

Good morning, everyone.

As we gather today at the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum reflecting on the extraordinary legacy of Sarah Stevenson, we recognize her incredible strength and devotion to our community.

She was a mother who fought for all of our children.

In the challenging climate of the 1970s, Sarah's dedication played a critical role in desegregating our schools, laying down the stones on the path toward a more inclusive future. Her spirit broke barriers as she made history, becoming the first Black woman on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board in 1980.

Sarah's march towards equality never ceased. With a voice filled with conviction and compassion, she continued her journey with the Charlotte Area Fund and the city's Community Relations Committee, bravely confronting and combating inequality in all its forms.

When she faced skepticism and resistance, her spirit never wavered. Her belief in action and change led to the inception of this Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum in 1980. Modeled after a similar group in Atlanta, it was her vision to create a sanctum for important conversations, especially for the African American community.

Today, as we come together in the warmth of Belmont Regional Center, let us hold close to the cherished values that Sarah

championed. This forum, where respect and thoughtful dialogue flourish, stands as a living tribute to her commitment to equality and open conversation.

Thank you, Sarah, for your courage and for a life dedicated to making this world and our community better for our children.

And thank you, everyone, for your commitment to continuing this significant journey toward a more equitable world.