



E-Newsletter | May 2014

Mothers

Our mothers gave birth to us, raised us, and helped launch us as adults. What we sometimes forget is that mothers have done so much more than these very important jobs. Mothers have fought for the rights and privileges that we enjoy as U.S. citizens today. In honor of Mother's Day, we profile two amazing mothers in this month's e-newsletter: Annie Dodge Wauneka and Coretta Scott King.

Annie Dodge Wauneka ran for election to the Navajo Tribal Council to improve public health on the reservation. Born in 1910, Wauneka survived the influenza epidemic that killed thousands of people on the reservation. Because of this experience, she became interested in ways to improve health and alleviate poverty. Wauneka spoke both Navajo and English and was able to reach members of the reservation through a biweekly radio program. During her almost three decades of dedication to public health on the reservation, Wauneka brought modern western medical practices, particularly cleanliness, to her people. Wauneka helped eradicate tuberculosis on the Navajo Reservation and reduced infant mortality.



Annie Dodge Wauneka



Coretta Scott King

The first Native American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1963 from President Lyndon B. Johnson), Wauneka was proclaimed "The Legendary Mother of the Navajo Nation" in 1984. Legendary Mother Wauneka had eight children. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, received numerous other awards and was bestowed with several honorary degrees. Her biography is titled *I'll Go and Do More*.

Coretta Scott King helped ignite the civil rights movement, in partnership with her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. Coretta Scott King understood that women needed to be heavily involved in that movement and

pleaded "Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul." The mother of four children, King spent the four decades after the death of her husband advancing social programs, peace and justice around the world. She lent her support to emerging democracies around the world and advocated for racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, full employment, and nuclear disarmament.

A founder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Coretta Scott King was known worldwide for her dedication to human rights for all. She received over 60 honorary doctorates and numerous other awards. King has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

These mothers are among the group of amazing moms featured in the exhibit "Showcasing Great Moms" on the Google Cultural Institute <http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/exhibit/showcasing-great-moms/QQv7Tp9Z?projectId=women-in-culture>.

We dedicated our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* to the memory of our mothers. We are proud to stand on their shoulders and the shoulders of all of the amazing women who came before us.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America
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