

Women of Empowerment

Women of empowerment let this be known, opportunity knocks daily and wisdom stands adamantly at the door. We have endured and stood the test of time.

Let us not so soon forget the heroic women of our past, for it was on their coat tails which we cling to and were able to reach this present destination.

Let us astound upon living legends such as Condoleezza Rice, the second woman to be the U.S. Secretary of the United State, Hillary Clinton, our present day Secretary of State, and Maya Angelou, a renowned poet who escaped the hand of aggressiveness. Aretha Franklin, an American singer, songwriter and pianist who performed in Barack Obama inauguration in 2009. Aretha Franklin is known as the “Queen of Soul”.

Let us embark upon Ms. Barbara Jordan who represented Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives and was the first African-American congresswoman from the Deep South. Representative Barbara Jordan bravely crossed racial barriers and took a stand for justice.

The late Rosa Parks played an integer role in our society as she refused to give up her seat to a white man. This sparked a boycott of the Montgomery bus system. Ms. Parks did not refuse to give up her seat out of spite, but out of the necessity for change.

Another woman of great resource in our modern day society was the late Coretta Scott King, activist, civil rights leader and author. Although she was behind the scenes of her late and great husband Martin Luther King Jr., she left this world leaving behind jewels of virtue and charity.

Harriet Tubman, another empowered woman that stands out among many, saw the suffering of her people being enslaved. Through much thought she acted in a timely manner and revised a plan for the slaves to escape. She accomplished this mission through favor given to her not only by her own people, but by compassionate whites who saw that slavery was a degradation to any human race. Harriet Tubman's accomplishments are known as "The Underground Railroad". "The Underground Railroad" was an informal network of secret routes and safe houses in the 19th century, as a way of escape. Harriet Tubman was known as the "Moses" of her people.

We must not forget Mahalia Jackson who gave to us the wonder of gospel music and became the first "Queen of Gospel".

We must not forget the women factory workers of World War II who played a constituent part in wartime workforce. We must not forget Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who were behind the suffrage movement. These women did not give up the fight for the freedom to vote. Since 1948 the right for women to vote has been introduced into international laws along with the UN's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

There are the great women whose names echo in the halls of history past, and there are those whose names have never been mentioned, yet the effects of their great accomplishments are as a loud sounding trumpet. Although their names were not found in the limelight of household names, they were indeed great home makers.

They taught their children as well as the children of their community, moral values and skills that make for a better life. It was the simple uniting of a community that brought forth strong family values.

There are so many unnamed women of valor, of all race, creed and color who have accomplished great feats and opened closed doors.

These heroic women stood fast in their position at each turn of life, working long hours, some toiling in the heat of the sun. Many of these women took their workplace in hospitals, battlefields, schools, laundry rooms, mission and work fields. Many prepared meals for others while in their own homes the meals were scarce. Yet they continued on, creating and building strong family values.

Then there were the women who were weak, fallen by a side that was not so favorable. Yet the stronger and compassionate women carried the infirmities of the weak by giving them moral support. They did not tear down the feeble places, but built hope in the hearts of the hopeless.

If you look around at our society today, you will see that the beautiful “attributes of sisterhood” is being threatened by an unusual spiritual and moral decline. We must hold fast to faith and strive to resist these negative forces which are only there to keep us from accomplishing our goals.

Let us walk the halls of past accomplishments and embrace the opportunities that are at hand. Let us not burn the bridges behind us, on which someday we may have to cross over again.

We must set goals and accomplish the dream to make this place a better place in which to live. So far we have accomplished much and have surpassed many troubled waters.

Although we now hold stars in our hands, let us reach for higher heights and deeper depths. Let our lives be as instruments, creating and molding the future of our youth. For many of our youths are losing their zeal to be tomorrow's leaders and some are at a cross road and don't know which way to go. Let us guide them to the place of immeasurable opportunities.

As we venture into this new era of change, we must give our men the understanding that we are not leaving our place, but fulfilling it. For we are the foundation of every home, business, community and nation.

Women of Empowerment, we are as the rainbow, stretching from one end of the globe to another, adorned with diverse colors, suspended high with expectation, holding fast to our aspirations. We are the voices echoing in the wind, giving insight to the unwise and to the unlearned as we ourselves obtain room for improvement.

As we unite in the unity of sisterhood, we will keep the celebration alive, embarking upon the achievement of all mankind.

Ruby Walker Owens

Sweet Inspirations

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