

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2022

Statement on the Death of Nichelle Nichols

July 31, 2022

In Nichelle Nichols, our Nation has lost a trailblazer of stage and screen who redefined what is possible for Black Americans and women.

A daughter of a working class family from Illinois, she first honed her craft as an actor and singer in Chicago before touring the country and the world performing with the likes of Duke Ellington and giving life to the words of James Baldwin.

During the height of the civil rights movement, she shattered stereotypes to become the first Black woman to act in a major role on a primetime television show with her groundbreaking portrayal of Lieutenant Uhura in the original Star Trek. With a defining dignity and authority, she helped tell a central story that reimagined scientific pursuits and discoveries. And she continued this legacy by going on to work with NASA to empower generations of Americans from every background to reach for the stars and beyond.

Our Nation is forever indebted to inspiring artists like Nichelle Nichols, who show us a future where unity, dignity, and respect are cornerstones of every society.

Categories: Statements by the President : Deaths :: Nichols, Nichelle.

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