
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

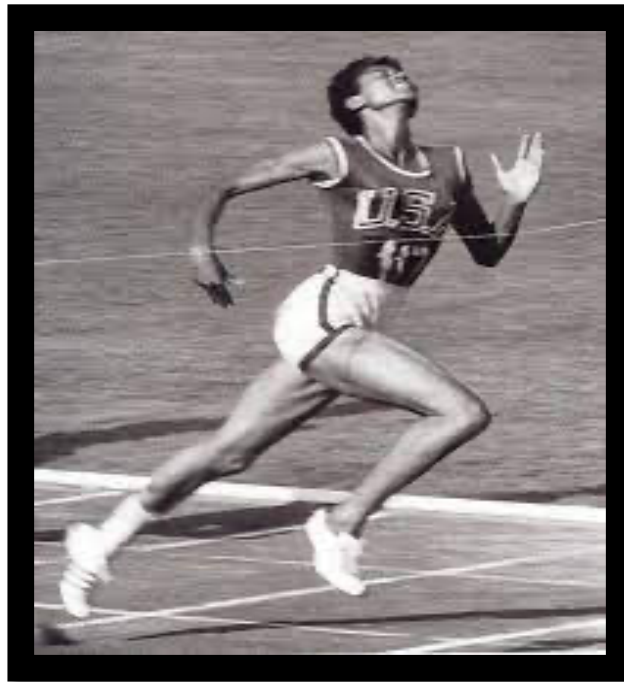
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
 - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
 - **Announcements**
 - **Happenings Gallery!**

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

Wilma Rudolph



"The Fastest in the World"

(June 23rd, 1940 – November 12th, 1994)

By DonnaMarie Woodson

"Incredible Black Women You Should Know About"



Click picture for the video - Wilma Rudolph - Interview

The story of Wilma Rudolph is a testimony to the miracles of faith, determination, and bravery. Afflicted with polio as a young child, Wilma rose to shine the light of possibility, walking in the truth of what Faith can accomplish.

I grew up learning about Wilma Rudolph as a once-in-a-lifetime Olympian. And in researching her story, I concur. Wilma was undeniable and earned her gold medals by going beyond the limit with heart, body, and soul. A Black woman striving in the 60s to be all that she can be in a world where that's not supposed to happen.

Following Wilma's successes as a sprinter in the 1956 and 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy, she became a world-record-holding Olympic champion and international sports icon in track and field; Wilma became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at the same Olympic Games.

She was inducted into the US Olympic Hall of Fame and started an organization to help amateur track and field stars. In 1990, Rudolph became the first woman to receive the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Silver Anniversary Award.

We can talk about her world records, but actions speak louder than words. Check this video out: [\(click on Wilma Rudolph 1960 Olympics\)](#)

Wilma Rudolph 1960 Olympics



Wilma Rudolph with Polio

bleak, "my doctor told me I would never walk again. My mother told me I would. I believed my mother."

Despite being told as a child she would never walk again, Wilma Rudolph relentlessly pursued her dreams of becoming an international track and field star. As one of 22 children, she was constantly surrounded by support and care, which she needed given her poor health. Rudolph survived bouts of Polio and scarlet fever. Her illness forced her to wear a brace on her leg.

Rudolph's diagnosis was very

Wilma was born prematurely to Blanche Rudolph at 4.5 pounds (2.0 kg) on June 23rd, 1940, in [Saint Bethlehem, Tennessee](#) (now part of Clarksville). She was the twentieth of 22 children from her father Ed Rudolph's two marriages. Shortly after Wilma's birth, her family moved to [Clarksville, Tennessee](#), where she grew up and attended elementary and high school. Ed, who worked as a railway porter and did odd jobs in Clarksville, died in 1961; her mother, Blanche, worked as a maid in Clarksville homes and died in 1994.



Young Wilma

Wilma suffered from several early childhood illnesses, including pneumonia and scarlet fever, and she contracted [infantile paralysis](#) (caused by the [poliovirus](#)) at the age of five. She recovered from Polio but lost strength in her left leg and foot. Physically disabled for much of her early life, Rudolph wore a leg brace until she was twelve years old.

Because there was little medical care available to African American residents of Clarksville in the 1940s, Rudolph's parents sought treatment at the historically black [Meharry Medical College](#) (now Nashville General Hospital at Meharry) in [Nashville, Tennessee](#) 50 miles (80 km) from Clarksville.

Because of the treatments, she received at Meharry and the daily massages from her family members, Rudolph was able to overcome the debilitating effects of Polio and learned to walk without a leg brace or orthopedic shoe for support by the time she was twelve years old.

Rudolph was initially homeschooled due to the frequent illnesses that caused her to miss kindergarten and first grade. She began attending second grade at Cobb Elementary School in Clarksville in 1947 when she was seven years old. Rudolph attended Clarksville's all-black Burt High School, where she excelled in basketball and track.



Wilma with her 3 Gold Medals

While still in high school, Rudolph competed on the collegiate level. She competed in the 1956 Olympic games and won a bronze medal in the 4x100 relay. Rudolph headed to the 1960 summer Olympics four years later, determined to get gold. Her performance in Rome cemented her as one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century. She won three gold medals and broke at least three world records. She would ultimately be inducted into the US Olympic Hall of Fame.

Wilma attended [Tennessee State University](#) in Nashville on a Track Scholarship. In college, she continued to compete in track. She also became a sister - "ooo oop!!" of [Delta Sigma Theta](#) sorority. *(Sidebar: I'm a Delta, University of Michigan.)* In 1963, Rudolph graduated from Tennessee State with a bachelor's degree in Education, becoming an educator and coach.

As an Olympic champion in the early 1960s, Ms. Rudolph was a highly visible Black woman in America and abroad. She became a role model for Black and female athletes, and her Olympic successes helped elevate women's track and field in the United States.

Ms. Rudolph also championed civil rights. On October 4, 1960, her hometown of Clarksville decided to celebrate with "Welcome Wilma Day", a full day of festivities. At first, Wilma refused to attend but, because she adamantly insisted, her homecoming parade and banquet became the first fully integrated municipal event in the city's history. An estimated 1,100 attended the banquet in her honor and thousands lined the city streets to watch the parade.



In 1962, at the age of 22, Wilma retired from competition at the peak of her athletic career. As Rudolph explained, she retired when she did because she wanted to leave the sport while still at her best. Bear in mind that when she flourished as an athlete, neither the media nor any big agencies endorsed athletes, like the way they do nowadays. Therefore, even after setting records at the Olympic Games, Rudolph's livelihood was quite modest.

She did not earn significant money as an amateur athlete and shifted to a career in teaching and coaching after her retirement from track competition. She began as a second-grade teacher at Cobb Elementary School, where she had attended as a child, and coached track at Burt High School, where she had once been a student-athlete herself.



**Wilma Rudolph National
Track & Field Hall of Fame**

In 1973 she was inducted into the Black Athletes Hall of Fame, and the following year in 1974, Wilma was named into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.



In July 1994 (shortly after her mother's death), **Wilma was diagnosed with brain and throat cancer.** Her condition deteriorated rapidly, and **died on November 12th, 1994,** at the age of fifty-four, at her home in Brentwood, a suburb of Nashville, Tennessee.



Wilma Rudolph, the little girl who had polio and diagnosed would never walk again, valiantly overcame the disease to become the fastest woman in the world!



Wilma Wins Goal!

Works Cited:

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<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/wilma-rudolph>

https://myhero.com/W_Rudolph_SJH_04

<https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/wilma-rudolph/>

Editorial

Who is President Biden's Supreme Court Nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson?

By Tarik Kiley
February 26th, 2022

So, President Joe Biden has nominated Ms. Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman nominee to the Supreme Court. This is in response to the vacancy caused by Justice Stephen Breyer announcing



his retirement last month. Ms. Jackson also seems to be a very viable and appealing candidate to the Supreme Court. According to CNN.com, “In June 2021, Jackson was confirmed with 53 votes to serve on the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. All 50

Democrats -- including occasional renegades Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona -- voted for her. And three Republicans joined them: Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Susan Collins of Maine.” This shows that she is a rising star in the judicial world, and that she has appeal across partisan lines.

There may be a question of Republicans voting to appoint a Supreme Court nominee from President Biden, but Ms. Jackson's recent ability to win Republican votes, shows that she works across partisan lines. According to CNN.com, “During her confirmation hearings for that [US Court of Appeals] post, Jackson said that she does not ‘rule with partisan

advantage in mind.” Her broad appeal makes her a more likely candidate to win the Supreme Court nomination. Additionally, her fairness and ability to work with others has been lauded by President Biden. According to NPR.org, “At a White House event Friday introducing Jackson, Biden described her as a consensus-builder with a ‘pragmatic understanding that the law must work for the American people.’”

Still, who is Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson?



Well, she does not come from the typical background of being a prosecutor or a corporate lawyer. Additionally, she has served as a federal trial court judge prior for eight years prior to her June 2021 confirmation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the District of Columbia—mentioned previously. And NPR.org goes on to say that “Prior to her becoming a judge, her legal experience was extensive and varied. While four members of the current court were at one time prosecutors, Jackson, if nominated, would be the first Supreme Court justice since Thurgood Marshall to have represented indigent criminal defendants.”

Her most significant opinion written as a trial judge was one that challenged former President Donald Trump. While not always siding against Mr. Trump, her most significant opinion of the Trump era did. According to NPR.org, “Perhaps[her] most prominent [opinion] was an opinion ordering President Trump's former White House counsel Don

McGahn to appear before the House Judiciary Committee to testify in its investigation into allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 elections. In it, she wrote, ‘Presidents are not kings. This means that they do not have subjects bound by loyalty or blood, whose destiny they are entitled to control.’” Clearly, this opinion shows her dedication to the US Constitution.



Not only has Ms. Jackson served as a public defender, and as a federal trial court judge, but she has also served as vice chairman of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, where she became known for being a consensus builder. She was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Miami, Fl. She was also a national oratory champion in high school and graduated with honors from Harvard University and Harvard Law School. At Harvard, she was an editor on the law review. She has also

clerked for three federal judges—this includes Justice Breyer, whose seat she is nominated to fill. She is married to Mr. Patrick Jackson and has two daughters. She is also related by marriage to Paul Ryan.

Works Cited

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/25/politics/biden-scotus-pick-ketanji-brown-jackson/index.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/14/1078086453/ketanji-brown-jackson-supreme-court-biden>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/kbj/>

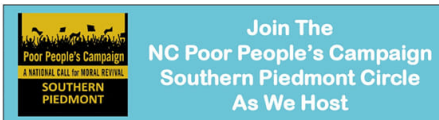
Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg:
Monthly Meeting
Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM
Pre-register here for the Zoom link.

The New North Carolina Project
Poor People's Campaign
Monday, March 7th at 6:30
ZOOM

**WHY IS CANVASSING
SO CRITICAL IN 2022?**



Maria Jose "MJ" Taminez Borda,
Regional Organizer



**"Canvassing -
You Can be Successful at It!"**

6:30 pm Monday, March 7, 2022
Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/CanvasTrain>

Learn how to connect with people in North Carolina and talk with them about issues important to them and their community



To register to attend:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?zmt=1645990141500.21ef45aa90de9939ea778cf99a5d84c6&x_zm_rhtaid=246

Announcements



N. Meck Progressives

Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 14th at 6:00 PM

**Regan Aduddell or Suzanne Elsberry, Co-Presidents of
the League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**

Zoom

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County

Membership Meeting

Wednesday March 9th

6:30 PM Candidate/Officials Reception 7:00 PM Program

Program: Dr. Aimy Steele

Zoom Link - Facebook Page

Mecklenburg County Senior Democrats

Monthly Meeting

Friday, March 11th at 11:30 AM

**Guest: George Bohmfalk, MD, Chair-elect, Health Care
Justice NC**

Zoom Link - Facebook Page

Announcements



LGBTQ+ DEMSNC

Drag Bingo: Petty Politics

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th at 6:30 PM

Petty Thieves Brewing Co.

413 Dalton Ave. Suite B

Charlotte, NC 28206

National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc

Queen City Metropolitan Chapter

FREE 3D Mammogram Event

Saturday, March 12th, 10:00 AM

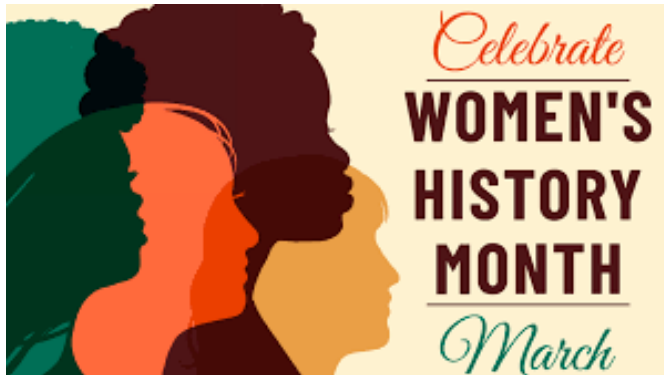
3250 Freedom Dr, Charlotte, NC 28208



**Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com
by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.**

Happenings Gallery!

Women's History Month



Here's to
STRONG WOMEN.
may we
know them.
may we
be them.
may we
raise them.



**WOMEN'S
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