

---

# THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE

---



---

## Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.  
This War on Oppression will only be won as one  
mass movement.

---

## Sections

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
- **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
- **Announcements**
- **Happenings Gallery!**

## Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

# Spotlight

## Inspiring, Unapologetically Black Trailblazer R.I.H.



Cicely Tyson

(December 19, 1924 – January 28, 2021)

By DonnaMarie Woodson



Cicely Tyson receiving Medal of Freedom from President Obama 2016

When I first heard the news of [Cecily Tyson](#) passing on Thursday, January 27th, I thought back to all the beautiful, heartbreaking, and poignant stories of my ancestors she portrayed on film.

Ms. Tyson had a remarkable career that spanned seven decades. She refused to accept

roles that demeaned Black people and urged other Black actors to do the same. Her shattering of racial stereotypes in the 1970s propelled her to stardom and fame. She won Emmys, a Tony, an honorary Oscar and multiple awards from civil rights and women's groups.

Ms. Tyson strategically selected powerful roles with an intent to elevate how Black actors were perceived. With dignified grace, she starred in films such as "Sounder" and on TV with ["The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."](#) She strived to shatter stereotypes and inspired many Black actresses along the way to follow her footsteps. A younger generation of Black actors — Viola Davis, Kerry Washington and Zendaya among them — all paid homage to Tyson after learning of her death at age 96 on Thursday.

Davis said Tyson made her feel "valued in a world where there is still a cloak of invisibility for us dark chocolate girls." Washington felt Tyson was a "foretaste of glory," while Zendaya, who made Emmy history last year as the youngest lead drama actress winner, called the actor "one of the greatest to ever do it."

Ms. Tyson portrayed the rich tapestry and compelling stories we had been forbidden to present because of racism. We were relegated to

mammy roles or the black-faced minstrel shows where we're always happy and singing. Ms. Tyson was embraced and celebrated for the richness of her spirit as she so eloquently told our story as Black women in America. These aren't just Black History stories; they are American stories!



Before her passing, Cicely Tyson praised 22-year-old poet [Amanda Gorman](#). Like many who heard Gorman's [powerful Inauguration Day performance](#) on Jan. 20, Tyson was struck by the power in the young writer's verses. She shared a touching note of thanks to Gorman on Wednesday "[Amanda Gorman], *your words remind us that we will*

*rise, rebuild, reconcile and recover. Thank you for your words and light.*"

[Click on Picture to Watch](#)



[Inaugural Speech - "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman](#)

Upon hearing the news of the icon's death and the honor of being appreciated, a tear-stricken Gorman thanked Tyson and called her a legend who gave "us Black girls everything." Many shared their grief with Gorman, commending the difference the actress made in people's lives and the difference Gorman herself is set to make.

Tyson would likely be proud of Gorman's upcoming year. The poet will be performing at the Super Bowl in February and is expected to release two books later this year.



She's the writer of "[The Hill We Climb and Other Poems](#)," and "[Change Sings: A Children's Anthem](#)," set to publish on September 21.

Additionally, a [special edition version of the](#)

[poem](#) Gorman read during the inauguration, accompanied by a forward from Oprah Winfrey, is scheduled to publish on March 16.

Amanda Gorman was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1998. She was raised by her single mother, Joan Wicks, a 6th-grade English teacher in [Watts](#), with her two siblings. She has a twin sister, Gabrielle, who is an activist and filmmaker. Gorman has said she grew up in an environment with limited television access. She has described her young self as a "weird child" who enjoyed reading and writing and was encouraged by her mother.

Gorman has an [auditory processing disorder](#) and is hypersensitive to sound. She also had a [speech impediment](#) during childhood. Gorman participated in speech therapy during her childhood and Elida Kocharian of [The Harvard Crimson](#) wrote in 2018, "Gorman doesn't



view her speech impediment as a crutch—rather, she sees it as a gift and a strength."

Gorman told [The Harvard Gazette](#) in 2018, "I always saw it as a strength because since I was experiencing these obstacles in terms of my auditory and vocal skills, I became really good at reading and writing. I realized that at a young age when I was reciting the [Marianne Deborah Williamson](#) quote that 'Our deepest fear is not



Amanda Gorman

that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure' to my mom."

In 2021, Gorman told "CBS This Morning" co-host Anthony Mason that she used songs as a form of speech therapy and explained "My favorite thing to practice was the song Aaron Burr, Sir, from "Hamilton" because it is jam-packed with R's. And I said, 'if I can keep up with Leslie in this track, then I am on my way to being able to say this R in a poem."

Amanda attended New Roads, a private school in Santa Monica, for grades K–12. As a senior, she received a [Milken Family Foundation](#) college scholarship. She studied sociology at [Harvard College](#), graduating *cum laude* in 2020 as a member of [Phi Beta Kappa](#).

It's poignant that Cicely Tyson's final tweet was celebrating Amanda Gorman and her impact on the future. This is an example of the true impact that Cicely Tyson had not only in film, but in civil rights, and humanity.

Let us honor and celebrate the life of Ms. Cecily Tyson, our Miss Jane Pittman, Rebecca in Sounder, and myriad vivid performances. Even at the age of 88, she was awarded the Tony for best leading actress in a play for the revival of Horton Foote's ["The Trip to Bountiful."](#)



(Tyson (right) with Condola Rashad in the play “The Trip to Bountiful” (2013). Sara Krulwich/The New York Times)

**A life lived with integrity, and gratitude for those who came before, honoring their lives and the tears of over 400 years. Ms. Tyson’s passing comes just a few days after the release of her memoir "Just As I Am." Released on Jan. 26 and published by HarperCollins, the 432-page book is dedicated to her daughter, referred to in the book as “Joan” for anonymity. It hit No. 1 on Amazon within hours after Ms. Tyson’s death.**

### **Works Cited:**

<https://nyti.ms/3abJZkO>

<https://nyti.ms/2XrDleP>

[https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/cicely-tyson-amanda-gorman\\_ca\\_60146455c5b63b0fb280c1b5](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/cicely-tyson-amanda-gorman_ca_60146455c5b63b0fb280c1b5)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/biden-transition-updates/2021/01/19/958077401/history-has-its-eyes-on-us-poet-amanda-gorman-seeks-right-words-for-inauguration?fbclid=IwAR0psNdrbVa8mDgilk4ZAoxP1WAwHn8oOTWg4Xm0bR1A5FwomRmiLWpPir8>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanda\\_Gorman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanda_Gorman)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicely\\_Tyson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicely_Tyson)

## Editorial

# **Donald Trump Had to be Impeached Twice**

By

**Tarik Kiley**

**January 25, 2021**



**Mr. Trump is the first American president to face impeachment twice. If that is not bad enough, he is also facing his impeachment after his presidency has ended.**

**Why is he facing this sort of punishment? Well, he must understand that behavior has consequences.**

**According to Newsweek, "A week before Trump's exit, the House of Representatives voted 232–197 to charge Trump with "incitement of insurrection" after a mob of his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6th to protest the certification of Biden's win. Five people died in the riot, including one law enforcement officer."**





**For his entire term, Mr. Trump spoke without thinking. He used twitter to spread lies. His lies led to insurrection. It is simply not acceptable for the President**

**of the United States to blatantly lie and get away with it.**

**If Mr. Trump is competent, then lying and saying that the presidential election was stolen from him and encouraging violence so that he may stay in office, is unacceptable. Encouraging political violence such as this is criminal.**

**But this is the second time that Mr. Trump has been impeached. So, he has committed crimes previously. According to Newsweek, “In 2019, Trump was charged by a Democratic House with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for allegedly attempting to coerce Ukrainian officials to provide election interference against Biden. Trump denied the charges and was acquitted by the Senate, which allowed him to finish the remainder of his term.”**



Mitch McConnell

**The most remarkable thing about his first impeachment is that the Republican controlled Senate refused to remove him from power. The Senate could have essentially prevented the attempted insurrection by**

**removing Mr. Trump from power. Still, so many Republicans had drunken the Kool-Aid.**

Of course, now that Mr. Trump is facing impeachment after he has left office, the ability to remove him from office no longer applies. Still, the probable punishment of no longer being able to run for federal office again, is a pertinent one.



Mr. Trump had to be corrected by the rule of law, particularly because of the dangerous cult-like nature of his followers. People were willing to commit acts of political violence in his name.

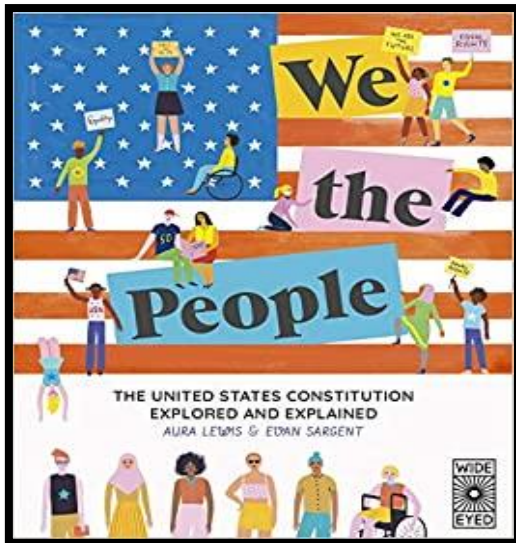
They literally stormed a federal building in Trump's name. People were willing to stage a coup in his name.

Mr. Trump's use of Twitter throughout his presidency and his abuse of the bully pulpit shows that we truly live in an age of information and that bad information can lead to bad consequences. So much so that Mr. Trump had to be banned from social media. It is almost like if you have a worldwide stage and you lie enough times, and you repeat the lie enough times, then some people will start to believe you.



The intense spreading of lies over social media should now be understood for its potentially dangerous impact. Though, the freedom of speech is most cherished in our country, still the way society consumes information today, shows that people who lie without reservation should not be given carte blanche. Someone must stand up for truth and facts.

Therefore, Mr. Trump had to be impeached twice. A narcissistic cult leader should not be able to lead people towards a coup of a duly elected constitutional government. We are not an authoritarian regime. We are a representative democracy with a constitution, and we follow the rule of law, not the rule of a single person. The



Trump administration was about obeying Trump. This is in antithesis to the ideals of freedom found in the constitution.

Also, Mr. Trump threatened to plunge us into a dangerous dystopia. His lack of empathy for anyone non-White was truly horrifying. His Muslim ban, locking up Latin American immigrant children and his crackdown on protests for Black political equality all showed us how miserable he could make living in America become.

*So, yes, Mr. Trump had to be impeached twice, so the rest of us could be free.*

### Works Cited

<https://www.newsweek.com/how-donald-trumps-second-impeachment-trial-will-different-his-first-1564269>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/18/us/politics/trump-impeached.html>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/trump-riots-politics-entertainment/2021/01/08/c2e18e22-51b7-11eb-83e3-322644d82356\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/trump-riots-politics-entertainment/2021/01/08/c2e18e22-51b7-11eb-83e3-322644d82356_story.html)

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/01/can-trumps-cult-of-followers-be-deprogrammed>

# Announcements



## N. Mecklenburg Democrats

**Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**ZOOM**

## N. Meck Progressives Cocktail Hour

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 PM**

**ZOOM**

## Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

**Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 PM**

**ZOOM**

# Announcements



## Senior Dems of Mecklenburg County

### Monthly Meeting

Friday, February 12, 2021

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

ZOOM

## LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg County

### Chapter Executive Committee

### Elections

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

6:30 PM EST – 9 PM EST

[us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us)



Please submit your group events to [donnamarie93@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie93@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.



# Black History Month



From left to right: Shirley Chisholm, Martin Luther King Jr., Claudette Colvin and Vice President Kamala Harris. Katty Huertas / TODAY / Getty Images

## Inspiring Quotes - Black History Month



**The Executive Corner:**

**Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson**

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson**

**Rev. Glencie Rhedrick**

**Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle**

**Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson**

**Contributor: Tarik Kiley**