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## Women's History Month "Our History is Our Strength"

### Tribute to The "Godmother" of Civil Rights



*Dr. Dorothy Irene Height*

(March 24, 1912 – April 20, 2010) American administrator, educator, and social activist.

"We are not a problem people; we are a people with problems. We have historic strengths; we have survived because of family." - Dorothy Height

After college, Dorothy Height worked as a teacher in the Brownsville Community Center, Brooklyn, New York. She was active in the United Christian Youth Movement after its founding in 1935. In 1938, Dorothy Height was one of ten young people selected to help Eleanor Roosevelt plan a World Youth Conference. Through Eleanor Roosevelt, she met Mary McLeod Bethune and became involved in the National Council of Negro Women. Also in 1938, Dorothy Height was hired by the YWCA. She worked for better working conditions for black domestic workers, leading to her election to YWCA national leadership. In her professional service with the YWCA, she was assistant director of the Emma Ransom House in Harlem, and later executive director of the Phyllis Wheatley House in Washington, DC. Dorothy Height became national president of Delta Sigma Theta in 1947, after serving for three years as vice president. In 1957, Dorothy Height's term as president of Delta Sigma Theta expired, and she was selected as the president of the National Congress of Neighborhood Women, an organization of organizations. Always as a volunteer, she led NCNW through the civil rights years and into self-help assistance programs in the 1970s and 1980s. She built up the organization's credibility and fund-raising capacity such that it was able to attract large grants and therefore undertake major projects. She also helped establish a national headquarters building for NCNW. She was also able to influence the YWCA to be involved in civil rights beginning in the 1960s, and worked within the YWCA to desegregate all levels of the organization. Height was one of the few women to participate at the highest levels of the civil rights movement, with such others as A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, jr., and Whitney Young. At the 1963 March on Washington, she was on the platform when Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Dorothy Height traveled extensively in her various positions, including to India, where she taught for several months, to Haiti, to England. She served on many commissions and boards connected with women's and civil rights. In 1986, Dorothy Height became convinced that negative images of black family life was a significant problem, and to address the problem, she founded the annual Black Family Reunion, an annual national festival.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton presented Height with the Medal of Freedom. When Dorothy Height retired from the presidency of the NCNW, she remained chair and president emerita.

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### *Community Outreach: "Growing and Empowering Future Leaders" Teaches Leadership and Life Skills.*

National Black History Month celebrates, recognizes and honors the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans. This year's National Black History Month theme was, "African Americans and the Civil War." ATIC & MG Center For Excellence (Amicitia Maloon-Gibson, Founder) Partnered with "I'm Redeemed Outreach Ministry (Sylvia Smith-Outreach Minister, Founder) to empower youth during National Black History Month on Feb 19, 2011, about American History, the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen Incorporate and "African Americans and the Civil War."



**S**hown with only half of the group of Youth-ages 4-16 and their four mentors. These are "Our Future Leaders" "Don't quit or give up on them! Reach back in your community and be the difference you want to see.

Both of these Outreach Non-profit organizations have similar goals and objectives. Sylvia and Cita both have a passion for reaching out to young people especially those that are labeled "disenfranchised" and the family unit. WE have planned activities for them every week, month and several group annual events. Different people have difference needs. Each child is reached at their level taking the holistic approach.

**W**e look at the whole child and family unit on social, emotional, economic and some have physical challenges and special needs. Both non-profits organizations teaches life skills and mentor youth in basic "stepping stones" for them to become successful and grow and become productive citizens in their communities and attend college or serve in the military. Both of the organizations operating funding are faith, prayer and personal donations of their own resources and limited donations from people like you the reader. We are in dire need of two passenger vans to support our outreach efforts. Yes, we will take a used van that past a safety test as we are transporting children.

You may call Sylvia at 321.639.0879 or Cita at 321.537.5002. If you would like to sponsor one of our annual events please call us, no donation is too small. The annual event for at least Ten of the children above is May 21, 2011 to attend the Legacy Luncheon of the General Daniel "Chappie" James Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc, Central FL. We would love to take more. If you can help call us, a table for Ten is \$350.00. Thanks in advance. You may visit [www.mgc4e.org](http://www.mgc4e.org) for more information on empowering youth our future leaders.

**Motivation from Dr. Lewis**



### Women Entrepreneurs On their Rags to Riches Journey ©

**W**

How do women entrepreneurs, in this highly competitive and fast-paced environment move from “rags to riches” and reach the pinnacle of success? Despite their many challenges, succeeding is possible. It just takes seeing themselves as moving “water” that is always flowing outward and over barriers, not as an inert “rock” that has already stopped and remains stagnant.

Today, women have the capacity to unleash their powerful genetic makeup and strongly flow to live their dreams. Acting as water, not as rocks, gives women the opportunity to have their authentic voice heard. It is possible to find all categories of women entrepreneurs who master a fierce determination through a circuitous flow of understanding and finding their unique path.

The growth of women’s rights in America charts an accelerating upswing that rides a crest of tremendous energy and power. It is like a small stream that initially meanders slowly over the land. Then, it meets a larger stream and finally a rushing river, gathering momentum and rapidly pushing forward to its final destination. Many other movements follow the same kind of accelerating history, but women’s rights have a very specific type of power behind its strategic prowess and progress.

Early definitions of women’s roles consisted of restraints, shackles, and no elective power. They were not welcome in business or politics, merely holding supportive, invisible roles, no matter their internal strength. If they worked for wages, it was at the lowest end of the spectrum. Nor could women stand at a pulpit or podium, run a business or participate in a real profession. The original *Declaration of Sentiments*, the guiding document of women’s rights outlined in 1848 in Seneca New York, eliminated these oppressive laws and contained a call to action for equality in employment as well as in commerce as entrepreneurs.

Women entrepreneurs have long defied any ornamentation, boxes or obstacles, not sitting still like a rock with no voice or forward movement. Currently, celebrations of water are found everywhere throughout the economic and political spectrums, where women continue to strive for financial equity, running large-scale businesses as CEO’s and holding greater political status as evidenced by Nancy Pelosi, only third in line of succession for the Presidency, and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. These women enjoy a new kind of freedom. Yet, it does not come without a price. They must face their personal fears and overcome a great many adversities. They must

continually make choices, since it is impossible to assume every role and responsibility allotted to women. Whether their entrepreneur dream starts with big goals or dreams or out of necessity, these women believe that chaos is opportunity. Big changes, especially unpleasant ones, are like freefalling over waterfalls, hitting hard and paddling strong once landing.

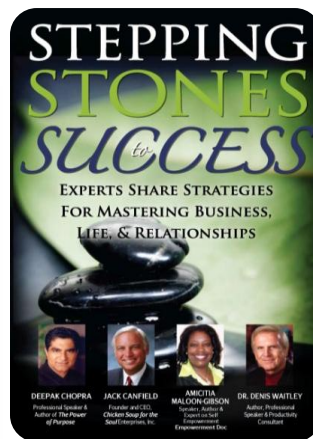
Entrepreneurial women are changing the face of family, community, and business in their leadership roles and blazing pathways of entrepreneurial milestones. They are problem solving women's needs and societal issues that still remain unfulfilled. Many come from poverty, debt and desperation and recognize that they are modeling for others that are now coming up the ranks.

To be like the ever-moving waters, women must believe in themselves, yield to necessity and flow into the cracks of change. They must believe they can overcome adversity with a supportive and positive determination. Water is relentless. Over time, it can change the course of a river, wear down granite, dominate and change a landscape. In the height of their expanding impact, women innovators, inventors, politicians, heads of state and pioneering business women tap into their inner selves to celebrate their unique feminine qualities and subdue the challenges of the day. As mighty rivers that flow into the sea and oceans, they leave rags and discrimination behind and embrace riches and equality for themselves and other women.

**D**r. Madeline Ann Lewis is the President/CEO of the Deline Institute for Professional Development, a woman owned business based in Capitol Heights, MD. Dr. Lewis is a business consultant; professional speaker, coach and the author of newly released "*Finding Your Best Inside.*" She can be contacted through her website: [www.delineinstitute.net](http://www.delineinstitute.net) or Email: [women@delineinstitute.net](mailto:women@delineinstitute.net).

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## Dr. JoAnne White Helping Others & Youth

I've always believed that other people's lives is humanness. In the service so much about us and we who we are. We crave back to others. I think it's a represents the best of us. I service when I was seventeen school program for children touched my life in such a changed my initial career education. It was on this tireless mothers and fathers endlessly to get their children



making a difference in essential to our of others, we also learn evolve more fully into community and giving wonderful trait and began my journey of and worked in an after-with disabilities. They profound way that I choice to special journey that I met who had to fight the education and

services they sorely needed to function. These parents were instrumental in changing the laws to accommodate their children with special needs. In the process of securing human rights for their children, they became empowered and open the doors to their children's empowerment. Their feat represents how we as women can and are empowered and how we in our individual and collective strength can change the world to resonate with our humanity and dignity.

To me, empowerment is all about finding the courage to uphold your convictions as these parents did, even if it goes against popular sentiment. You believe strongly in them and in their 'rightness' and their positive influence in advancing our collective humanity. As women, we are adept at creating and sustaining community and growing each other and youth with encouragement, faith and vision. We know the value of hard work, without shying away from it, and we experience joy and reward in mentoring and developing others. My commitment has been to touch as many lives as possible, for each to know and value their own empowering gifts and strengths, and in turn, shine the same beautifying spotlight on others. As we do that, one by one, change takes place globally in the service of unity and love.

Jo Anne White, PhD was also an adjunct professor at Temple University. She's worked closely with administrators and professionals in the development of curriculum and training programs for schools, parents, clinicians and educators and for the education and empowerment of youth. Formerly, she held a position as Executive Director of a comprehensive educational, clinical, residential and community services program for over 250 children and youth at Bancroft in New Jersey. She also became the Director of Research, Evaluation and Training for the entire facility which included children, adults, an autism center, residential and community programs. Dr. White has also designed research, training and seminars for professionals and parents on a national scale. An International Author, certified Life, Leadership and Business Coach and certified Image and Branding Consultant, Doc White has authored and presented international seminars, business training programs, and authored over ten books. A frequent guest on radio and television, she now hosts her own "Power Your Life" radio show. White serves on the PWN Advisory Board and is an active member of The PWN Speaker's & Author's Bureau, National Association of Women Business Owners and a contributing author with Professional Women Publishing.

[www.docwhite.org](http://www.docwhite.org); [joanne@drjoanewhite.com](mailto:joanne@drjoanewhite.com)

## Ida Tyree Hyche, J.D. Inspiration

Tyree's Inspiration Thoughts (TITS): (my blog)



### Tyree's Inspirational Thought "Give Life Your Excellence!"

(Women's History Month - March 2011)

**W**hile sitting in the New Orleans airport recently, I saw this quote on the cover of a *Fortune* magazine, dated Mar 17, 2008, with a cover photo of **Steve Jobs, CEO, Apple, Inc.:** "we don't get a chance to do that many things, and every one (thing) should be really excellent. Life is so brief and then you die... So it'd better be damn good."

The statement provides profound insight for those who lose sight of their significance. It reminds us that we are created for a distinct purpose, daring to make a difference before our life ends. Indeed, Mr. Jobs' statement parallels with biblical scripture that behooves us to shape our lives according to our purpose ordained by God while in our mother's womb.

**B**egin with an appraisal of your life. Ask yourself, "Am I giving my life's activities and career a performance of excellence? Do I volunteer for leadership positions just to have title and prestige, delivering minimal performance? Am I leaving a legacy of excellence by example and training for others, particularly young people, realizing that it is only as we develop others that we permanently succeed? "We must give life our best effort, best talent, best presentation. Second-best efforts, working in areas we abhor, render us incapable of making our works a legacy of excellence.

**T**hrough giving life our excellence, we, like the late Dr. Dorothy I. Height, can live forever through the countless individuals we mentor, inspire, empower and train for leadership. In a statement issued in Washington, DC, on April 20, 2010, during her demise, NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous commented, "She will be most remembered for what she did to encourage women to reach greater levels of achievement, but the truth is that she also guided and mentored the ambition to service and contributions of thousands of men. Her passion for a just society and her vision for a better world inspires us all."

Let our prayer be, "Lord, give me and all women like me the power to make our lives count!"

**About the writer:** Ida Tyree Hyche has over 26 years experience with the federal government in Human Resources (HR) Management disciplines in the areas of civilian and military HR. As a Christian and civic volunteer, Ida has over 30 years of experience leading and serving others in such roles as Christian Education Director, Young People's Director, Program Director, and is an advocate for youth and young adults leadership development. A graduate of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Ida received her jurist doctor degree from The Birmingham School of Law in Birmingham, AL. She is a free-lance writer and conducts workshops.



## Rensselaer Summer Program 2011

The deadline is March 25, 2011

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### Empowerment Dr Cita: Upcoming Events!

March 22, Washington, DC "*Leading From Where You Are*" Just Lead Now! Title of Amicitia Maloon-Gibson new book, scheduled release date August 2011.

March 23, Baltimore, MD "*Leading From Where You Are*" Workshops

April 9, Authors Workshop, FL (Must register: 5 seats left)

May 6-7, Tramatology Conference (Mental Health), Tampa, FL

May 21, Armed Forces Day Tuskegee Airmen Educational Fund Luncheon, Viera FL.

August 12-14 PWN International Conference, The Power of A Woman, Louisville, KY  
[www.prowoman.net](http://www.prowoman.net)

August 22-26 BIG National, Boston, MA [www.bignet.org](http://www.bignet.org)

October 21 ALL Women Veteran's Luncheon, Tides Patrick, AFB (Space Coast Chapter #64)

November 11-13 Empowerment Island Retreat (9 spaces available)

*Congratulation to Mr. Farrell Chiles*

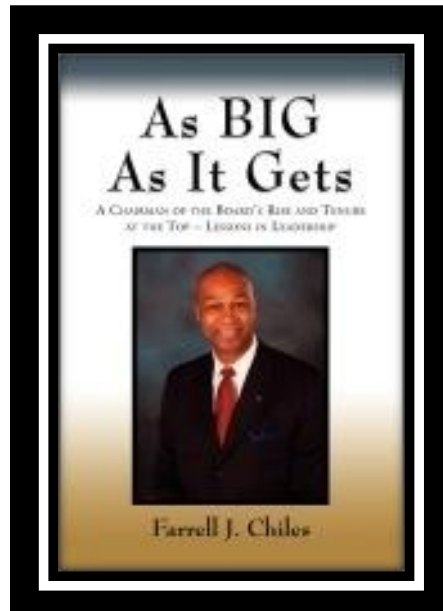
## As BIG As It Gets

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New Book Release

By Farrell J. Chiles

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ISBN 987-1-60910-265-4    [www.BookLocker.com](http://www.BookLocker.com)

### **A**bout the book:



In *As BIG As It Gets*, Farrell J. Chiles chronicles his tenure as the Board Chair of Blacks In Government (BIG), the leading international organization for African-American public service employees. He presents his experiences, observations, and insight into leading BIG during an unprecedented period of growth. We begin with his election on the Board of Directors and follow his journey to his election as the Chairman of the Board for five consecutive terms.

Chiles shares his thoughts on effective leadership, the power of networking, and his forward-thinking vision for BIG. With great wit and candor, he hones in on both his strengths and challenges

as a leader and provides practical advice and tools for success.

This book is a must-read for individuals who have an affinity with BIG and, more importantly, for anyone seeking to be a transformative leader in today's challenging and competitive organizational environment.

Farrell J. Chiles served as Chairman of the Board of Blacks In Government from 2002-2006. His federal career included positions with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Army. In 2007, Chiles was the recipient of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board's Distinguished Public Service Career Award. He resides in California.

*Thanks, to the contributors for their articles and sharing their leadership experience. We are all on a journey, "Leading From Where We Are! Thank you for your continuous support through the years!*

*Sincerely,  
Amicitia*

STRATEGIES AND STEPPING STONES TO SUCCESS  
"GROWING AND EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS NOW!"

**"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life... as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."**



**- Booker T. Washington**

**Amicitia Maloon-Gibson**  
Retired United States Army Lieutenant Colonel  
President ATIC & MG Center For Excellence  
VP, General Daniel "Chappie" James Chapter,  
Board of Directors of The Tuskegee Airmen  
Melbourne, Florida

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