

1998 Medal of Freedom

1) Gerald Ford

2) Lloyd Bentsen

3) George Mitchell

[Jimmy Carter]

4) Edgar Bronfman, Jr

5) Lawrence Rockfeller

6) Robert Bernstein

Suggestions:

7) John Glenn

Daisy Bates - Little Rock 9

Constance Baker Motley - judge

Evy Dubrow - labor

Gloria Yerkovich - founded missing children organization (56)

Dolores Huerta - UFCW

Betty Friedan

Ruth Colvin - Literacy Volunteers of America

Shirley Chisholm

Harry Belafonte

Robert Moses

(No environmentlist)

(No Asian American)

(No military)

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(Select each name for a profile)

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A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P R S T W Y Z

Bella Abzug (1920 - 1998) civil rights and
labor attorney elected to Congress from New

Helen Keller (1880-1968) author and
lecturer. An illness at the age of 19 months

9/28

Phil - '98 SEP 28 AM 11:56

Some PMOF possibilities

from the NWHF

website.

York City in 1970.

Abigail Adams (1744 - 1818) influential letter writer who urged her husband, President John Adams to "Remember the Ladies," and permit women to legally own property.

Jane Addams (1860 - 1935) social reformer who created Hull House in Chicago slums, starting an American settlement house movement to help the poor.

Madeleine Korbel Albright (1937 -) First female Secretary of State and the highest ranking woman in the U.S. government.

Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) author who produced the first literature for the mass market of juvenile girls in the 19th century.

Marian Anderson (1902 - 1993) first black singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera.

Ethel Percy Andrus (1884 - 1967) founder the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

Maya Angelou (1928 -) Poet, author and early Civil Rights advocate.

Susan B. Anthony (1820 - 1906) the women's movement's most powerful organizer whose lifetime of dedication paved the way for women's right to vote.

Virginia Apgar (1909 -1974) physician best know for development of the Apgar Score in 1952.

Ella Baker (1903 - 1986) premier behind-the-scenes organizer and co-founder of the Southern Christian leadership Conference (SCLC), headed by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ann Bancroft (1955 -) first woman to travel across the ice to the North and South Poles.

Clara Barton (1821 - 1912) founder the American Red Cross, Barton ministered to injured soldiers during the Civil War and became known as the "Angel of the Battlefield."

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875 - 1955) Black teacher who began a school to help educate young black women with only \$1.50 and developed it into a college.

left her deaf, blind and mute. Through the work of teacher Anne Sullivan, she learned to overcome these daunting handicaps and became a powerful and effective national spokesperson on behalf of others with similar disabilities.

Nannerl O. Keohane (1940-) the first contemporary woman to head both a major women's college (Wellesley) and a research university (Duke).

Billie Jean King (1943-) dominated the world of tennis for more than 20 years, winning 20 Wimbledon titles, 13 U.S. Open titles and more.

Maggie Kuhn (1905-1995) following a forced retirement at age 65, Kuhn began work forming the Gray Panthers, an organization which addressed age discrimination and pension rights.

Susette La Flesche (1854-1903) member of the Omaha Tribe and a tireless campaigner for native American rights.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-) author of numerous elegant essays, journals and other books.

Belva Lockwood (1830-1917) first woman to practice law and argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court (1879).

Juliette Gordon Low (1860-1927) founder of the Girl Scouts of America in 1915.

Shannon W. Lucid (1943-) astronaut who set the American record for the longest space flight by an American (July 15, 1996).

Mary Lyon (1797-1849) founder of Mt. Holyoke, the first college for women, in 1837.

Mary Mahoney (1845-1926) first black woman to study and work as a professionally trained nurse.

Wilma Mankiller (1945-) first woman elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Maria Goeppert Mayer (1906-1972) first U.S. woman and second woman ever to win the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Katherine Dexter McCormick (1875-1967) Co-founder (with Carrie Chapman Catt) of

Antoinette Blackwell (1825 - 1921) first American woman ordained a minister by a recognized denomination (Congregational), despite great opposition to women in the ministry.

Elizabeth Blackwell (1821 - 1910) first American woman awarded an MD.

Emily Blackwell (1826 - 1910) physician who ran the New York Infirmary for Women and children as well as the Women's Medical College, providing excellent training for women in medicine.

Amelia Bloomer (1818-1894) first woman to own, operate and edit a newspaper for women, , *The Lily*, published in 1849 in Seneca Falls New York.

Nellie Bly (1864-1922) trail-blazing journalist considered to be the "best reporter in America" who pioneered investigative journalism.

Margaret Bourke-White (1904-1971) trailblazing photographer, recording the Depression, London in the Blitz, Stalin and the Kremlin, World War II and more as the paramount photographer for Life, Fortune and other publications.

Myra Bradwell (1831-1894) America's first woman lawyer.

Lydia Moss Bradley (1816-1908) Educator, founder of Bradley University and coeducation advocate

Mary Breckinridge (1881-1965) the United States foremost pioneer in the development of midwifery and provision of care to rural areas.

Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-) poet and novelist. Brooks was the first Black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize (1949).

Pearl S. Buck (1892-1973) novelist whose writing evoked two different cultures, American and Asian.

Charlotte Ann Bunch (1944-) founder and director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) first American citizen to be canonized a saint.

Mary Steichen Calderone, M.D. (1904-) pioneering sex educator and acknowledged "mother of sex education."

Annie Jump Cannon (1863-1941) astronomer who perfected the universal system of stellar classification.

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) zoologist whose concern over the damaging effects of pesticides and other poisons on the environment led to her groundbreaking work, *Silent Spring*.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823-1893) educator and abolitionist. First Black woman to enroll in and graduate from Howard University Law School and first Black woman to vote in a federal election.

Mary Cassatt (1844-1926) American impressionist painter who captured the soul of family life, women, children, interiors and gardens.

Willa Cather (1873-1947) newspaperwoman

the League of Women Voters.

Barbara McClintock (1902-1992) geneticist who pioneered work in maize genetics and the complex mechanisms which control and regulate cell development.

Louise McManus (1896-1993) first American nurse to earn a Ph.D.

Margaret Mead (1901-1978) trailblazing anthropologist whose book, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, caused scientific and social rethinking of adolescence.

Maria Mitchell (1818-1889) astronomer who discovered a new comet in 1847 and first woman named to membership in the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Constance Baker Motley (1921-) attorney and jurist who, after performing landmark work with the NAACP with Thurgood Marshall and others, became the first black woman elected to the New York State Senate.

Lucretia Mott (1793-1880) Quaker anti-slavery advocate, who, after meeting Elizabeth Cady Stanton, became a leader in the women's right's movement.

Antonia Novello (1944-) first woman and first Hispanic to be named Surgeon General of the United States.

Annie Oakley (1860-1926) markswoman, was probably the nation's finest.

Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-) first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) artist and perhaps the best-known American woman painter.

Rosa Parks (1913-) known as "the mother of the Civil Rights Movement," when, in 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.

Alice Paul (1885-1977) social reformer and founder of the women's party.

Frances Perkins (1880-1965) public office and first woman to hold a Presidential Cabinet office and first woman Secretary of Labor.

Esther Peterson (1906-1997) catalyst for change in the labor, women's and consumer movements and the driving force behind President Kennedy's creation of the first Presidential commission on Women in 1962.

Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973) first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, serving two separate terms.

Ellen Swallow Richards (1842-1911) the nation's first professional woman chemist, an important figure in opening careers in science to woman.

Linda Richards (1841-1930) received the first diploma awarded by the nation's first school of nursing.

Sally Ride (1951-) first American woman astronaut (1983), when she rode aboard the Challenger into space.

Rozanne L. Ridgeway (1935-) foreign policy advisor under six consecutive U.S. presidents from Richard Nixon to William

Willa Cather (1873-1947) newspaperwoman and editor who became an outstanding novelist with the publication of *O Pioneers* in 1913.

Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947) tenacious women's suffrage organizer whose efforts at the helm of the National American Women Suffrage Association put forth the "winning plan" that led to state-by-state enactments of suffrage and the final victory in 1920.

Shirley Chisholm (1924-) first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

Jacqueline Cochran (1906-1980) first woman aviator to break the sound barrier.

Eileen Collins (1956-) first American woman to pilot a spacecraft.

Ruth Colvin (1916-) founder of the Literacy Volunteers of America, a group which she began in her upstate New York home.

Joan Ganz Cooney (1929-) founder of the Children's Television Workshop for Public Television and creator of Sesame Street.

Gerty Theresa Radnitz Cori (1896-1957) first American woman to receive the Nobel Prize in science.

Jane Cunningham Croly (1829-1901) journalist and driving force behind the American Club women's movement which inspired thousands of women into a wide range of social reform activities.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) one of the world's greatest poets.

Dorothea Dix (1802-1887) one of the nation's earliest and most effective advocates for better care of the mentally ill.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole (1936-) first woman to hold two cabinet positions as Secretary of Transportation under Ronald Reagan and Secretary of Labor for President George Bush.

Anne Dallas Dudley (1876-1955) was central to the campaign to pass the 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution.

Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, and the first to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

Catherine East (1916-1996) "the midwife of the contemporary women's movement," as described by Betty Friedan.

Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) the only American woman to found a lasting American-based religion, the Church of Christ (Scientist).

Marian Wright Edelman (1939-) attorney and civil rights advocate who founded the Children's Defense Fund, the nation's strongest advocacy group for children.

Gertrude Belle Elion (1918-) 1988 Nobel Prize winner who has spent a lifetime creating drugs to combat leukemia, gout, malaria, herpes and other auto-immune diseases.

Alice Evans (1881-1975) scientist who found the organism which caused undulant fever, a killer disease.

Geraldine Ferraro (1935-) first woman nominated by a major political party as a

presidents from Richard Nixon to William Clinton.

Edith Nourse Rogers (1881-1960) Massachusetts Congresswoman who introduced the "G.I. Bill of Rights" Act and Women's Army Auxiliary Corp (WAC) legislation.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) trailblazing First Lady and wife of President Franklin Roosevelt.

Ernestine Lousie Potowski Rose (1810-1892) early advocate for women's rights traveling for more than three decades giving eloquent speeches and seeking petition signatures.

Sister Elaine Roulet (1930-) crusader for some of society's most sharply disadvantaged, children of women in prison.

Wilma Rudolph (1940-1994) first American woman ever to win three gold medals in the Olympics.

Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin (1842-1924) black leader from New England, she was a suffragist, fought slavery and founded several organizations for black women, including the Boston branch of the NAACP and the League of Women for Community Service.

Florence Sabin (1871-1953) first woman graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the first woman to teach there.

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) nurse and social reformer.

Katherine Siva Saubel (1920-) born on a reservation in great poverty, Saubel became determined to preserve her tribe's culture and language, despite overwhelming odds.

Betty Bone Schiess (1923-) religious leader, led the successful effort in 1974 to have women ordained as priests in the Episcopal Church in America.

Patricia Schroeder (1940-) served as the senior woman in Congress, first elected in 1972 from Colorado.

Felice N. Schwartz (1925-1996) founder in 1962 of Catalyst, the premier organization working with corporations to foster women's leadership.

Florence Seibert (1897-1991) scientist who made it possible to test for tuberculosis and who pioneered safe intravenous therapy.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton (1774-1821) the first native-born American woman to be canonized a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

Eunice Mary Kennedy Shriver (1921) founder in 1968 of the Special Olympics for the mentally retarded.

Muriel Siebert (1932-) first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange (1967).

Beverly Sills (1929-) Acclaimed Soprano who became the first woman General Director and then President of the New York City Opera, and later first woman chair of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Bessie Smith (1894?-1937) one the nation's great blues singers, Smith earned stardom

nominated by a major political party as a candidate for Vice President of the United States.

Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996) world-renowned jazz singer and the first pop musician awarded the Lincoln Center Medallion.

Betty Friedan (1921-) reshaped American attitudes toward women's lives and rights through decades of social activism, strategic thinking and powerful writing.

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) literary critic, editor, teacher and author.

Matilda Joselyn Gage (1826-1898) best known as the co-author (with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony) of *The History of Women's Suffrage*.

Lillian Moller Gilbreath (1878-1972) industrial engineer and expert in motion studies, Gilbreath was a pioneer in the relationship between engineering and human relations.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) philosopher, writer, educator and activist who demanded equal treatment for women as the best means to advance society's progress.

Ella Grasso (1919-1981) first woman elected a state governor in her own right.

Sarah Grimke (1792-1873) **Angelina Grimke** (1792-1873) sisters who wrote numerous published papers which

championed abolition and women's rights.

Martha Wright Griffiths (1912-) Congresswoman from Michigan 1955-1975, best known for successfully adding sex discrimination as a prohibited act in the 1962 Civil Rights Act.

Mary A. Hallaren (1907-) leader who championed permanent status for women in the military after World War II as director of the Women's Army Corps.

Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977) Mississippi sharecropper and organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Party, which challenged the white domination of the Democratic Party.

Alice Hamilton (1869-1970) physician pathologist who specialized in industrial diseases.

Helen Hayes (1900-1993) a major actress in all entertainment areas, from live theater to films and radio.

Dorothy Height (1912-) began as a volunteer with the National Council of Negro Women and became its president.

Oveta Culp Hobby (1905-1995) shaped the development of two major government institutions as first Director of the Women's Army Corps and first Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and

great blues singers, Smith earned stardom from her first record 1923's "down Hearted Blues," which sold two million records.

Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1994) beginning her political career by assuming her deceased husband's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives upon his death. She was later elected U.S. Senator from Maine.

Hannah Greenbaum Solomon (1858-1942) club woman and welfare worker on matters relating to child welfare, she organized a nationwide Jewish Women's congress as part of the 1890's World's Fair.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) suffragist and reformer, convened the first women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848.

Gloria Steinem (1934-) feminist leader, writer and social activist, she founded Ms. Magazine.

Helen Stephens (1918-1993) athlete who set a world record and won two track and field gold medals at the 1936 Olympics.

Nettie Stevens (1861-1912) research biologist who determined that the "X" and "Y" chromosomes determined the sex humans, ending scientific debate as to whether sex was determined by heredity or other factors.

Lucy Stone (1818-1893) early suffrage leader who began as an anti-slavery public advocate, followed by a lifetime of work for women's right to vote.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) author and daughter of a minister, Stowe became one of the first women to earn a living by writing, publishing the best-seller *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852.

Helen Brooke Taussig (1896-1986) chief of the heart clinic at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, she developed a pioneering operation in 1944 which solved the often fatal "blue baby" (children born with an anatomical heart defect) problem, saving countless infants.

Maria Tallchief (1925-) prima ballerina with the New York City Ballet and artistic director the Lyric Opera Ballet in Chicago.

Sojourner Truth (c.1797-1883) abolitionist born a slave who became a Quaker missionary.

Harriet Tubman (c.1820-1913) abolitionist born a slave who eventually became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad.

Florence Wald (1916) former dean of the Yale School of Nursing and founder of the Hospice movement in America.

Lillian Wald (1867-1940) nurse who

Welfare.

Wilhelmina Cole Holladay (1922-) founder of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D. C.

Grace Murray Hopper (1906-1992) mathematics genius, computer pioneer, inventor and teacher. She was the first woman to attain the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) suffragist and author of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Dolores Huerta (1932 -) co-founder (with Cesar Chavez) of the United Farm Workers union, which is dedicated to helping immigrant/migrant people of all ages.

Helen Hunt (1949 -) creative philanthropist who has used her own resources and others to create women's funding institutions.

Lora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) novelist, anthropologist and folklorist who contributed greatly to the preservation of African-American folk traditions and to American literature.

Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643) religious leader who insisted on practicing her religious faith as she chose, including holding religious meetings in her home, the first woman in the new world to do so.

Shirely Ann Jackson (1946-) first woman to chair the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the first African-American woman to serve on the Commission

Mary Jacobi (1842-1906) physician who founded the Association for the Advancement of Medical Education of Women.

Frances Wisebart Jacobs (1843-1892) driving force behind the concept of today's United Way, and founder of what became the National Jewish Hospital for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine.

Mae Jemison (1956-) physician, engineer and astronaut.

Mary Harris, "Mother" Jones (1860-1930), labor organizer and agitator who was a major figure in the American labor movement.

Barbara Jordan (1936-1996) first black woman elected to Congress from the south and the first Black woman to deliver the keynote address at the convention of a major political party (Democratic Convention, 1976).

organized the public health nursing service and the Henry Street Settlement in New York City to meet the needs of the urban poor.

Madam C. J. Walker (1867-1919) Sara Breedlove, a Black entrepreneur considered the first Black woman to become a millionaire.

Faye Wattleton (1943-) nurse who was the first woman since founder Margaret Sanger, and first black to become president of the Planned Parenthood Foundation.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931) Black leader, anti-lynching crusader, journalist, lecturer and community organizer who fought social injustice all her life.

Edith Wharton (1862-1937) American novelist and short story writer of the 20th century, she was the first woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Oprah Winfrey (1954-) the first Black woman to own her own television production company, she is host of the nation's most successful talk show.

Sarah Winnemucca (c.1842-1891) Native American Leader who dedicated her life to returning land taken by the government back to the tribes, especially the land of her own Paiute Tribe.

Fanny Wright (1795-1852) first American woman to speak out against slavery and for the equality of woman.

Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997) nuclear scientist whose pioneering work altered modern physical theory and changed the accepted view of the structure of the universe.

Rosalyn Yalow (1921-) first American woman trained in the U.S. to win the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Gloria Yerkovich (1942-) founder of CHILDFIND, a nationwide organization which helps locate missing children.

Mildred "Babe Didrikson Zaharias" (1914-1956) one of the century's premier athletes, she won track and field gold medals at the 1932 Olympics.

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No - better Medal
of Arts

Gwendolyn Brooks 1917-

"I am interested in telling my particular truth as I have seen it." Gwendolyn Brooks has seen her truth on the south side of Chicago where her parents moved when she was less than one year old. An introverted, shy child, she grew up reading the Harvard classics and the Black poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar. And she grew up writing. Her first poem was published when she was 14.



Graduating from Wilson Junior College during the Depression, she could only find work as a domestic worker and as secretary to a spiritual advisor. Later, she became publicity director of the youth organization of the NAACP in Chicago. She continued writing and by the end of the early 1940's her poetry was appearing in *Harpers, Poetry*, and *The Yale Review*. In 1945, her first volume of poetry *A Street in Bronzeville* was published. "I wrote about what I saw and heard on the street," she said of that book.

In 1949, she published *Annie Allen*, a series of poems that traces the progress to womanhood of a Black girl. It was for this volume that she won the

Pulitzer Prize in 1950.

In 1967, an established and respected poet, she attended a writer's conference at Fisk University where, she says, she rediscovered her blackness. Her subsequent poetry broke new ground for her, reflecting the change that occurred at Fisk. The *Mecca*, a book-length poem about a mother searching for her lost child in a Chicago housing project, shows this new direction. This volume was nominated for the National Book Award for poetry. Her other work includes children's books, an autobiography, and a collection of poetry about South Africa. Her work is collected in a single volume titled: *BLACKS*.

She has been called a poet who has discovered the neglected miracles of everyday existence. For Brooks, it has all been a matter of telling her truth.

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Shirley Chisholm 1920-

Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, is a passionate and effective advocate for the needs of minorities, women and children and has changed the nation's perception about the capabilities of women and African-Americans.



A New York City educator and child care manager, Chisholm saw the problems of the poor every day, and in the 1950s this led her to run for and win a seat in the New York State Legislature. In 1968 she was elected to Congress from the new 12th District. There she supported improved employment and education programs, expansion of day care, income support and other programs to improve inner city life and opportunity. She advocated for the end of the military draft and reduced defense spending. In 1970 she published her first book, *Unbossed and Unbought*. She served in Congress until 1982 and in 1972 entered several Democratic presidential primaries, receiving 151 delegate votes for the presidential nomination. Her second book, *The*

Good Fight, was published in 1973. Chisholm continues to teach and write, and has been invited to serve as Ambassador to Jamaica by President Clinton.

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Ruth Colvin 1916-

Ruth Colvin saw a problem - pervasive adult illiteracy - and used formidable organizing skills and tenacity to help solve it through the creation of Literacy Volunteers of America. Colvin learned the scope of illiteracy in 1962 when she discovered that thousands the Finger Lakes county where she lived could not read. Her life was transformed as she undertook the necessary training needed to help correct the situation.



She determined that traditional classroom methods would not work and instead focused on the development of community networks in which a climate was created that empowered adult learners in new ways. The organization developed tutor training programs, special materials, community support components and a model that involves people from all walks of life in a community. Former dropouts become tutors, as do bank presidents, educators and many others. Thus far more than 400,000 have learned to read through the Literacy Volunteers program, in more than 460 locations operating in 40 states. Colvin travels internationally to share her unique program and knowledge - exemplifying the power of one individual to change the world for the better.

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Joan Ganz Cooney 1929 -

Joan Ganz Cooney, as creator of *Sesame Street*, has benefited millions of young children. After graduating from the University of Arizona, Cooney went to work as a newspaper reporter. Then, in 1954, she moved to New York City to write for television. In 1964, she received a local Emmy Award for her study of the anti-poverty program in New York. That same year, she embarked on one of the most significant projects of the late 20th century. After studying the use of television for preschool education and successfully soliciting more than \$8 million in funding from foundations and federal agencies, Cooney founded the Children's Television Workshop and created *Sesame Street*.



Debuting in 1969, *Sesame Street* won numerous awards and is now seen by millions of children around the world. There are few preschoolers who have not benefited from this program. Not only has it enhanced their learning in the fundamentals of reading, but it has helped them appreciate the world and all the different kinds of people in it.

Cooney's research on the impoverished, on education, and on children's inquisitive nature along with her creativity has led to a television program of unequalled success. In some locations, *Sesame Street* provides preschool-age children with their only opportunity to develop learning skills. Perhaps no other woman in the latter quarter of the 20th century has influenced the education of so many children as has Joan Ganz Cooney.

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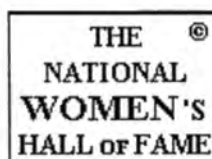
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other word?

Gertrude Elion 1918-

Gertrude Elion is one of the nation's most distinguished research scientists, and her Nobel Prize in 1988 capped a career devoted to research to combat some of the world's most dangerous diseases.



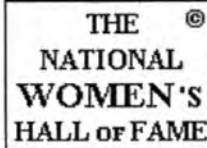
Elion, working predominantly with George Hitchings, has created drugs to combat leukemia, gout, malaria, herpes and autoimmune disorders. She and Hitchings devised a system for designing drugs that led to the development of the AIDS drug AZT.

In the 1950s she pioneered the development of two drugs that interfered with the reproductive process of cancer cells to cause remissions in childhood leukemia. In 1957 she created the first immuno-suppressive agent, leading to successful organ transplants. In 1977, her work led to the development of the first drug used against viral herpes.

Gertrude Elion, who lost her grandfather and mother to cancer, has never lost sight of the human beings whose lives her research affects. She has said, "When you meet someone who has lived for 25 years with a kidney graft, there's your reward."

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Betty Friedan 1921-

Betty Friedan has been central to the reshaping of American attitudes toward women's lives and rights. Through decades of social activism, strategic thinking and powerful writing, Friedan is one of contemporary society's most effective leaders.



Friedan's 1963 book, *The Feminine Mystique*, detailed the frustrating lives of countless American women who were expected to find fulfillment primarily through the achievements of husbands and children. The book made an enormous impact, triggering a period of change that continues today. Friedan has been central to this evolution for women, through lectures and writing (*It Changed My Life: Writings on the Women's Movement* in 1976 and *The Second Stage* in 1981). She was a founder of the National Organization for Women, a convener of the National Women's Political Caucus, and a key leader in the struggle for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Friedan published her latest book, *The Fountain of Aging in Fall*, 1993 and is co-chair of Women, Men and Media, a

gender-based research organization that conducts research on gender and the media.

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Wilhelmina Cole Holladay 1922-

A personal interest quickly developed into a social and educational cause for Wilhelmina Holladay. During a tour of Vienna with her husband, Holladay became interested in the work of the artist, Clara Peeters, a contemporary of Rembrandt. Holladay was amazed and dismayed to learn that the talented woman artist was not listed in major art references, nor were many other deserving women artists. She also found that the major American art museums had devoted few shows to the work of women artists.



In an effort to correct the inequity, Holladay established The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA). Opened in 1987, it promotes a greater awareness of women in the arts and their contributions to aesthetics throughout the ages. Six years after the museum opened its doors in Washington, D.C., it boasted an organization of national and international chapters and a membership of more than 125,000, which makes it the third largest museum in the world in terms of membership.

To fulfill its mission, the museum cares for and displays a permanent collection, presents special exhibitions and conducts educational programs. A state-of-the-art, 200 seat auditorium serves as a center for the performing arts and other creative disciplines in which women excel.

NMWA also maintains a Library and Research Center containing substantial specialized holdings for research. Numerous publications have been developed by the Center, including a quarterly newsletter, exhibition catalogues, books, brochures and curriculum materials.

Said Holladay, "When substantial accomplishments and excellence are known, the right to be taken seriously surely will follow. Women should know their heritage which has been so long ignored."

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Dolores Huerta 1932-

Dolores Huerta is one the century's most powerful and respected labor movement leaders. Huerta left teaching and co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar



Chavez in 1962: "I quit because I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children." Huerta has raised her own 11 children while organizing for the labor movement.

The 1965 Delano Grape Strike launched UFW into a period of fast-paced organizing, with Huerta negotiating contracts with growers, lobbying, organizing strikes and boycotts and well as spearheading farmworker political activities. Always politically active, she co-chaired the 1972 California delegation to the Democratic Convention. She led the fight to permit thousands of migrant/immigrant children to receive services. She also led the struggle to achieve unemployment insurance, collective bargaining rights, and immigration rights for farmworkers under the 1985

Rodino amnesty legalization program. Huerta continues as an outstanding labor and political activist.

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Constance Baker Motley 1921-

Making history and making law are the twin components of Constance Baker Motley's extraordinary life and career. Motley's legal career began as a law clerk in the fledgling National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Education Fund, where she worked with Thurgood Marshall and others. She became a key legal strategist in the civil rights movement, helping to desegregate Southern schools, busses, lunch counters - and successfully arguing nine cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.



In 1964, Motley became the first African-American woman elected to the New York State Senate; in 1965 she was chosen Manhattan Borough President - the first woman and first African-American in that position; and in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson named her a Federal Court judge - the first African-American woman so named - where she continues today. Known as an incisive and capable judge, Motley believes her presence makes a difference: "As the first black and first woman, I

am proving in everything I do that blacks and women are as capable as anyone."

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Katherine Saubel 1920-

Katherine Siva Saubel has dedicated her life to the preservation of the language and culture of her people. She is a nurturer, scholar, educator, museum founder, author, social activist and inspirational leader to all who know her.



Saubel, a Cahuilla Indian, grew up in poverty on reservations in Southern California. At school, speaking her native language was punished, as was opposing how her people were portrayed in history. The first Indian girl to graduate from Palm Springs High School, Saubel's further education continued after marriage and child-rearing. Scholarships helped her learn anthropology. In 1964 she and others founded the Malki Museum at the Morongo Reservation, the first Native American museum created and managed by Native Americans. Saubel has collaborated with scholars and produced books and articles on ethnobiology, Cahuilla grammar and other topics, beginning with *Kunvachmal: A Cahuilla Tale* in 1969.

Saubel's answer to pressure on Native Americans to abandon their language and beliefs to conform to society was to dedicate her life to preserving both - and with it, her people's dignity.

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Gloria Yerkovich 1942-

Gloria Yerkovich discovered the absence of a national system for locating missing/abducted children when her daughter was abducted by her natural father in 1974. Yerkovich didn't see her daughter again until 1984.



Yerkovich searched for years, and realized the heart of the problem of many abducted and missing children lay in the absence of a way for such children to find help. Yerkovich started CHILD FIND in 1981, and built the organization with volunteer labor, donated equipment and skillful appeals to the media for help and support. Since more than 150,000 children a year are considered missing or abducted, a national registry of missing children was developed, as was a photographic directory of such children, and implementation of a toll-free number for children trying to find their parents.

| CHILD FIND was the prototype for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and

Yerkovich's efforts contributed greatly to national awareness of the problem. Awareness led to the 1982 Omnibus Victims Protection Act and the Missing Children Act, the signing of which Yerkovich witnessed at the invitation of the President of the United States.

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OK

HARRY ASHMORE

Presidential Medal of Freedom

Harry Ashmore awoke the conscience of a Nation through his Pulitzer-Prize-winning editorials documenting the 1957 school integration crisis in Little Rock, Arkansas. As one of the few Southern editors to speak out against segregation, he overcame formidable opposition and intimidation with dignity and determination. His fiercely held convictions and firm commitment to social reform resonated in his inspired teachings and numerous books on race relations. For his courage in speaking out against injustice, Harry Ashmore has earned an honored place in the hearts of all who love liberty.

those

cherish equality and

Presidential
Medal of Freedom
from Jim Dossland

Phil
Died Jan '98

LEVEL 2 - 1 OF 32 STORIES

Copyright 1997 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

June 29, 1997, Sunday

SECTION: PERSPECTIVE; Pg. 1J

LENGTH: 2380 words

HEADLINE: The Lessons of Little Rock: Maybe we still haven't got it

BYLINE: Harry S. Ashmore

BODY:

(Harry S. Ashmore won a Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing during the Central High crisis as executive editor at the Arkansas Gazette.)

This essay was adapted from the spring issue of Media Studies Journal, a quarterly publication of the Gannett Corp. The journal is devoted to improving understanding of media issues. Reprinted with permission.)

By Labor Day 1957, Gov. Orval Faubus had deployed the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the invasion of Little Rock's Central High School by nine black children.

I found few surprises in the unfolding events that kept Little Rock at the top of the news over the next two years. . . .

The dominant fact of Southern life was the existence of a social order openly based on the doctrine of white supremacy. Legally enforced segregation of the races had survived the abolition of slavery and was now embodied in a one-party political system that disenfranchised blacks and severely limited their ability to rise above their assigned place at the bottom of the class structure.

As a fledgling political writer in my native South Carolina, I had seen the inherent injustices of the system highlighted in the course of the New Deal effort to repair the ravages of the Great Depression. But those of us who pointed out gross inequities in the distribution of benefits were open to charges of apostasy -- an indictment still potent enough to prompt most newspapers to indulge in traditional tirades against meddling outsiders. The rest usually maintained a prudent silence.

For my generation of Southerners, fealty to the shibboleths of the Old South was undermined by the global conflict of World War II that sent most of us to far places. I had no illusion that the veterans had come home imbued by a passion for reform, but at Charlotte I found that the News could attract considerable support for a reasoned argument for racial justice -- meaning equality before the law -- as long as there was no implication of social equality between blacks and whites.



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But that kind of editorial straddling was no longer possible after 1948, when President Truman announced his support for a package of civil rights legislation that would require the final dismantling of the South's peculiar institutions. I would face the new test of Southern sentiment at the Gazette, a venerable morning paper that, like the News, was owned by a patrician family with roots deep in the region.

In 50 years as president and editor, the erudite J.N. Heiskell had endowed the newspaper with an institutional character. [His] view was similar to that expressed by Harry Truman during his service as U.S. senator from Missouri, when he identified the issue as one of justice, not social equality. And Heiskell had no disposition to challenge the verdict of history when Truman, as president, concluded that justice could not be done under a binding system that enforced separation of the races without providing the corollary equality of treatment.

I found myself in the eye of a political hurricane when Ben Laney, then Governor of Arkansas, emerged as chairman from the founding meeting of the States' Rights Jeffersonian Democrats with a manifesto that declared:

. . . the President of the United States has by his acts and declarations repudiated the principles of the Democratic Party, threatened to disturb the constitutional division and balance of the powers of government, and has thereby forfeited all claims of allegiance from members of the party who adhere to its principles.

The Democratic National Convention nominated Truman after a young Minnesota delegate named Hubert Humphrey declared on the floor, "The time has come for the Democratic Party to get out of the shadow of states' rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights." When the dissident Southern Democrats reconvened in Birmingham, Ala., to formally launch a "Dixiecrat" third party, Laney, a gentlemanly conservative, stepped aside in favor of a Dixiecrat ticket headed by the uninhibited Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

In the end the rebellious faction carried only four states in the Deep South, and I wrote what I hoped would be an obituary for the Dixiecrat movement:

Although they tried to be polite about it, it was quite clear that they were in fact the anti-Negro party The case they presented to the Southern voter was a familiar one. They appealed to his prejudices and played upon his fears. They hurled the reckless charge that election of either major candidate would mean Negro domination of the South, and for good measure added the allegation that the civil rights program endorsed by both the Democrats and Republicans is Communist in nature and inspiration.

The package of civil rights legislation that touched off the rebellion got nowhere when Truman sent it to Congress. But the U.S. Supreme Court was steadily whittling away the states' rights doctrine in cases brought by the NAACP, and in the 1950s it set down for argument cases calling for desegregation of public education from kindergarten through graduate school.

The Court's unanimous decision [in the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas] mandating an end to the dual school system produced a roar of



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outrage in the Deep South, but in the upper tier states, public officials -- including Faubus -- indicated that they would support compliance. In Little Rock, when the city's school board announced the immediate initiation of a comprehensive plan to desegregate the schools, it had the support of both newspaper, an alliance of ministers and the Chamber of Commerce.

But it was soon evident that elected officials could not prevail against mounting pressure for massive resistance without moral support from Washington, and none was forthcoming. As the 1956 national election approached, [it became clear] that the erosion of popular support for compliance could not be halted without the election of a president who understood Southern politics and could command the support of the loyal Democrats who still dominated the political process in most Southern states.

[The 1956 presidential election between Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois and Dwight D. Eisenhower] was the first national election in which candidates were nominated in party primaries, and it followed that it was the first in which television played a dominant role. But the sporadic coverage of grass-roots campaigning provided no context for the hundreds of speeches Stevenson made as he carried out his pledge to talk sense to the American people, culminating in the demand that his opponent face up to what surely should have been a defining campaign issue:

The presidency is above all a place of moral leadership. Yet in these months of crucial importance no leadership has been provided. The immense prestige and influence of the office has been withheld from those who honestly seek to carry out the law in a gathering storm and against rising resistance. Refusing to rise to this great moral and constitutional crisis, the administration had hardly acknowledged its gravity.

President Eisenhower simply ignored Stevenson's challenge . . . , and television made it possible to substitute image for substance. The comforting appearance on the home screens of a benign, avuncular figure who had served his country well in time of war was enough to stifle partisan controversy.

After his landslide victory, Eisenhower made no secret of his personal disapproval of school desegregation. The politician he admired most, he confided, was Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, an unreconstructed apostle of states' rights. He refused to use his office to lend moral support to the Supreme Court, and said of Brown's principal architect, "The worst damn fool mistake I made was appointing Earl Warren chief justice."

As it had in the election campaign, television proved to be a determinant in shaping the popular response to the inevitable constitutional crisis that followed a year later. Harry Reasoner, one of the young legmen the TV networks dispatched to Arkansas when rioting broke out at Central High, cited Little Rock as a place "where television came to influence, if not to maturity."

The coaxial cable had spread from coast to coast, making it possible for the networks to project motion pictures from the scene of a news event into 50 million homes. This struck David Halberstam as the most significant development of the decade he chronicled in *The Fifties*. The images captured by TV cameras at Central High were "so forceful they told their own truths and needed no narration. . . ."



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It was hard for people watching at home not to take sides. They were sitting in their living rooms in front of their own television sets watching orderly black children behaving with great dignity, trying to obtain nothing more than a decent education, the most elemental of American birthrights, yet being assaulted by a vicious mob of poor whites.

In that sense, Little Rock was a defining moment for the new visual medium -- and for the Civil Rights movement that found its moral appeal greatly enhanced by the dramatic display of racist brutality.

But equal treatment for the black minority was, as it had been since the founding of the republic, a political as well as a moral issue, and its ramifications could not be fully understood without the historical context that TV proved unable to provide.

Although he was motivated not by ideology but by simple expediency, Faubus' challenge to federal authority was mounted in the name of states' rights. In the former Confederacy, the Supreme Court's Brown decision represented what Justice Felix Frankfurter called "the intrusion of a distant voice," and it invoked the folk memory of a lost war. That could be met only by a forcible reminder that the issue of federal supremacy had been settled 100 years ago.

The enduring importance of Little Rock lay in the forcing of Eisenhower's hand. Faced with the use of a state military force to defy his government's courts, the president had no option but to send in his own troops to restore order. His effort to temporize with Faubus and the intransigent governors in the Deep South had failed in a fashion that affirmed the commitment of the federal executive to guarantee the constitutional rights of black citizens wherever, and however, they might be denied.

This made possible the nonviolent protest Martin Luther King Jr. led against demeaning Jim Crow laws that denied blacks access to places of public accommodation and gainful employment. When thousands of freedom marchers took to the streets, they were no longer at the mercy of local authorities, the mobs they often encouraged, or the state courts that were usually rigged against them -- and TV cameras were on hand to provide a close-up view of last-ditch skirmishing among the ruins of the old segregated society.

By 1964, Lyndon Johnson, the Southern Democrat who succeeded the martyred John F. Kennedy, was able to rally a national consensus in support of affirmative federal action to deal with the vestiges of legal segregation.

But the consensus began to unravel three years later when mob violence erupted in a poor black community in Los Angeles. The TV cameras were there in Watts, too, and they followed along as looting and arson spread across the country to a hundred inner cities, all of them outside the South. The spectacle of militant black youths defying law enforcement authorities in their own bailiwick profoundly affected those who had cherished the illusion that the corrosive effects of racial prejudice were confined to the benighted region below the Mason-Dixon Line.

The nation emerged from the Long Hot Summer with its traditional partisan division reshaped by the revival of states' rights doctrine, now being advocated



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by those who professed to be free of racist sentiment. The Republican Party seized upon it as a means of reducing the taxing and regulatory authority of the central government, and President Nixon devised the "Southern Strategy" that finally split the once-solid regional bastion that had given the Democratic Party at least nominal control of Congress.

The ideological conflict among whites had its counterpart among blacks. Militant leaders rejected Martin Luther King's integrationist goal and advocated a separate black community as a means of preserving professed Afrocentric values. The kind of emotion-laden controversy that divided both races, and set them against each other, met the histrionic demands of television and thereby became a prime factor in halting the forward progress of the civil rights movement before it reached the poor blacks huddled below the poverty line.

Little Rock had demonstrated that rhetorical violence inevitably begets the real thing, but the lesson was largely ignored as race-baiting became a standard means of discrediting social programs that for 50 years had provided a safety net for those unable to earn a subsistence income. However, the residual effect of the nation's heritage of racism, and the necessity of federal intervention to deal with it, had been indelibly impressed upon an up-and-coming politician from Arkansas who had been a young student in Hot Springs when the 101st Airborne Infantry landed at Little Rock. As president, Bill Clinton cited Martin Luther King Jr. as the teacher of his generation of Southerners and proclaimed reconciliation as the leitmotif of his second term.

But after 40 years of one-dimensional treatment of social issues by the media, which seizes upon conflict without proper regard for context or cause, it remained to be seen whether the lessons of Little Rock could be impressed upon the national consciousness.

Harry S. Ashmore is the former executive editor of the former Arkansas Gazette. He won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing and is the author of 14 books on public service, including a new edition of his book *Civil Rights and Wrongs: A Memoir of Race and Politics, 1937-1997*

GRAPHIC: Photo Arkansas Democrat-Gazette file photo

The lasting importance of Little rock lay in the forcing of President Eisenhower's hand. Faced with a state military force defying federal court orders, the president had to send in troops to restore order. Faubus, summoned for a meeting with Eisenhower in September 1957 at the height of the height of the crisis, was photographed returning with his wife, Alta, at the Little Rock Airport.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 03, 1997



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LEVEL 2 - 2 OF 32 STORIES

Copyright 1996 The Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
The Houston Chronicle

August 15, 1996, Thursday, 3 STAR Edition

SECTION: a; Outlook; Pg. 37

LENGTH: 1169 words

HEADLINE: Cuss Clinton, but don't 'Dog Patch' Arkansas

BYLINE: HARRY S. ASHMORE

BODY:

HISTORIANS tell us that every American president, with the possible exception of George Washington, was subjected to some degree of character assassination when he stood for re-election. It will soon be Bill Clinton's turn. And it should come as no surprise that the Republican campaign to unseat him will include a portrayal of the president as a duplicitous small-time politician surrounded by ignorant/venal aides imported from his benighted home state of Arkansas.

This kind of cultural demonization necessarily entangles the first lady, the senior White House staff, Clinton's associates during the time he served as governor of Arkansas and the feckless constituents who kept on re-electing him. It conforms to the media's long-standing stereotype of the state as a kind of atrophied Dog Patch, and it has bemused many a political writer.

In a New Yorker article, for example, David Remnick concluded: "'If the 'affair' called Whitewater has so far failed to come up with much in the way of crimes and misdemeanors, it has certainly revealed a political sociology: a low-rent atmosphere in which a few dozen people run the state, know one another all too well and do right by one another. '"

The existence of such a primitive, closed-end cabal was essential to the Whitewater criminal cases brought by Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr. Without it, there would have been no basis for reopening the investigation of a failed Arkansas savings and loan headed by James B. McDougal, onetime partner of the Clintons in the ill-fated Whitewater venture.

McDougal and his former wife, Susan, have been tried and convicted of conspiracy to defraud two federally backed financial institutions. Even so, he hardly qualified as a political shaker and mover in Arkansas, so a Democrat who did, Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, was also indicted in the savings-and-loan scandal. Tucker, identified in the media as Clinton's handpicked successor, was convicted of conspiracy and mail



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fraud in the same trial.

But, as a jury familiar with the reality of Arkansas politics was aware, treating Tucker and Clinton as bedfellows was preposterous. They had been bitter rivals since they emerged in the 1970s as the golden boys of a new political era.

Clinton had all but destroyed Tucker politically in the course of two vitriolic gubernatorial campaigns; when Tucker was elected lieutenant governor in 1990, Clinton saw to it that he was kept away from the reins of government.

The lack of connection between the two politicians was underscored in federal court, when Tucker was indicted for fraud in a cable-TV venture in Florida. In the absence of any showing that Clinton had a role in these transactions, Tucker's lawyers challenged the standing of the special prosecutor to bring the indictment. U.S. District Judge Henry Woods ruled that Starr had exceeded his Whitewater writ in going after Tucker.

Starr appealed, submitting a package of newspaper clippings to support the disqualification of Woods on the ground that he was known to be a friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton. A panel of three judges on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with Starr, but another district judge, Bill Wilson, entered the fray. He charged that the appeals-court judges had acted on the basis of "hearsay, hearsay on hearsay and triple hearsay contained in media reports. " Wilson, in a letter circulated to all jurists on the 8th Circuit, cited an article in Starr's exhibit by "a thoroughly discredited, save-your-Confederate-money-boys, die-hard segregationist, Justice Jim Johnson. " Since they were not Arkansans, he said, the three appeals-court judges who made the ruling without a hearing had no way of knowing that Johnson, the founder of the Arkansas chapter of the White Citizens Councils, had for more than 40 years subjected the state's political leadership to "scurrilous allegations made of the whole cloth. "

The partisan controversy generated by the Whitewater scenario now involves all three branches of the federal government. And it also points up the fallacy of the media treatment of Arkansas as a state held in thrall by a handful of like-minded highbinders.

As executive editor of the Arkansas Gazette, I was present at the creation of the ideological division in the state's political establishment. There hasn't been anything resembling a conventional political machine in Arkansas since Orval Faubus temporarily built one out of popular resentment against school desegregation. In my day, and even more so in Clinton's, the most striking aspect of the political scene has been the infighting that breaks out at election time.



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The Houston Chronicle, August 15, 1996

There are, of course, power brokers in Arkansas. They operate on the principle enunciated by the late Jesse Unruh, the longtime California Assembly speaker, who cited money as the mother's milk of politics. But the special-interest influence I witnessed in Little Rock never reached the level that now prevails in Sacramento.

This has nothing to do with morality, which usually ceases to be a relevant consideration when the milk is flowing. The difference is in the diffusion of political power. In Arkansas, the fixers who delivered campaign funds had to deal with influence-peddlers in 75 rural or exurban counties, where voters were primarily motivated by a wide variety of local considerations. In California, the special interests are permanently wired into the state Capitol.

This is not to suggest that competition at the grass roots necessarily improves the prospect for a triumph of virtue. But as it is still practiced in Arkansas, it does demonstrate the inherent absurdity of the effort to prove what has never been in dispute - that Clinton is a career politician who responds to the demands of his constituents.

In the first Whitewater trial, the jury convicted Tucker but rejected evidence purporting to link him to Clinton. In the second, the jurors looked askance at the whole concept of the trial when the prosecution attempted to establish a Clinton connection by citing the president's deputy White House counsel, Bruce Lindsey, as an unindicted co-conspirator in another bank-fraud case.

The bank's owners were acquitted on those counts that involved Lindsey, and a mistrial was declared on the others. When they were free to comment, jurors said they thought the government's money and their time had been wasted by bringing a case based on the only thing the prosecution could prove - that a longtime supporter of Clinton has been appointed to the state highway commission shortly after making a contribution to his 1990 gubernatorial campaign fund. Whatever may be said about this kind of politicking, it is hardly unique to Arkansas. The difference is largely one of style. Clinton looks the way he does because, as William Faulkner said, in the South, the past is not dead; it is not even past.

GRAPHIC: Drawing: Bill Clinton

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Editorial Opinion

NOTES: Ashmore, a former newspaper editor in Charlotte, N.C., and Little Rock,



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The Houston Chronicle, August 15, 1996

Ark., is updating his book, "Civil Rights and Wrongs," an account of the Clinton administration, to be published in the spring of 1997.
LOAD-DATE: August 16, 1996

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LEVEL 2 - 5 OF 32 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Little Rock Newspapers, Inc.
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

May 03, 1996, Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 786 words

HEADLINE: AUTHOR, EDITOR FROM ARKANSAS' PAST GARNERS AWARD

BYLINE: KATHY KIELY, Democrat-Gazette Washington Bureau

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- At a glittery evening ceremony over which Ethel Kennedy presided, one of the most loved and loathed figures from Arkansas' past was honored Thursday.

Perhaps not even President Clinton has aroused such sharply conflicting emotions in Arkansas as did Harry Ashmore, the former Arkansas Gazette executive editor who is this year's winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ashmore was honored as the author of 11 books, the most recent being "Civil Rights and Wrongs: A Memoir of Race and Politics," which was published in 1994 and is being updated.

In an interview before the ceremony, Ashmore, 79, said he regards American race relations as "an intractable moral problem that a system of government that was designed for compromise can't handle."

But the longtime Southern newspaperman's career was indelibly marked by the effort.

Although the award celebrates the writing Ashmore has done between hard covers, he is probably best known for the editorials he penned for the Gazette during the 1957 effort to desegregate Little Rock Central High School.

Ashmore and the Gazette won Pulitzer Prizes in 1958 for "demonstrating the highest qualities of civic leadership, journalistic responsibility and moral courage." Ashmore wrote editorials opposing Gov. Orval Faubus' decision to oppose admission of nine black students to the school.

Others were less appreciative of his efforts. According to Ashmore, the Gazette lost 18 percent of its circulation and more than \$ 1 million in revenue because of a boycott led by Faubus and local segregationists.

One anonymous 1957 letter to Little Rock merchants -- which the newspaper published on its front page -- denounced the newspaper as "the infamous Gazette" and accused it of playing "a leading role in breaking down our segregation laws,"



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destroying time-honored traditions that have made up our Southern way of life."

Faubus won a third term in 1958 by running in part against **Ashmore**. According to University of Memphis professor David Tucker's account in "Arkansas, A People and Their Reputation," Faubus would hold up copies of **Ashmore's** book, "An Epitaph for Dixie," during stump speeches and tell voters that their choice was between a newspaperman who would "bury the South we know" and an incumbent governor who would lead toward "even brighter pages in the history of the state."

But the book Faubus vilified was hardly a flaming civil rights tract. In it, **Ashmore** quoted without embarrassment or qualification a speech he had given several years earlier to Southern governors. He told the governors that the "practical problem before the South is to preserve social segregation while at the same time meeting the conditions of (the) Constitution."

In a 1957 editorial, the newspaper recommended the Little Rock School Board's desegregation blueprint as the work of locals who "felt (as do we) they were working to preserve the existing pattern of social segregation" by crafting a plan that would result "in the admission of only a few, carefully screened Negro students to a single white high school."

Ashmore makes no apologies for his endorsement of a gradual approach to desegregation.

"I was reasonably certain then -- and I think I have been borne out -- that the social relationships (between whites and blacks) weren't going to be changed very rapidly," he said.

Ashmore suggested that his critics who said he was too soft on civil rights came from outside the South.

"I don't think anybody on the Citizens Council thought I was backing off," he said.

Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., recalled covering a Faubus rally at which the governor vilified not only Time magazine and the Arkansas Gazette but Pryor's weekly newspaper at Camden. Pryor and his wife decided it would be prudent to leave the rally early.

"When we went to our car, there were people standing around it," the senator recalled. "It was a real oppressive atmosphere. I didn't know if they were going to let us get out of there. It was scary."

Ashmore, who left Arkansas in 1959 to head a think tank in Santa Barbara, Calif., said he gets friendly receptions now in Arkansas.

"I think I've been cleaned up," he said.

Even Faubus, who died in December 1994, mellowed. **Ashmore** said that in their later meetings, Faubus would recall how **Ashmore** had helped him win his first term in 1954 by editorializing against political opponents who accused Faubus of being a Communist.

"He always said to me that he owed me a great debt," **Ashmore** said.



He added with a smile: "I said, 'You have a hell of a way of paying it back.'"

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 03, 1996



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LEVEL 2 - 12 OF 32 STORIES

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The Palm Beach Post

December 18, 1994, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, Pg. 8J

LENGTH: 670 words

HEADLINE: ASHMORE'S 'MEMOIR OF RACE' HITS RIGHT TONE

BYLINE: TOM BLACKBURN

BODY:

CIVIL RIGHTS AND WRONGS: A Memoir of Race and Politics, 1944-1994 by Harry S. Ashmore. Pantheon; 441 pages; \$ 25.

Harry S. Ashmore has earned the right to be prescriptive about race relations in America, but despite a title that promises to sort out highways from blind alleys, his latest book is almost totally descriptive.

Maybe you can take the reporter away from the city desk - Ashmore has been a thinker at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, Calif., for 30 years - but you can't take the who, what, when, where, why and how out of the reporter.

Ashmore, a South Carolinian, became editor of the Arkansas Gazette in time to count for knockdowns at the bell when Gov. Orval Faubus closed the Little Rock schools and took on a reluctant President Eisenhower over desegregation. He was one of the hardy few southern editors who preached that the South could still be the South without segregation and that it would be a better without the lies, political buffoonery and bullying it took to preserve segregation.

That preaching didn't always reform the local congregation, but it won Ashmore a national reputation that grew with the publication in 1957 of an Epitaph for Dixie. In that book he explained how progressive government and native civility could clear the way to full citizenship for everyone.

Civil Rights and Wrongs describes how Dixie was resurrected by the Republican Party's southern strategy and how the friends and enemies of integration twisted a simple moral issue into complex social pathology we'll be working ourselves through for a long time.

Ashmore writes history from the top down, as you might expect from someone who has advised candidates, governors and presidents. Nearly every chapter title contains a president's name.

He lets you know which side he was on, usually the Democratic establishment's, although some of his freshest insight comes from Jesse Jackson's entourage. The chapter slugs tell you where he's going: "'Pinnacle: Johnson and the Great Society'" and "'Dead End: Triumph of a Great Communicator'" (Reagan).



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The top-down approach misses much that went on at churches, social welfare agencies, police stations, classrooms and in the streets. But the general trajectory seems right - from the stirrings in the aftermath of a war fought in the name of the four freedoms, through years of progress, the fragmenting of society and realignment of the parties, and then mass retirement from making the effort.

"There had never been a time when there was more talk about racism, and, it seemed to me, less understanding of its causes and effects," he writes of the turn of the decade. "In the 1980s a majority of white Americans had been persuaded that racial prejudice was no longer a deterrent to progress for the black minority. Once that notion became part of the conventional wisdom, those who opposed measures offered in the name of civil rights could claim immunity from any suggestions of bigotry."

Ashmore never stops to do what a reader wants him to, that is to verbally wring a deserving neck. His southern upbringing lets him allow for misjudgments but keeps him from mentioning malevolence or unbridled stupidity.

He also, at age 78, stays hopeful despite all he's seen. He sees opportunities for the Arkansan who is president now. At the same time, he is too much the reporter to miss the dangers.

"The task of redemption remained unfinished," he writes at the end.

When Lyndon Johnson was elected in 1964, Ashmore observes, 62 percent of the people believed the central government could be trusted to do what's right; 30 years later, 26 percent held that view.

It's not only that so few believe government will do right, it's that so many don't expect it to make much difference at all. Civil Rights and Wrongs will introduce those who missed it to a period of great social changes. And for everyone, it shows how much influence, good and bad, the federal government had on that change.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (B&W), Harry S. Ashmore (mug)

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 1994



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May 25, 1994, Wednesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Life & Style; Part E; Page 5; Column 1; View Desk

LENGTH: 783 words

HEADLINE: BOOK REVIEW / POLITICS;
A VISIONARY APPEAL FOR A COMMITMENT TO RACE REFORMS;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND WRONGS: A MEMOIR OF RACE AND POLITICS, 1944-1994 BY HARRY S.
ASHMORE; PANTHEON, \$25, 442 PAGES

BYLINE: By JONATHAN KIRSCH, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BODY:

The fires of Watts in 1965, like those of South-Central in 1992, were the beacon of a certain painful but insistent truth: Crime in the streets of America is merely the symptom of a much deeper social and economic malaise that we ignore at our own terrible risk.

What is needed to cure the ailment, argues Harry S. Ashmore in "Civil Rights and Wrongs," is "a firm commitment to massive social reform," a commitment articulated and embraced long ago by a nation that had declared a "war on poverty."

"A generation later, the commitment still has not been carried through," warns Ashmore in a memoir that amounts to a spirited appeal to the American conscience. "The steady escalation of violent crime has demonstrated the futility of relying on the criminal justice system, backed up by the military, to maintain a tolerable degree of domestic tranquillity."

It's telling that Ashmore invokes the solemn phrasings of the Constitution in his prose. He's a stalwart of American democracy, a goad to the American conscience, an intellectual from the Deep South who spoke out for civil liberties as an author and editor at a time and place where men and women were paying with their lives for their commitment to social progress.

These are the credentials that Ashmore brings to bear on "Civil Rights and Wrongs," a survey of the politics of race in America over the last half-century. Ashmore styles his book as a memoir, but it is really a work of political history. The author gives us a closely measured assessment of the civil rights commitment (or lack of it) of figures ranging from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Bill Clinton, from Booker T. Washington to Jesse Jackson.

At times, I wished that Ashmore were chattier and more forthcoming in his storytelling, but he is so intent on calling our attention to the ills and dangers of race relations in America over the last half-century that he does not find much room in 400-plus pages to kick back and tell some war stories.

Clearly, Ashmore has some good tales to tell. Born in South Carolina, he was



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Los Angeles Times, May 25, 1994

a ¹combat officer in World War II, a ²Pulitzer-winning newspaperman, the ³editor in chief of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and the ⁴leading light of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, a liberal think-tank in Santa Barbara.

Now and then, though, he tantalizes us with a memorable moment from a life of commitment and engagement. When Jimmy Carter was pilloried for confessing to lust in his heart in a Playboy interview, it was the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. who vouched for his morality to the Southern electorate. "They can't kill you for looking," the elder Rev. King insisted. "Old as I am, they still look good." Ashmore points out how effective the endorsement turned out to be "at an interracial peanut roast in an Atlanta park in the year of Our Lord 1976."

Ashmore, who still lives in Santa Barbara, is an insider in California politics too. He recalls, for instance, a visit to Jesse Jackson in a poor black neighborhood near USC. When Ashmore arrived, he found Jackson stretched out on a bed, tutoring an attentive Jerry Brown in the art of presidential politics: "What you've got to do to attract the black vote is get identified with Africa," Jackson intoned -- and Brown, accompanied by Linda Ronstadt, promptly embarked on a well-publicized jaunt to Africa.

Ashmore is not afraid to acknowledge that there have been a good many false starts and barriers on the road to equality. He demonstrates, for example, that the Democratic Party was thrust into the vanguard of civil rights advocacy despite its historical and political roots, not because of them.

Still, Ashmore refuses to admit that the problem of race in America is hopeless or intractable, and he closes his book on a visionary note. "The task of redemption remains unfinished," he observes, but he is encouraged by the latest Democratic President to undertake the task: "Bill Clinton came before the American people as a healer, committed to bringing together a divided nation," Ashmore writes.

"As a politician in a poor Southern state, Clinton had also recognized the end of racial discrimination as a pragmatic necessity -- not only to meet the pressure exerted by newly enfranchised blacks, but also to free whites of the crippling legacy from the racist past."

The closing passages of Ashmore's book -- so spirited and so full of promise -- are the true mark of the classic American liberal, an endangered species whose moments of glory and doubt are well described in "Civil Rights and Wrongs." And, we come to understand, Ashmore represents exactly the kind of Americanism that is essential for the success of a democracy.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 26, 1994



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The New York Times

May 22, 1994, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 7; Page 14; Column 1; Book Review Desk

LENGTH: 1214 words

HEADLINE: There Was Such a Thing as Justice

BYLINE: By Harry S. Ashmore; Harry S. Ashmore's latest book is "Civil Rights and Wrongs: A Memoir of Race and Politics 1944-1994."

BODY:

CRUSADERS IN THE COURTS

How a Dedicated Band of Lawyers
Fought for the Civil Rights Revolution.

By Jack Greenberg.

Illustrated. 634 pp. New York:

Basic Books. \$30.

IN 1982, when Jack Greenberg, then chief counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, arrived at Harvard Law School as a visiting professor, he was greeted by a picket line of black students protesting that no white man was qualified to teach a course on civil rights law.

The attempt to invoke an egregious standard of race-conscious political correctness provides a poignant reminder of how racial issues have been recast since 1949, when a fledgling, Jewish lawyer was hired by Thurgood Marshall to join the four black Legal Defense Fund attorneys engaged in chipping away at the body of Jim Crow law that consigned the great majority of blacks to second-class citizenship. The fund had been created nine years earlier by the N.A.A.C.P. as a tax-exempt organization.

Mr. Greenberg does not dwell on the Harvard incident in his memoir, "Crusaders in the Courts," nor does he need to, since irony is implicit in his account of the legal crusade that changed the contours of the nation's race relations. The batting average he established while arguing more than 40 key cases of racial discrimination before the United States Supreme Court guarantees his place on any list of those qualified to teach civil rights law -- as he has done at Columbia, first from 1984, the year of his retirement from the Legal Defense Fund, to 1989, and again from 1993 to the present. (In the intervening years he was dean of Columbia College.)

When Mr. Greenberg joined the crusade, Thurgood Marshall was still engaged in the flank attack on Jim Crow initiated in the 1930's by his mentor, Charles Houston, the vice dean of Howard Law School. The strategy was to avoid a direct challenge to the racial segregation that prevailed in American society. The Legal Defense Fund team, with the advice and counsel of legal scholars of both races, was proceeding case by case with litigation designed to undermine Plessy



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v. Ferguson, the 1896 Supreme Court decision that provided legal sanction for discriminatory state action.

Constitutional amendments enacted after the Civil War to guarantee full citizenship for former slaves were intended to insure their civil and political rights. But in the former Confederate and border states where the great majority of blacks still lived, the slaves' descendants were effectively disfranchised and left powerless to protest the injustice inherent in state-mandated segregation. The Court had approved enforced separation of the races on the premise that equal public institutions and processes would be provided for the minority. Separate they certainly were, equal they obviously were not.

The cases brought by the Legal Defense Fund built up a body of evidence that compelled judicial consideration of desegregation to correct the gross disparities that had resulted from failure to enforce the equalization requirement. By 1951, success in prying open professional and graduate schools led Marshall to undertake a head-on assault on the dual educational system as a whole.

On May 17, 1954, a unanimous Supreme Court handed down *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark decision that declared segregated education unconstitutional, and opened the way for application of the new precedent in all areas of state-sanctioned discrimination. Now a new generation of leaders emerged from the pulpits of Southern black churches, with the weight of the Federal Government on their side, to take the civil rights crusade outside the orderly confines of the courtroom.

Mr. Greenberg, in charge of the Legal Defense Fund after Marshall ascended to the Federal bench in 1961, found himself supporting new clients like Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and even the Black Panthers. The demonstrators, he writes, "made demands of society and when these demands went unmet, they invented and carried out forms of protest without much regard to whether or not their actions were defensible within the current state of the law, often conducting themselves in ways the law had never before addressed."

As the movement spread to the great cities outside the South, there was a widening split between integrationists committed to the nonviolent tactics espoused by Martin Luther King Jr. and separatists who responded to the militant rhetoric of Malcolm X and his successors. By the 1980's, Mr. Greenberg writes, the political reaction to three "long hot summers" of ghetto violence had halted progress toward a solution of the problems still faced by the poverty-stricken black underclass.

In the last decade of his 23-year tenure as head of the Legal Defense Fund, from 1974 to 1984, Mr. Greenberg and his team were engaged in a rear-guard action to prevent the overturn of laws and court rulings that had finally outlawed all forms of discrimination based on race, sex, cultural identity or sexual preference.

His account of the internal effects of the shifting currents of public opinion on the interracial N.A.A.C.P. and Legal Defense Fund is a valuable contribution to an understanding of the emotional gridlock produced by popular reaction to issues of race. It is also the hitherto untold inside story of a loose-jointed organization that enlisted the services of some of the most



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The New York Times, May 22, 1994

notable "social engineers" of the last two generations -- among them senior partners of leading law firms, judges, government officials and more than a dozen deans of law schools, including Yale, Columbia, New York University, Stanford, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tulane.

"Crusaders in the Courts" usually avoids getting bogged down in the legal files by larding case histories with firsthand sketches of scenes that unfolded on and off stage as brash young lawyers argued cases under duress in Southern courtrooms. Mr. Greenberg relieves his lawyerly prose with lively quotations from black colleagues' accounts of their experiences.

He takes justifiable pride in the growth of the Legal Defense Fund from a shoestring operation to a major law office with 25 lawyers, supported by hundreds of collaborating attorneys in all the major cities. There is more detail here than most readers would require, but this is lightened by echoes of incessant squabbling among strong-minded men and women at odds over real and fancied conflicts between the parent N.A.A.C.P. and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. The fund became autonomous in 1957, but the sparring continued.

Running through all this is the strain imposed by Mr. Greenberg's religious background, a matter of little consequence in the beginning, but the source of mounting tension as black and Jewish leaders divided on issues of affirmative action and reacted to the conflict in the Middle East between Jews and Muslims. There is, I think, encouragement in the fact that despite everything the little band of legal crusaders still managed to keep their eyes on the prize they sought -- a united America committed to seeking the goal emblazoned above the entrance to the courtroom where they won their most famous victories: Equal Justice Under Law.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Jack Greenberg, second from left, with Paul Perkins, left, and Thurgood Marshall, right. The lawyers were part of a defense team representing Walter Lee Irvin, second from right, in a Florida rape trial in 1951.
(U.P.I./BETTMANN/FROM "CRUSADERS IN THE COURTS")

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 22, 1994



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NABE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Juana Beatriz Gutiérrez is an immigrant who, at the age of twenty, moved to the United States from Zacatecas, Mexico in 1952. In 1956, Juana married Ricardo Gutiérrez who was serving in the U.S. Marines.



Juana and Ricardo Gutiérrez raised a family of nine children in the Boyle Heights section of the barrio of East Los Angeles. All of the Gutiérrez children went on to college after graduation from high school with several earning advanced professional degrees; several Gutiérrez children work in community service organizations and all are involved in the cause of community-improvement. Juana and Ricardo Gutiérrez have ten grandchildren, ages eight months to 14 years.

Juana Gutiérrez views the children of her community as extended family members, and has always been active in projects to improve her community. For more than 36 years, Juana has been a leader, an organizer, and a worker in countless community betterment programs, particularly those of the Santa Isabel Roman Catholic Parish. Community service in the Gutiérrez household has always been a family affair, with husband Ricardo and children supporting Juana's efforts.

In 1985, California State Assemblywoman Gloria Molina asked Juana and several of her closest friends to a meeting on state plans to construct a new prison in East Los Angeles. Angry that the proposed East Los Angeles jail was surrounded by schools and that the East Los Angeles community already housed three-quarters of the state's penal population, Juana and her friends vowed to fight the Governor's plan.

That 1985 meeting gave rise to the creation of an organization and a movement -- *Madres del Este de Los Angeles*, Mothers of East Los Angeles. Not economically rich - but culturally wealthy, not politically powerful - but socially conscious, not mainstream educated - but armed with the knowledge, commitment and determination that only a mother can possess, *Las Madres* organized the largest community mobilization in East Los Angeles since the anti-Vietnam War movement.

In mobilizing the East Los Angeles community, Juana and the co-founders of *Las Madres* used the community's churches and civic organizations to disseminate information and organize community members. Weekly candlelight vigils with attendance into the thousands brought increased media attention to the prison-site controversy, and additional support for their cause. On several occasions, *Las Madres* organized bus caravans to Sacramento to lobby state Senators against the prison construction plan.

Using both public protest and the process of law, *Las Madres* defeated the California prison plan. *Las Madres* has also been successful in subsequent battles to defend the community of East Los Angeles. In 1987, *Las Madres* played an integral role in stopping the construction of a municipal waste incinerator in the community. In 1987, *Las Madres* helped to defeat planned construction of an oil pipeline in East Los Angeles. In 1988 and 1989 *Las Madres* blocked the construction of toxic waste incinerators and treatment plans in the densely populated East Los Angeles communities.

In addition to defending the children and families of East Los Angeles from these environmental attacks, *Las Madres* operates programs to better the lives of East Los Angeles residents. *Las Madres* operates a Child Immunization Project, a Scholarship Fund, and a Community Youth Graffiti Abatement Project.

More than any one project or political victory, *Las Madres* demonstrates the powerful role mothers play in the protection and development of their communities and how our children benefit from their activism and leadership. The children of East Los Angeles have a brighter future because of *Las Madres*.

In recognition of her successful efforts to organize the mothers of East Los Angeles for the defense and betterment of their community, the National Association for Bilingual Education is proud to recognize Juana Beatriz Gutiérrez as its 1994 Citizen of the Year.

JUANA BEATRIZ GUTIERREZ
 924 SOUTH MOTT STREET
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90023
 (213) 263-8191

PERSONAL

Married to Ricardo Jesus Gutiérrez for 38 years.
 Nine children, ages 21 to 36.
 Ten grandchildren, ages 8 months to 14 years.

next update

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 1961 TO PRESENT: Active involvement in the Santa Isabel Parish.
- 1993: Support of the renaming of Brooklyn Avenue to Avenida Cesar Chavez
 Organized community awareness of the expansion of neighboring paint manufacturing facility
- 1991: Fight against Chen Clear, Vernon Facility
 Mernher AQMD Ethnic Council
 Volunteer Gloria Molina for Supervisor Capmaign
 Support of Kettleman City fight against toxic incinerator
 Eastside Economic Development Council
- 1990: Member Community & Labor Strategy Watchdog
 Charter Member for Southwest Organizing Committee
- 1989: Support for the People of Casmalia Against Toxic Dump
- 1988: Charter Member CCAT (California Communities Against Toxins)
- 1987: Organizer of the Boyle Heights Action Council to hire a full-time recreation director for the Boyle heights Recreation Center
 Member of the Coalition Against the Pipeline
 Member of the Community Against the Lancer Project, a proposed toxic waste incinerator.
- 1986/1987: Volunteer for City Council campaign of Gloria Molina
- 1986: Member Coalition Against Incinerator in Vernon
 Organizer with Jobs With Peace campaign for Proposition V.
- 1985: Organized Neighborhood Watch programs for Dolores Mission area residents and Grande Vista Street residents.
- 1984-1986: Member of parents group organized to stop the Los Angeles Archdiocese from the sale of Cathedral High School.
- 1983-1984: Involved in Whittier Boulevard Rehabilitation Program to beautify the business district.

AWARDS

- 1993: Mexican Mother of the Year
 Certificate of Appreciation for Environmental Justice,
 El Pueblo People for Clean Air & Water, Kettleman City, CA
 Crystal Eagle Award, CORO Foundation
- 1992: Pope John Paul II Benemereti Award
 56TH Assembly Resolution
 California Water Resources Recognition
 California Water Policy Conference
- 1991: Catholic Charities San Gabriel Region Resolution
- 1989: Boyle Heights Sports Center Appreciation Award
- 1988: Woman of the Year, California State Legislature
- 1987: Democrat of the Year, 56TH Assembly District
 56Th Assembly Resolution
- 1985-1986: Santa Isabel Sport Program Recognition
- 1985: Santa Isabel School PTA Award, dedication and service for 24 years

UPDATED 12/10/93

MELASI HISTORY

Madres del Este de Los Angeles (MELASI) , also known as Mothers of East Los Angeles - Santa Isabel, organized on May 24, 1984 with the sole purpose of fighting the construction of a proposed state prison in the East Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights. Through grassroots efforts they were able to inform, gather for protest and organize over 10,000 residents to defeat this project. After defeating the state, and having a Bill passed, declaring that no state prisons could be built in Los Angeles County, MELA-SI continued to fight all injustices throughout their community. In the 1987 Lancer project, MELA-SI played an integral role in stopping a municipal waste incinerator. In 1987 an oil pipeline was a great struggle for MELA-SI. They joined a city-wide coalition in order to fight the building of an oil pipeline that would have gone three feet under a Junior High School in East Los Angeles. This project was sponsored by powerful and wealthy companies, yet, the community joined together to stand up for its safety. In 1988, MELA-SI threatened to sue the City of Vernon, and California Thermal Treatment Systems (a Garden Grove based corporation) when the threat of another toxic incinerator emerged. MELA-SI once again, would not tolerate the exploitation and abuse of the community. It would also not allow the use of the people in the community to be used as guinea pigs, and once again, they claimed victory. In 1989, the Chem-Clear Plant project brought MELA-SI, and Huntington High School students together to stop a toxic plant that would treat 60,000 gallons of cyanide, and other hazardous chemicals, across the street from one of the largest high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. MELA-SI has fought many other battles, including the Casmalia Dump Site in Northern California, the toxic incinerator in Kettleman City, California, and malathion spraying.

Without the unity of the community, all of these victories could never have been accomplished. MELA-SI continues to promote this unity through their various programs and special events. The Water Conservation Program was a new and innovative program that was sponsored by the Department of Water and Power, Metropolitan Water District, and Central Water Basin. MELA-SI gave free Ultra Low Flush Toilets to DWP and CB customers in order to save money and water. The toilets only use 1.6 gallons of water per flush, saving up

to 5,000 gallons of water per year. The old, water guzzling toilets were brought back to MELA-SI for recycling, and the money generated from the recycled toilets was then used to fund other programs. These other programs include, the Lead Poison Awareness Program. MELA-SI employed local High School students to go door to door and educate the community of the dangers of lead poison in the home. Community members were then referred to local county health clinics in order to get their children tested. The Scholarship Program gives continuing students scholarships ranging from \$300.00 to \$1,000.00, so that they may pursue a higher education. In the last four years MELA-SI has given over \$100,000.00 to over 200 students. The Graffiti Abatement Program is internationally known for the pride and effort that hired local students take in keeping the community clean. MELA-SI is also proud to have an active role in the development of self-esteem and education in youth. The Mono Lake Committee and MELA-SI sponsors yearly visits to Mono Lake so that local youth may be exposed to areas outside of the city, and into areas of natural wildlife and at the same time learn about the importance of water conservation. MELA-SI is also a member of the Mentor Task Force in the Building a Healthier Community Program at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles and is a strong source in getting students to visit the Healthy Start Clinic at Roosevelt High School. Through the Mentor Task Force we have also been able to have students participate in the Shadow Program. Giving students exposure to new and interesting career opportunities in the medical, media, law enforcement, and more.

Starting October 1, 1997 we also have the Eastside Community Garden & Educational Center Project with the help of a Urban Resource Partnership Grant. With this project we will be working with five local elementary schools, three community organizations and involving the residents to become mentors to these students and working hand-in-hand in the garden. Through a grant from EPA we will also start in October '97 our Lead Poison Educational Program and will be going into classrooms and attending PTA and Town meetings to educate the public on Lead Poison in Children.

To ~~Steve~~
from Elsa

ALTEMUS
michele (302) 456-0753

Updates:

Juana now has 17 grandchildren and two on the way. (ages range from 19 years to five months)

Current projects that MELASI is now working on are:

Lead Poison Awareness Project: going to schools and businesses to inform students and adults of the dangers of Lead Poison in children and train them how to properly do lead testing in the home.

Youth Tobacco Intervention Program: training youth to do peer education on the dangers of tobacco use and to do merchant education on the new Federal Regulations preventing the selling of tobacco products to minors. Also conducting a billboard advertisement survey within 7 different communities.

The L.A. KICK Asthma Project: This pilot program in partnership with the American Lung Association of So. Cal. will include the Huff & Puff and the Open Airways programs in nine schools within the Wilson Cluster of LAUSD. There will also be outreach and education to all parents and community members.

Eastside Community Garden & Educational Center: This program was made possible through a URP grant and includes designing and implementation of a community garden planted and taken care of solely by students from the neighboring schools. Workshops for students and parents include woodshop projects (bird feeders, wooden Christmas yard decorations, mail boxes, garden boxes, ect.), Conservation training, community cleanup efforts and more.

And continuing grassroots outreach and community empowerment.