

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to coanchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague, the Honorable Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

For the next 60 minutes, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on women's history, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents that we represent, and all America.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month.

We cannot forget our history. Yet, over time, the contributions of Black women have been consistently overlooked and forgotten.

□ 2015

I want to do my part to correct that record.

Specifically, I will highlight two trailblazing Black women from Rhode Island.

First, I want to honor Christiana Bannister, a successful businesswoman, abolitionist, and philanthropist. Born in North Kingstown in the early 1800s, Christiana was a successful hair salon owner.

Christiana was a staunch abolitionist and used her wealth to support the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, a unit of Black soldiers during the Civil War.

Dedicated to improving the lives of Black women in her community, Christiana founded the Home for Aged Colored Women in Providence.

Decades later, Maria Lopes, another trailblazer, was the first Black woman elected to the Rhode Island State Legislature and she carried on Christiana's legacy of activism in Rhode Island.

Maria lived in the Valley View housing project in Providence and made a name for herself as a social activist when she successfully blocked the Mayor of Providence from turning the housing project into luxury apartments.

In 1973, Maria stormed the city council chambers with over 400 residents

and supporters to prevent the sale of Valley View.

Thanks to Maria's advocacy, when Valley View was eventually sold, 25 percent of the units remained Section 8 housing.

In 1989, Lopes won a seat in the Rhode Island House of Representatives where she served for over a decade, championing affordable housing issues.

I certainly would not be standing here today as Rhode Island's first Black Member of Congress if it were not for the tireless work of Maria Lopes and Christiana Bannister.

Women's history extends beyond the confines of March. Women's history is happening every single day and is worth acknowledgement every day, as well.

We must continue to uplift the hidden figures in our history.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the Honorable GABE AMO from the great State of Rhode Island for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida, the Honorable Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank my coanchor, JONATHAN JACKSON, from the great State of Illinois for coanchoring this Special Order for the last year and a half I think it is.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the courageous Black women trailblazers whose determination and unwavering dedication have shaped the history of our country. Because of them, I can speak before you on this floor today.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect on the courage and the commitment of Black women who have left an indelible mark on our society and inspired future generations to carry the torch of justice.

Among these trailblazers stands Shirley Chisholm, who shattered the glass ceiling in American politics. She holds a special place in my heart.

Shirley Chisholm broke down the barriers and beat the odds to become the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968. She proudly fought for the rights of neglected communities and progressive politics that benefit working families.

Her historic 1972 Presidential campaign upended the status quo and gave hope to a new generation of leaders by encouraging them to trust in the strength of their voices.

However, Shirley Chisholm wasn't alone. She was surrounded by women such as Barbara Jordan, a powerful force in American politics due to her unrelenting devotion to justice. She made history by being the first Black woman elected to the Texas Senate and the first Black woman from the South to be elected to United States House of Representatives. She worked nonstop to advocate for civil rights, immigration reform, and the rule of law.

Last year, we mourned the loss of Eddie Bernice Johnson. I had the honor

of serving alongside her at the end of the 117th Congress. Her whole life was about serving others, whether it was as a nurse at the VA in Dallas or in the Halls of this very institution.

These trailblazers and countless others who followed in their footsteps have made a lasting impression on women's history. Their legacy is proof of the perseverance of the American people. We can pay tribute to these extraordinary people during Women's History Month by recommitting to the fight for justice, equality, and opportunity for all Americans.

In their honor, let us strive to create a better union for all the generations to come.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK from the great State of Florida for her remarks.

Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio, the Honorable Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to join my colleagues for this Special Order hour. I cannot think of a better time that I would stand in this House and be able to salute women, especially Black women.

I thank our coanchors, the Honorable JONATHAN JACKSON and the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, my good friend, for reminding us of our rich history.

Today, we will hear many members of the Congressional Black Caucus come forward and talk about a list of women, especially Black women, who came before us and whose shoulders we stand on, like Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Shirley Chisholm. Later this week, in this very Chamber, for the third time, a woman will sit in the seat where you are sitting, Madam Speaker, as we hear the State of the Union Address—a Black woman, who also happens to be the first woman ever to become Vice President of these United States of America.

We also celebrate this month—sadly, that we are giving it 1 month. Obviously, if I had my way, we would celebrate it every day, but we will honor women like those who have been able to sit in that seat running Fortune 500 companies—people like Ursula Burns; my good friend, Roz Brewer; and now Thasunda Duckett. We also honor young women like poet Amanda Gorman.

We think of the women who have done so much, whether they are doctors or athletes or educators or judges like Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson—another Black woman whose shoulders we stand on.

But let me end with this, Madam Speaker, as we saved the best for last. There are 31 Black women serving in the United States Congress. If I had enough time, I would do a roll call telling you that they hail from Alabama to Washington, D.C.

Let me just leave it at this: 31 Black women—thank God we put people over

politics; 31 Black women serving in this Chamber that understand that we have a right to women's reproductive rights; 31 Black women understanding that we support the child's tax credit; 31 Black women who understand that more women are now insured because of the Affordable Care Act; 31 Black women who understand that the first act that then-President Obama signed was the Lilly Ledbetter Act.

I could go on and give you a walk through this amazing history that I have been allowed to serve in as the ninth Black woman to have chaired the Congressional Black Caucus. I say to you that we have been fortunate to have another female sit in that chair as the Speaker, NANCY PELOSI.

To those who are witnessing us tonight, I say to all watching, we celebrate, we honor, we stand on the shoulders of women, especially Black women, because we know when women succeed, America succeeds. Let us continue to put people over politics.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the former Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman, the Honorable Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY from the great State of Ohio for her remarks.

Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable Congressman PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for that kind introduction and also the gentlewoman from Florida for hosting this Special Order hour. They come here every week bringing the message from the CBC, and they do an incredible job.

Also, it is very difficult to follow my classmate, the former chair lady of the CBC. It is a very hard act to follow. When I see her, I kind of cringe because I know I better get it together. The Honorable JOYCE BEATTY has been a true friend, sister, and colleague to me.

And to you, Madam Speaker, as you sit in that seat, it is apropos that this month you have been given the honor to stand over the Speaker's rostrum and control the House of Representatives, so I salute you, as well, as a woman.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the influence and achievements of Black women in America during Women's History Month. First, I will discuss the origins of Women's History Month.

Women's History Month started as Women's History Week in Santa Rosa, California, in 1978. The local Sonoma County Commission on the status of women planned a week of celebratory events to connect the International Women's Day on March 8.

The events highlighted the many contributions of women to American history, culture, and society. It included school presentations in Sonoma County, a student essay contest to honor local women with the parade through downtown Santa Rosa.

The year after that, Santa Rosa's historic week triggered similar events to celebrate women in communities nationwide.

In addition, historians and women activist groups began to push for a National Women's History Week.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential proclamation to declare the first week in March as National Women's History Week.

However, 1 week was not enough to celebrate the enormous contributions of women to American history, so Congress created Women's History Month in 1987. It is stated that the month would recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of America's history in a variety of fields.

This month, we honor women from all races, cultures, and creeds during Women's History Month. However, we are here today as the CBC to honor Black women who have made a difference in America, and many of them need to be recognized more often: Women like Bessie Coleman, the first Black woman to be a licensed pilot in this country; Alice Coachman, the first Black woman to win an Olympic medal for the United States of America; Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the United States; Phillis Wheatley, the first Black woman to publish a book in this great country; and Mary Jane Patterson, the first Black woman to graduate from an established college.

We also have Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first Black nurse and eventual co-founder of the American Nurses Association. More than that, Mahoney was one of the first women to register to vote in Boston after her retirement in 1920.

Maggie Lena Walker, the first Black woman to start a bank and serve as the president of a U.S. bank.

Alice Dunnigan, the first Black woman to cover the White House as a reporter.

Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to become an astronaut and go into space. Jemison overcame her fear of heights to do that. Can you imagine?

□ 2030

These extraordinary Black women are a few of the millions who have made a difference in our country. Today, Black women are setting new standards of excellence in the sciences, the arts, athletics, politics, mathematics, education, medicine, and the law, just to name a few.

I am proud to be here to celebrate the contributions of Black women—I am the product of a Black woman—and all women, to the betterment of America. They have helped to build this country, and we must do everything possible to protect the rights they have worked so hard for. As we discuss the whole notion around Black women and what they have contributed to this country, let's not forget all women and what they have done in this country.

I am just honored to be here on the floor tonight to say thank you to the many Black women who have made a difference in my life. To name a few: Jean Blakely; Esther Wright; Kay Thompson Payne; Dr. Jacqueline Young; Wanda Payne, my late sister; Sarah Jones.

I have been molded by Black women all my life, and I just feel an obligation to stand in the trenches and help them advance their careers. I am just really delighted to be here and express my gratitude to Black women and women as a whole.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr. from the great State of New Jersey. It has been a pleasure of mine to have worked with his father and to see his honorable son continue on in his tradition.

Tonight, in this great Chamber, we gather to honor and remember the contributions of women to the indispensable future of the American experiment with democracy. In particular, I rise to give special commendation to the role that Black women have played in the formation of American possibilities.

It is not such a stretch to suggest that America would be unlivable for a great many of its citizens were it not for the indelible work and prophetic imagination of women in this country.

Where would this country be without Eleanor Roosevelt, Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, Diane Nash, NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI, the Honorable Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE?

Black women, and all women really, are the fabric that holds this Nation together because when men have followed their egos and ambition into war and repression, it was the women of this country who stood up to the madness, demanding ever more forcefully that the center must hold.

On this side of the aisle, we still believe that every woman should have the right to vote, the right to equal pay for equal work, the right for every opportunity and resources available to any man.

We believe that when at all possible no woman should ever lose her life giving birth to a child in the United States of America.

We believe that the maternal mortality rates of Black women are a moral indictment against the persistence of bigotry and discrimination in America.

On this side of the aisle, we believe in the right of every woman to control what happens to her body as a matter of reproductive justice, personal autonomy, and self-determination. How dare any man tell a woman what she can do with her body? How dare any government come in between a woman and her medical decisions? How dare any political party use a woman's body as an opportunity to get elected rather than respecting the fact that every woman is made in the image of God?

That is the difference between this side of the aisle and, I must say, the other side of the aisle. This side of the aisle gave the Nation Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the first African-American woman to sit on the Supreme Court.

The other side of the aisle has spent the last 50 years trying to destroy *Roe v. Wade*. Even after they facilitated that disaster, they even are now trying to undermine in vitro fertilization, because that is the difference between this side of the aisle and the other side when it comes to issues that matter.

This side of the aisle produced the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, who was principally responsible for passing the Affordable Care Act that has allowed millions of people to come out of the suffering shadows and receive the healthcare coverage they deserve.

On the other side of the aisle, leaders of that party facilitated a racist lie regarding the birth certificate of the former President of the United States, President Barack Obama.

This side of the aisle facilitated the passage of Title IX. Many people are excited to see women playing basketball now, but that was part of the civil rights legislation that we hold dear. Title IX is a law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools or any educational programs. Some have said that this law has single-handedly been the reason little girls all over America enjoy opportunities that their grandmothers never had.

On this side of the aisle, we believe that every child is precious and that every little girl is a gift from God, and on this side of the aisle we don't want our sons to have any more opportunities than our daughters get to enjoy.

On this side of the aisle, we fight to expand freedom, opportunity, and the securities of justice to every American regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation.

I can't speak for anyone else, but on this side of the aisle, we believe the Bible when it says your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

Let me remind you today that, as a son of the civil rights movement, I am keenly aware of the fact that the movement that made my election possible would have been improbable were it not for Black women. I stand on the shoulders of many of these remarkable Black women who through their insight, their grit and generosity support the weight of generations yet unborn.

I see them all over my home district in Chicago and the greater part of Illinois. I have encountered them in the churches on the south side. They raised me. My mother is one of them, as are my sisters. They say hi to me in the supermarket. They meet me all over the district to talk to me about our Nation, their needs, and their lives. They are the daughters of thunder and the children of light.

Today, I am honored to recognize them. Today, I proverbially tip my hat and genuflect in the presence of such unusual greatness.

I am grateful today for the women in this Chamber who are my colleagues. I am grateful for what they do and for what they represent. Let us never forget that at the founding of this great institution, at the founding of this great country in 1776, and at the ratification of our Constitution in 1787, it was never in the imagination of the Founders that a woman would sit in these Chambers or cast votes as a Member of this body. However, look at what determination and faith can do. Look at what hard work and love for justice can do. I celebrate each of the honorable women who serve in this Congress, and I pray that this country will continue to provide greater room and greater opportunities for the genius of this Nation's women so that they can flourish and we can live up to our highest potential.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, as we gather here today, we must recognize and honor the contributions of Black women in politics. These leaders have paved the way for all women to have a seat at the table.

When we look back at significant historical events like the civil rights movement, we tend to overlook the women who played significant roles behind the scenes. The time to acknowledge their contributions and celebrate their achievements is long overdue.

There is one particular person who I would like to highlight, Ms. Prathia Hall. Born on January 1, 1940, she was known by various titles, including mother, preacher, feminist, and civil rights activist. Most importantly, she was the key inspiration behind Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prominent "I Have a Dream" speech delivered during the August 1963 March on Washington.

Despite experiencing racism and personal tragedies from a young age, Hall was able to follow in her father's footsteps and become a passionate advocate for racial and social justice.

This story is simply one of many who, despite being a key piece to the puzzle of our democratic system and making up 7.8 percent of the population, Black women are less than 5 percent officeholders elected to serve in executive offices, Congress, and State legislatures.

Black women have given 110 percent of their time and efforts in leading and serving as attorneys, plaintiffs, organizers, educators, secretaries, and while playing many more roles in the background.

March is a significant month to honor the contributions of Black women in American history. We shouldn't just honor the legacy of Prathia Hall on this single day. It is our responsibility to honor her every single day from now on.

As Black women continue to struggle for representation, we have a responsibility to ensure that the progress made

by Black women in the past is not lost. We have a responsibility to pursue and fight for equality for everyone and make sure our fight for equality is eventually attained.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about women's history and the many great contributions they have made.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), the Congressional Black Caucus chairman.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON and Congresswoman CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for co-anchoring tonight's Special Order hour. I thank all the Members who have come to honor the start of Women's History Month, and I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to commemorate Women's History Month and to reflect on the innumerable contributions to our country that women, and Black women specifically, have made throughout our Nation's history.

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the generations of Black women whose courage, advocacy, sacrifice, and patriotism have moved our country and the world forward. For generations, Black women have been hidden figures, leading our country through social evolutions, critical periods of growth, and eras of innovation.

From the civil rights movement to consistently serving as a foundation for our community's success, Black women continue to push the needle. In fact, to the co-chairs, just this weekend we were in Selma for the 59th commemoration of Bloody Sunday.

One of the people that we had the honor of hearing from was Ms. King, who was the person who received the letters from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he was writing the letter in a Birmingham jail. As she explained that process, it was his handwritten notes on scraps of paper that were passed to his attorney that ultimately were written by this Black woman that actually gave us that letter. I went up to her after the conclusion of her panel, and I thanked her for being a part of history and being a part of the movement that led to the passage of the civil rights legislation and so many important bills.

□ 2045

It was also in 1968 when Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman in Congress. She, along with her colleagues, sought to make America live up to its promise that we are all created equal and, in this body, founded the Democratic Select Committee, which ultimately would become the Congressional Black Caucus.

I am so honored to serve as chairman of this Congressional Black Caucus, and I am proud to say that today we are now comprised of the largest membership in our Nation's history.

The CBC has grown from 13 members when we were founded 52 years ago to

60 members representing more than a third of the U.S. population, including more than 20 million Black Americans.

It is on Shirley Chisholm's shoulders that the Congressional Black Caucus has continued to fight to dismantle barriers, to create opportunities, and to protect the very rights of every individual, regardless of their circumstance, because we believe, as Ms. Shirley Chisholm believed, in a future where everyone can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Every day, we build on the legacy of Representative Shirley Chisholm, understanding that we must always speak truth to power and to stand up for the values that we hold dear.

We remain mindful that we must work to push back against efforts that impede progress, including those to roll back women's rights or to cut off access to capital and better opportunities.

This month and every month, we will remain mindful that we must directly address the challenges that persist, particularly for Black women in this climate.

Black maternal mortality is at an all-time high. Access to reproductive care; the ballot box; fair representation; diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace and in corporate America; and fundamental freedoms are under threat every day.

As the conscience of the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus will continue working, fighting, and leading to protect abortion rights, to invest in childcare, to deliver paid leave, and to finally achieve pay equity for Black women and to close the racial wealth gap in America.

These are the priorities that the Congressional Black Caucus believes are important as we uplift the issues of Women's History Month.

Again, I thank our co-anchors for leading tonight's Special Order hour and all of our members and especially the women of the Congressional Black Caucus.

When we started 52 years ago, the CBC was made up of 13 people—12 men and 1 woman. Today, I am proud that of those 60 members of the CBC, 31 are women, Black women, who are leading in the Congressional Black Caucus.

We have come a long way. We have a much longer way to go. I thank the members for their work on these important topics.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the tireless fighter, our leader, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman STEVEN HORSFORD, from the great State of Nevada. I also thank my co-anchor, the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, from the great State of Florida.

Madam Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about African-American contributions to American history and Women's History Month, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Cau-

cus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### CONTINUING TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) for 30 minutes.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Madam Speaker, each February, we come together as a nation to celebrate Black History Month. While we may have just closed out Black History Month, our celebration here in Congress and back home in west Michigan continues.

This year, I had the honor of partnering with the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives to elevate the stories of west Michigan's heroes, barrier breakers, and change-makers who shaped the course of our community and our Nation's history.

I am proud to offer these six stories of change-makers from Michigan's Third Congressional District. Here are their stories.

First, as we stand at this bridge between February and March, Black History Month and Women's History Month, as we just heard from our incredible Congressional Black Caucus, it is appropriate to begin with our first story, the story of Emma Warren Ford.

Mrs. Ford was a well-known community organizer who challenged Jim Crow laws and protested discrimination in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

She began her work in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the WCTU. At the 1982 WCTU State convention in Benton Harbor, she was appointed as the superintendent of the Work Among Colored People.

She was a founding member of the Married Ladies' 19th Century Club, hosting meetings and leading activities for the first literary and social club for African-American women in Grand Rapids.

In 1913, Mrs. Ford was chosen by Governor Woodbridge Ferris to represent the State of Michigan at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation in New York. What an honor for west Michigan.

Our second story is the story of Paul Phillips. Phillips grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, where he set a State record in track, earning himself a scholarship to Marquette University. Later, he received a master's degree and a Ph.D. in sociology from Fisk University. In 1946, Phillips came to Grand Rapids to work for the Borough Community Association. Passionate about civic and community work, by 1947, he became executive director and secretary of the Grand Rapids Urban League, where he would continue to serve for more than 30 years, including through the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s,

serving as a calm and strong force against racial discrimination.

Phillips was passionate about documenting and researching Black history in Grand Rapids and is one of the most influential contributors to the local history that we know today.

In 1951, Phillips won election to the City Charter Commission, one of the first African Americans elected to public office in Grand Rapids. He was also the first African American elected to the city's board of education.

During President Gerald Ford's time in office, Phillips served as a consultant on minority citizen concerns. In 1972, Phillips received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Grand Valley State University.

In 1967, Phillips passed away. The Paul I. Phillips Boys and Girls Club in Grand Rapids is named in his honor.

The third story is that of Yvonne Little Woodward, the sister of Malcolm X and a local leader and advocate in west Michigan.

Yvonne secured her place of recognition as the first African-American telephone operator for Michigan Bell in Grand Rapids in 1948.

Her son said: "She knew if she didn't do the right thing, it would take years for them to hire another Black operator."

In Grand Rapids, the operators took a vote on whether they were willing to work with her. The vote was unanimous except for one, who Little later won over.

From her engagement with customers at the Woodland Park grocery store to her civic involvements, winning people over was at the heart of how she interacted with her community.

Little was often called on to speak in west Michigan and elsewhere where children were the audience, focusing always on the next generation.

Our next story is Merze Tate. Merze Tate defied the odds during the Jim Crow era and became a college dean and professor, a world traveler, an international reporter, and an adviser to General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Tate was born 60 miles northeast of Grand Rapids in Blanchard, Michigan, in 1905. She longed to see the world outside the pine trees and dirt roads and to receive an education.

After high school, Tate applied to the University of Michigan but was rejected because of the color of her skin. This obstacle did not prevent her from getting an education. She was invited to attend Western Michigan University by President Dwight B. Waldo. In 1927, Tate became the first African American to graduate from that institution.

In 1935, she went back to school and became the first African American to earn a graduate degree from Oxford University. Her dissertation and scholarly interest focused on disarmament, and she pursued a Fulbright fellowship in India.

This wealth of experience led her to an appointment as an adviser to General Eisenhower on international relations. It also formed the basis for her