

# PART ONE

## **Women of Courage**

## Alison Piepmeier, PhD



Look at her beautiful smile

This book is being dedicated to Alison Piepmeier, an American 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.

# **WOMEN OF COURAGE**



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Revised Four Edition First Printing – February 2014

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

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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 Six .....And Suddenly

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This book contains extremely sensitive information; our apologies and condolences to the reader if this information is regarding a relative, love 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.

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

Billy Graham

## 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 the 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 street light, 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 has to 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 women 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 nourishment 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 healthily 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.

**A 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. As long as 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. It is the baby who cries the loudest the one 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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Courage is the quality of being brave- the ability to face danger,  
difficulty and uncertainty without being overcome by fear.  
Having courage is a test for us all.



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

Virginia Woolf 1882 - 1941



*Women  
of  
Courage*



"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. Wittlieb in *The Book of Women's Firsts*

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. This is why I find I can seldom put her books down. She can be reached at [yithril11@netzero.net](mailto:yithril11@netzero.net) for speaking engagements or to learn more about her ministry. You can learn more about her books at [www.touchedbythelight.us](http://www.touchedbythelight.us)

Terri Redwine, CEO Prosperity Village

## 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 of the decisions) and take them to all of their activities. She has to have the courage to go to work every day knowing she may be assaulted or molested by her boss, coworkers or customers. She has to have the 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 has to have courage to manage her husband and his baggage. She has to have courage every night to go to sleep not knowing whether or not 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 the 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 in spite of 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 plus 2 equals four 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 67<sup>th</sup> 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 a number of 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 thing 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 took action 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." 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 actually 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 are 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 of 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 really 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 a number of 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 seventy. It takes courage to seek a nursing degree after years of being told you are stupid. It takes courage to divorce your alcoholic husband and assume total financial responsibility for yourself and four children. As the first lady said, 'We are now about the impossible getting done.'

We now welcome you to read Women of Courage. We want you to see why we say, it takes courage to stand and attempt to be the first at any endeavor. It takes courage to live a life swimming against the current with no end in sight. It takes courage to begin

life anew as a woman at the age of sixty. It takes courage to have a baby in a tree waiting for someone to rescue you. It takes courage to define your own way.

Let us go forth and do the impossible as other women have done before us.









*Susan B. Anthony*

**Susan B. Anthony,**  
Women's Activist

A woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us most. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and famous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

Used by Nelson Mandela in his 1994 inaugural speech  
Maryanne Williamson

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## 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 ships 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 a number of 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.

























































**Senator Dianne Goldman Berman Feinstein,**  
California  
39 years in politics

"Those who doubt the supremacy of the ballot over the bullet can never diminish the power 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) female mayor, the first woman to serve in the Senate from California, and the first woman to chair the Senate Rules Committee and Senate Intelligence Committee.

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**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.



## **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 homies 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?

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## **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 - New York February 4, 1972

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 in 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 bio-chemist 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.

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## Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act 2009



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.



















## **Rev. Selma L. Moore**

### **My Eyes Have Seen the Glory of The Lord**

April 16, 2005 Hattie McKinney gathered friends and family at the Roostertail in Detroit, Michigan to celebrate her sister's, Rev. Selma L. Moore of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Rev. Moore 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:

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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.











## 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 ever elected in the United States of America. Her husband, Illinois Senator Barack Hussein Obama, became the 44<sup>th</sup> 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. administers 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.



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