Barack Obama. Aretha Franklin gave first lady Michelle Obama a gold brooch with diamonds, and Franklin's 15-year-old grandson, Jordan Franklin, gave first daughters Malia and Sasha "a collection of Gospel/Christian hip-hop music." The inauguration will always be remembered by Aretha Franklin's rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and her wearing of the "Grey Hat." Michelle Obama's husband, President Barack Obama, signed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law January 29, 2009. The law restores our ability to sue for wage discrimination. This bill is particularly of interest to women because historically women are normally paid considerably less than men.



Aretha Franklin was asked to sing at President Barack Obama's 2009 Inaugural ceremony. She performed "[My Country 'Tis of Thee](#)" What no one knew is that the hat she wore for the occasion would be sought by the Smithsonian Institution. As she sang the whispers became a roar; where did she get that hat. Aretha Louise Franklin will be remembered as the Queen of Soul, but she will always be remembered for the hat she wore at the inauguration. When the Smithsonian Institute asked her could they have the hat she said, "I am considering it. It would be hard to part with my chapeau since it was such a crowning moment in history. "I would like to smile every time I look back at it and remember what a great moment it was in American and African American history. Ten cheers for President Obama." If Franklin decides to donate the hat to the museum, it will become part of an exhibit of President Obama's Inaugural display along with Michelle's gown.

Born May 10, 1963

April 2002 Suzan-Lori Parks became the first black woman to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her play "Topdog/Underdog." In response to the award Ms. Parks said,



"I feel like it's my birthday and everyone keeps giving me presents," Parks exclaimed after hearing the news about the Pulitzer. "As the first African American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, I have to say I wish I was the 101st."

“A great deal of talent is lost to the world for want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves obscure men whose timidity prevented them from making a first effort.” [Sydney Smith](#)

Ruth Sando Fahnbulleh Perry

Born July 16, 1939 - 1997

"Those girls should be remembered."

Ruby Williams, January 24, 2004



Ruby Williams, 53, suffers from Bell's palsy and chronic aches and pains. She believes her ailments are due to her exposure to beryllium, which she received while working at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Connecticut. She also believes that the women who died after working with radium at their place of employment should be remembered.

The 1920s in this country were marked by more and more women finding employment in the cities. Women of unfortunate means no longer had to work in boarding houses and saloons; they could work in small factories in the large cities in America. One such factory was U.S. Radium. This company employed a large number of young women because the nature of the work was not suited for males. It was a production factory, but the work required more intricate skills akin to sewing. The women were employed by U.S. Radium to paint the watch faces for clocks. Their pay and future employment with the company was based upon how many dials the young woman could paint per day. A woman either maintained her quota or she was told to find another job. A group of young women living in Connecticut found employment in this factory where they became dial painters. Some of the women employed in these factories were related. It was possible for two or three sisters to be working in the factory at one time. Their employer told them that the best way to paint the dials on the clocks and to maintain productivity was to keep their paint brushes sharp by using their tongues as they painted the details of watch faces in glow-in-the-dark paint. It was the presence of radium in the paint that made the watch dials glow. Radium creates a luminous paint when mixed with zinc sulfide.

Seventy- or eighty-odd women would sit at a long table in a large, dusty, poorly lit room and paint the watch faces. Each woman would have racks of dials waiting to be painted sitting next to her chair. The women were told to mix glue, water, and radium powder into a glowing greenish-white paint, and to carefully apply it with a camel's-hair brush to the dial numbers. After a few strokes, the brushes would lose their shape and the women would not be able to paint accurately. Their supervisor told the women to point the paintbrushes with their lips. The women were paid eight cents a dial. The women were told they could paint faster, thereby earn more money, if they dipped their brushes into the radium-laden paint and sharpened the bristles with their lips. The average woman earned sixteen dollars a week for her production. What the women did not know was that each time they pointed the brush using their lips, they were ingesting radium, a known carcinogen. The women did not know that the process was harmful, but the company did. The half-life of radium is 1,600 years, and the women were swallowing radium-laden paint.

One of the seventy-odd women who worked for U.S. Radium was Grace Fryer. Miss Fryer stopped working for the company sometime in 1920 and went to work for a bank. In 1922, she became ill. She began to lose her teeth and her jaw developed abscesses. Finally, in July of 1925, a doctor told her he believed her illness was due to her working at U.S. Radium. He took it upon himself to read up on the effects of radium. Grace Fryer decided to sue the company. She called upon several attorneys, asking them to take her case. All refused her case. Her case was considered hopeless. How could she sue U.S. Radium and win?

While Grace Fryer was seeking an attorney, other dial painters became sick, most dying from cancerous bone and jaw tumors, poisoned by the radium they used at work. About fifteen young dial painters in Waterbury, Connecticut, died from radium poisoning during the 1920s and '30s. Their deaths and funerals were published in the local newspapers. Scores of women died after suffering for years from crumbling bones and rotted jaws. Dial painters in Orange, New Jersey, and Ottawa, Illinois, also died around the same time. Many of the former dial painters suffered silently for years. Some women died from radium-related illnesses that were never documented. As you know, in the 1920s, most

young women were married and had at least two to three children. When these women died, many of their children were sent to live with relatives and were hired out, or they were sent to orphanages. The deaths of these women devastated their families.

One young woman who died in 1922 was Miss Amelia Maggai. She was a dial painter. The cause of death written on her death certificate reads syphilis. But Joseph P. Knep, a dentist who treated Amelia Maggai, believed that her death was due to radium poisoning. He began to research the effects of radium on the body. Because of his efforts and the request of her family, Amelia's body was exhumed on October 16, 1927. An autopsy confirmed that her bones were highly radioactive. Amelia Maggai had two sisters, Quinta McDonald and Albina Larice. They too were dying of radium poisoning.

In 1925, Grace Fryer finally found an attorney, Raymond Berry, who agreed to take Miss Freyer's case on contingency. During the time that Grace Fryer was discussing her case with Berry, four other women asked to join the suit. They too were ill from the effects of radium exposure at work. On May 18, 1927, a lawsuit was filed against U. S. Radium in New Jersey on behalf of Grace Fryer, Edna Hussman, Katherine Schaub, and sisters Quinta McDonald and Albina Larice. The women asked U.S. Radium to pay them \$250,000 in compensation for medical expenses and pain. The women were dying while their attorney was arguing in court. When the case finally reached the final stage, many were too sick to appear in court. The phrase "Radium Girls" was coined at the time for Grace Fryer, Edna Hussman, Katherine Schaub, Quinta McDonald, and Albina Larice. The term "Radium Girls" now represents all of the women who died in this country after being employed to paint dials on clocks and other instruments.

We wrote this section because Ruby Williams feels that the Radium Girls need to be remembered. One way for these women to be remembered is for more and more people to read about them. To learn what happened in this American tragedy, please read *The Radium Girls*, By Bill Kovarik, originally published as Chapter Eight of *Mass Media and Environmental Conflict* (revised 2002). You can find this article on the Internet by searching Yahoo under "radium girls." You should also read "Radium Girls," by Claudia Clark, an

assistant professor of history at Central Michigan University, and "Deadly Glow" by Ross Mullner, an associate professor of public health at the University of Illinois. The information that is shared in these three publications is extremely important to you. The short article that we wrote here does not do this subject justice. You will learn much from reading the above three publications.

It takes courage to get up every morning and go to work or to go out and seek employment. Working is the greatest of all human endeavors. Working defines a person's life. Who and what we are and what we will become is determined by work. A dedicated labor force is the soul of a country. Across this country, people make sacrifices to earn a living to care for their families. Because of work, men and women spend hours and hours away from their families. Children are left at home alone or left with ailing grandparents. Every day, men and women compromise their values, integrity, and character at work to provide for their families. Consequently, our dignity is entwined with our ability to earn money, and the welfare and safety of our families depends on our ability to get redress in the courts when we are injured. This is why collective bargaining is so important to a country. Collective bargaining means that injured employees do not have to beg their employer for compensation. Collective bargaining prevents the abuse of a nation's work force. Collective bargaining means that an injured employee will be compensated for his or her injuries, so that the injured employees' sons do not have to result to crime and their daughters do not have to result to prostitution to survive.

Collective bargaining does away with child labor. Collective bargaining insures that, when our streams are polluted and our wildlife is destroyed, the citizens receive compensation from the industrial offenders. Collective bargaining ensures that malpractice lawsuits are not ignored. We no longer see men without legs or the blind sitting on a street corner, begging with a cup. These men are now being cared for in convalescent homes. Collective bargaining means that an employer has an obligation and responsibility to its workforce while men and women are at work. In summation, collective bargaining insures the conscience of a nation. When the Radium Girls began to die from their exposure to radium, their plight was ignored. Businesses wanted them to hurry up and die. They wanted them to go away. This was not the finest hour for

American business. It was indeed a war between good and evil. Here are two excerpts from Mr. Bill Kovarik's article:

“It was a little strange, Fryer said, that when she blew her nose, her handkerchief glowed in the dark. But everyone knew the stuff was harmless. The women even painted their nails and their teeth to surprise their boyfriends when the lights went out.”

“The dial painters in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Illinois unknowingly became human guinea pigs for the coming Atomic Age. In the 1950s, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois studied the women to set up standards for nuclear and atomic safety. Their case also led to a federal law putting industrial diseases under workers' compensation and extended the time a worker could file a claim.”

Associate professor Ross Mullner said, "Nobody wants to address it. They say it's a thing of the past." The death of a person trying to earn a living cannot become a thing of the past. We are too precious to one another for any of our deaths to be dismissed as a thing of the past.

We learned of the dial painters when reading the article “Museum urged to remember dial painters who died after exposure,” January 26, 2004, by Ann Marie Somma, *Courant* staff writer. The article mentioned that the state of Connecticut is paying a company \$750,000 to clean the old site of the Westbury Clock factory of radium. The Westbury Clock Company was one of the largest employers of dial painters between 1920 and 1927. Westbury Clocks later became Timex. Westbury Clocks never admitted that the dial painters died from radium poisoning but compensated the dial painters and promised them free medical care. The article also mentioned a Mr. William Lamb. Mr. William Lamb asked the Timexpo Museum in Waterbury, Connecticut, to include the dial painters among their 150 exhibits of timepieces. The museum is devoted to the history of watch and clock making in Waterbury. A communication director of Timex said the company had no comment on the matter. He said, "Whatever happened took place a long time before I got to Timex.”

Apparently, his statement ends the matter. An entire section of the museum is devoted to the watches of the cartoon character Mickey Mouse, but there is no mention of the women who painted thousands of illuminated instruments for airplanes and warships, as well as wristwatches.

The exhibit remembers the dial makers was important to Mr. Lamb because his mother, Josephine Pascucci, was a dial painter. By the age of 24, his mother went blind from radium poisoning. Mr. Lamb said his mother was blind when he was born, and his father deserted the family. William Lamb cared for his frail mother until her death in 1979. He said her radioactive bones were so brittle that she broke them turning over in bed (remember Amelia Maggai). Mr. Lamb said his mother rarely complained about her fate, fearful that she would lose the \$8 a week -- half what she earned when she was working -- and the free medical care the clock company promised to provide. The dial women were paid eight cents a dial; therefore, for Mrs. Pascucci to earn \$16 a week, she had to have painted 200 watch dials a week, approximately 40 dials a day. Do you see the number of times she had to fashion the paintbrush tip with her mouth? Should not Mrs. Josephine Pascucci be remembered along with all the women who died in Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey, because they tried to be good employees? Dada Jabbour, Waterbury's hazardous-waste director, said, "They were young and cheated out of life. That there is no mention of them in the museum really hurts. . It is my duty to make sure that this part of history is dealt with so that nobody will be impacted by the radium left behind."

June 11, 1880 - May 18, 1973

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1916 from Montana's 1st and 2nd district. This election made her the first woman elected to a national representative body anywhere in the world, ever. Her home was declared a National Historic Landmark. She was born in Missoula, Montana. She was a pacifist which hurt her political career. To date, she is the only woman to be elected to Congress from Montana. Women could vote in Montana before 1920. The states that have not elected a woman to the house are Alaska, Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, and Vermont



Janet Reno
Born July 21, 1938

She became the first female to hold the position of the United States Attorney General. She was the second longest serving Attorney General after William Wirt. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School.



Sheryl Swoopes, 1971, Texas



In the Hall of Fame

“No matter how far life pushes you down, no matter how much you hurt, you can always bounce back.”

Sheryl Denise Swoopes has now retired from playing professional basketball. She was the first player to be signed in the [WNBA](#). She is a three-time [WNBA MVP](#), and was named one of the league's Top 15 Players of All Time at the [2011 WNBA All-Star Game](#). Ms. Swoopes has won three [Olympic](#) gold medals. She was elected to the [Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame](#) in 2016. In 2017, she was inducted into the [Women's Basketball Hall of Fame](#). Sheryl Swoopes is the second player in WNBA history to win both the regular season MVP award and the All-Star Game MVP award in the same season. Sheryl Swoopes is also the first player in WNBA history to record a triple-double in both the regular season and the playoffs. Think of all the hours and hours and hours she had to keep getting up every morning believing in herself: telling herself you must keep playing to win. Champions don't quit. They never stop fighting. Look at her smile.

Johnnie Rawlinson



Major Marie Rossi was a helicopter pilot with the 101st Airborne Division. She was one of the first U.S. woman soldiers to participate in an air assault into enemy territory, inside Iraq during operation Desert Storm ferrying fuel and ammunition during the very first hours of the ground assault. She was married to Chief Warrant Officer John Anderson Cayton, who was also serving as a pilot in the Gulf area. Major Marie Cayton was killed March 1, 1991; the day after the cease-fire was declared, ending Desert Storm. She is buried in Section 8 at Arlington National Cemetery. The majesty is not in how she died but in the nobility of the moment she boarded a helicopter and took control as a female USA pilot going to war. Major Rossi was the First female U.S. Army aviator to fly into battle, first female U.S. Army aviator to be killed while flying combat support missions in an active theater of war. She was also the only female causality of the Gulf War. Three crew members also died. The aircraft was piloted by CWO Robert Hughes, IP, 1991, KIA, SSG Mike A. Garrett, FE, 1991, KIA., SP4 William C. Brace, CE, 1991, KIA, (Rank and Name Unknown), Door Gunner, 1991, Crash Survivor

June 23, 1940 – November 12, 1994

The first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympiad in Rome, Italy in 1960. She ran on a sprain ankle. She was called the world's fastest woman. She was truly a great American. She had four children, eight grandchildren,



Cathy O'Dowd, 30

The first woman to reach the top of the world's highest mountain (Mt. Everest) from both its southern and northern slopes. On May 29, 1999, she scaled the 29,028-foot peak from the Tibetan north side. May 25, 1996, she scaled the south-east ridge in the Nepal region. British team-member and photographer Bruce Herrod, 37, died on the descent.



Florence Rena Sabin

C. Vivian Stringer
March 16, 1948
Women's Basketball Coach



In 2000, Vivian Stringer became the first basketball coach to take three different teams to the national semifinals. She has guided three different schools to the NCAA Final Four, the first coach in men's or women's basketball to accomplish that feat. Coach Stringer led the Scarlet Knights to the Final Four in 2000, and also guided Cheyney (1982) and Iowa (1993) to Final Four appearances. Vivian Stringer, who was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2001, ranks third all-time in victories (750-251) and 20-win seasons (27). The three-time national coach of the year, she has posted a 230-116 (.665) record during her 11 seasons at Rutgers, leading the Scarlet Knights to eight NCAA Tournament berths (including the 2000 Final Four and 1999 and 2005 Elite Eights) as well as two BIG EAST Conference regular-season titles. Among her other accolades are served as a 2004 U.S. Women's Olympic Team assistant coach, an assistant coach for the 1980 USA R. William Jones Cup Team that earned the bronze medal. She headed up the 1982 U.S. Olympic Festival East Team that earned the bronze, the silver medal winning 1985 USA World University Games Team, the 1989 USA World Championship Qualifying Team that earned a berth in the 1990 FIBA World Championship, and in 1991 Stringer was the head coach for the USA Pan American Games Team that claimed the bronze medal. How is that for a career?

A mother and a patriot

What does a nation do to recognize their heroes?

Jeannie Van Velkinburg died on July 22, 2002, after living five years in pain. She was paralyzed after being shot at a Denver, Colorado, bus station.

November 18, 1997 was the day that changed the life of Jeannie Van Velkinburgh and the life of Oumar Dia and their families. Mrs. Jeannie VanVelkinburgh was from Denver, Colorado. She was a housewife and mother. Mr. Oumar Dia was from the village of Diorbivol in Senegal in West Africa. He was a visitor to America. He was a brother and a son.

For some inexplicable reason, Jeannie VanVelkinburgh and Oumar Dia were in the Denver bus station at the same time when two men with nothing to do decided that Mr. Dia did not belong in their country. The men taunted Mr. Dia and threatened his life.

Believing that ethnic intimidation was wrong, Mrs. VanVelkburgh tried to stop the harassment of Mr. Dia. When the encounter was over, Mr. Oumar Dia lay dead, and Mrs. VanVelkburgh lay mortally wounded. Mrs. Jeannie Van Velkburgh's life was saved by the physicians at the local hospital, but she was left paralyzed.

What do you say when one person dies in defense of another? What do you say to their friends and family? What should a nation do to mourn its heroes?



Head coach, Southeastern Conference

“A lot of people notice when you succeed but they don’t see what it takes to get there.” Having grown up in the housing projects of North Philly, I understand the profound value of Olympic dreams.”
“We are not in the driver’s seat. And when you’re not in the driver’s seat, you got to play hungry every night. And that’s what we’re doing.”

Dawn Staley attended the [University of Virginia](#) in [Charlottesville, Virginia](#). She finished her college career with 2,135 points and holds the NCAA record for career steals with 454. Dawn Staley has three gold medals as a part of the USA Basketball Women’s National Team. She was the flag bearer at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2004 Games in Athens. She was voted by fans as one of the top 15 WNBA players in league history. She is one of only two athletes ever to play and coach for a top-ranked NCAA basketball team. She is in the Naismith Hall of Fame – elected 2013. On **May 7, 2008**, she was named the [University of South Carolina](#) women's head basketball coach. On March 10, 2017, she was named head coach of [USA national team](#). April 2, 2017, South Carolina won the program’s first NCCA Women’s Basketball title.



Zora Neale Hurston, 69

January 7, 1891 to January 28, 1960
Folklorist, anthropologist, novelist, short story writer

"I have been in sorrow's kitchen and licked out all the pots. Then I have stood on the peaky mountain wrapped in rainbows, with a harp and a sword in my hands."

Thousands of words have been written about Zora Hurston's writing style, her beliefs and her political thought. She is named as an anthropologist and a writer. Her best work is listed as *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and the 1928 essay "How It Feels to Be Colored Me". Her life is celebrated every year in Florida as the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities.

What has not been said about her is that she was an individualist, and she was a survivor. She survived rejection. When her mother, Lucy Ann Hurston, died in 1904 her father remarried immediately, and Zora was shipped off to a boarding school out of sight out of mind. Shortly her father stopped paying for her tuition and Zora Hurston became a maid to support herself. Could it be that her stepmother wanted all of the family resources used for her children and her enjoyment? Removing Zora from the home removed all memories of her mother from her father's mind. Zora did not complete high school until she was 28 years old. She lied about her age to return to high school. Her mother was a schoolteacher. If Lucy Hurston had lived Zora would have completed high school because black women were the driving force in securing an education for their girls. It was their goal for their girls to find employment other than being a maid or laundress. Zora would have been sent to the best schools. Zora's father was a mayor. He had land so he was doing better than most men in 1905. Therefore, he could have paid Zora's tuition. If he could not pay Zora's tuition, why could she not come home? The greatest

rejection in the world is the rejection by a parent. The fact that she was rejected by her father may have contributed to her two failed marriages. Zora Hurston's life probably can best be described by the music of Nina Simone.

Zora Hurston was a child who was rejected by her father after her mother's death. His new life did not include Zora. The point I want to make is Zora Hurston was a motherless child. Motherless children are the most wretched human beings on the planet. They are always in pain. The pain is a quiet dull pain that most onlookers do not see nevertheless that pain is a driving force in a motherless child's life. I would like the women in this country who are mothers to give the importance of their life a great deal of thought. You must always act with your security in mind. You must not participate in behaviors that can cause your death. You are too important in your child's life for you to act irresponsibly. You must not participate in unprotected sex. You must not associate with anyone that uses drugs. You must not bring unrelated males into your home. You must live a life of character and integrity. You must act to protect your child far beyond dressing your children in warm clothing and preparing nutritious lunches. Your children must be protected into the future as best you can. You do not leave them to the devices of their father. It is your responsibility to leave a legal instrument guaranteeing their welfare and their education. As you read more *Touched By The Light* books your eyes will be opened. Prostitution and drug abuse awaits the motherless child. Sexual abuse awaits the motherless child and despair awaits the motherless child.

It is your responsibility to make certain that your child especially your daughter gets an education so she can take care of herself. You can be assured there are predators standing on every street corner waiting for a motherless child that they can exploit.

Captain Vernice G. Armour, 32,

1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane - On the Wall at 23W 112

Lt. Lane died from shrapnel wounds when the 312th Evac. at Chu Lai was hit by rockets on June 8, 1969. She was from Canton, Ohio. She was 25 years old. In 1970, the recovery room at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, where Lt. Lane had been assigned before going to Viet Nam, was dedicated in her honor. In 1973, Aultman Hospital in Canton, Ohio where Lane had attended nursing school, erected a bronze statue of Lane. The names of 110 local servicemen killed in Vietnam are on the base of the statue. She was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism.

2nd Lt. Pamela Dorothy Donovan - On the Wall at 53W 043

Lt. Donovan, from Allston, MA, became seriously ill and died on July 8, 1968. She was assigned to the 85th Evac. in Qui Nhon. She was 26 years old.

Lt. Col. Annie Ruth Graham - On the Wall at 48W 012

Chief Nurse at 91st Evac. Hospital, Tuy Hoa. She was from Efland, North Carolina. She suffered a stroke in August 14, 1968 and was evacuated to Japan where she died four days later. A veteran of both World War II and Korea, she was 52.

Capt. Mary Therese Klinker - On the Wall at 01W 122

Capt. Klinker was a flight nurse assigned to Clark Air Base in the Philippines, was on the C-5A Galaxy which crashed on April 4 outside Saigon while evacuating Vietnamese orphans. She was 27 years old. This is known as the Operation Babylift crash. She was from Lafayette, Indiana. She was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal.

2nd Lt. Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba - On the Wall at 05E 046

2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones - On the Wall at 05E 047

Lt. Drazba and Lt. Jones were assigned to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. They died in a helicopter crash near Saigon, February 18,



NASCAR Driver

“I was very against pink and purple when I was young, because they were girls’ colors. But that was only because I didn’t want people to write me off for what I can do. When I got into my 20’s I decided that was stupid.” “We don’t do things we aren’t good at by nature. I wouldn’t play basketball because I’m only 5’1”. Find what you enjoy – whether it’s racing, flying a helicopter, being a doctor, or stitching clothes together. Once you’ve done that, you have the passion you need.”

On May 29, 2005, Patrick became the fourth woman to compete in the [Indianapolis 500](#), following [Janet Guthrie](#), [Lyn St. James](#) and [Sarah Fisher](#). As of 2012, Ms. Patrick joins Guthrie as one of only two women to have competed in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500. Patrick became the first female driver to lead the race at [Indianapolis](#). Ms. Patrick is the celebrity spokeswoman for DRIVE4COPD, an awareness campaign for [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#), from which her grandmother died.

Serena Jameka Williams

Leaps and Bounds

September 2001 Mary Bounds became the first female Chief of Police in Cleveland, Ohio when Mayor Michael R. White gave her the oath of office. She became the second Black individual to hold the post. She commands a 2, 200 member police department. She served as executive assistant to Chief Patrick Oliver, the city's first black chief of police. She is a 21-year veteran. She began as a patrol officer in 1980. Her accolades include, Deputy chief of Administrative Operations April 1999, and Commander of the Department's 5th District. Crime decreased in the district.

Education:

Associate degree from Cuyahoga Community College
Bachelor's degree from Notre Dame College of Ohio
MBA from B-W

"My education at B-W provided me with some of the tools I needed to excel and ultimately helped me to achieve my appointment as chief."

Some of her awards include:

1999 Black Professional Woman of the Year
1999 Humanitarian Award from the Center to Prevent DM
1999 Cleveland YWCA Women of Achievement Award

Mrs. Miriam Rodriguez Martinez
The Voice of The Missing



"Human Rights"

"Mother's Day has been killed in its home. Miriam Rodriguez Martinez, founder of the "Missing Person Collective of San Fernando Tamaulipas" after her disappearance and the murder of her daughter Karen in 2012. In March, her daughter's killer escaped from prison with 29 other inmates.

Miriam Rodriguez Martinez was a Mexican activist. She became an activist in Mexico after the death of her daughter. Her 14-year-old daughter, Karen, was abducted in 2012. She pioneered a support network (more than 600 families) for the parents of missing children because she felt the state was not doing enough. She found her daughter's remains and links to her murderers' implicating members of Los Zetas, an ultraviolent cartel formed by former Special Forces soldiers. Miriam Rodriguez's colleagues said she received threats after a gang member escaped from jail. She was killed Mya 10, 2017 by men entering her home in San Fernando.

She was shot 12 times. She died on the way to the hospital. San Fernando is one of the most crime ridden areas in Mexico (along the Texas border) and has the highest rate of kidnappings. Mexico's National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) condemned the murder of Mrs. Rodriguez, stating it was another example of the Mexican government's failure to protect its citizens, particularly its human rights advocates who were putting themselves in danger for the good of others. Erika Guevara Rosas, Amnesty International director for the Americas, said Mexico had become a "very dangerous place" for those who devote their time to searching for kidnapped people. "The nightmare they face not knowing the fate or whereabouts of their relatives and the dangers they face in their work, which they perform given the negligent response from the authorities, is alarming."

Think about it, it takes courage to stand up in a country where there are no Marines.