



*Mothers of Professional Basketball Players*

## NEWSLETTER

May/June 2021

### A Word from our President..

BY MONA HARRINGTON-LAWTON MPBP INC. PRESIDENT

Hello Mothers,

Spring has sprung, and I'm wishing you a bright, warm, and beautiful Spring! The NBA season has been nothing short of exciting, with more to come as we head to the postseason, play-in tournament.

The WNBA is gearing up for a fantastic season that will tip off on May 14, we wish all the teams nothing but the best, and may the best team win! Ladies, since our formation in 1996, by those beautiful 23 mothers, we've engaged in so many charitable efforts, and August 2021 marks our 25th year anniversary of our organization. How exciting!

This is also an election year, and we are looking forward to a leadership team that will take us to higher heights. A hearty welcome, all of our new Moms, we can't wait to get back to in person meetings, in the meantime stay tuned for Virtual events.

Please, stay safe, I encourage you to take the vaccine when available to you, wear your masks, and continue to social distance, until we meet again.

Blessings!



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*"When someone shows you who they are, believe them; the first time."*

*-Maya Angelou*





MOTHER OF  
ROGER POWELL JR.



## A MOTHER'S DAY GUIDE AND PRAYER

BY CHERRY POWELL MPBP INC. NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Father God, on the day that we call, "Mother's Day," let all mothers on earth give praise, to You Heavenly Father for the children that You have given. For You have blessed them.

Holy Father, we pray in thankfulness for our mothers and for all the women that bring forth new life as well as the ones that care for new life. Father grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Most high Father please bless all mothers, grandmothers, god-mothers, mothers-in-law and all that care in a motherly role. For there's Joy in their laughter, faith in their souls & love in their hearts.

So, Father comfort their loving hearts to continue to love and give of themselves to others. Strengthen them when they are down and give them hope when they are discouraged.

Amen!







*"For there is always light, If only we're  
brave enough to see it. If only we're  
brave enough to be it."*

*- Amanda Gorman*









## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players Honors: DAYNIA LA- FORCE

QUESTIONS  
BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT



DAYNIA LA FORCE

"Whether that  
change is on or  
off the court, a  
collective group  
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anything.."

DAYNIA LA FORCE





## **Mothers of Professional Basketball Players Honors:** DAYNIA LA- FORCE

INTERVIEWER: INTRODUCE YOURSELF!

Daynia La-Force:

"I am Daynia La-Force, a child of God, Daughter, Mother, Wife, Coach and Activist. After 23 years of coaching women's college basketball at several institutions, I have become active in bringing awareness to the social and racial injustice that exists in America. Coaching has taught me that it takes a total team effort and likeminded individuals to make change. Whether that change is on or off the court, a collective group that sets goals and works together to achieve those goals can accomplish anything."

**"I have  
become active  
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DAYNIA LA-FORCE





## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

Honors: DAYNIA LA- FORCE

Daynia La-Force: "I am the only child of Trevor and Lucia Scholar, immigrants from St Lucia which is also where I was born. I married Eddie Benton Jr in 2019 and together we run a basketball training business called BentForce Basketball (bentforcebasketball.com) based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I have two beautiful children, Terance Mann (24) and Martin Mann (22)."

### INTERVIEWER: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO DO YOUR SHOW?

Daynia La-Force: "I was inspired to bring awareness to the racial injustice in America when George Floyd was murdered. His call for his mother shook my soul."

"If a man staring death in the face calls for his mother, then mothers are looked upon as saviors to their children. Do we recognize the power of our role? Is it possible that we hold the key to protecting, educating, and molding our children? As a mother of 2 boys, the answer is YES. I was and will always be their first teacher. I will always be their first role model.

Daynia La-Force: " I am the one person, since birth, who protected them from everything, including holding them in my arms from the moment of their birth, picking them up when they fell, and nurturing them when they were hungry. Mothers are indeed powerful. We raise our children to be who they are.

Sometimes we feel there are things we cannot control such as police brutality and systemic racism."

"My organization, Mothers Against Racism, gives that control back to the mothers of the world. Together, as a team, we can not only raise quality children but also ones who can change society to reflect equality and justice for all! My goal was to empower mothers, give them a voice, educate them, and provide the resources needed to raise socially conscious individuals armed to be a catalyst for change and to embrace diversity."

"Do we recognize the power of our role? Is it possible that we hold the key to protecting, educating, and molding our children? "

DAYNIA LA-FORCE





# Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

Honors: DAYNIA LA- FORCE

CONTINUED...

Daynia La-Force: "Our show gives mothers a voice and power. It gives them a platform to demand change in legislation and break the chain of systemic racism. We interview mothers who hold significant roles in society such as lawyers, judges, legislators etc.. Mothers who witness racism daily and despite their status, fear for the lives of their own children and many others. I hope, by hearing their stories, we can change the hearts and minds by igniting empathy from those who discriminate and oppress."

INTERVIEWER: WHO IS YOUR SON?

Daynia La-Force: "My son is Terance Mann. He is in his second year as a member of the LA Clippers. He was a second-round draft pick in the 2019 NBA draft. Terance has emerged into being a valuable player for the team. Despite the odds, he has been resilient. I am very proud of his commitment and dedication to the process. Terance grew up as a coach's son and learned the game through the eyes of a coach. This enhanced his basketball IQ and his commitment to playing the right way."

Daynia La-Force: "He is known as "a Swiss army knife" because he can do it all. I have written blogs on our relationship, his journey to the NBA and his first year in the league. The blogs can be read on my website: Coach La-Force: Mother Knows Best coachlaforce.com"

"My son is Terance Mann ...I am very proud of his commitment and dedication to the process."

DAYNIA LA-FORCE





# Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

Honors: DAYNIA LA- FORCE

INTERVIEWER: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT MPBP?

Daynia La-Force: "I was introduced to the organization by Leah Wilcox. She felt that the work I was doing in the community and using my platform for change was consistent with the mothers in the organization. Powerful women coming together to support and encourage their children who all happened to be professional basketball players, another team I wanted to be a part of! "

INTERVIEWER: WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH?

Daynia La-Force: "I would like to acknowledge my own mother, Lucia Scholar. A woman who has taught me so much about life. A woman who embraces elegance and grace. A woman who supports and encourages everyone. She was my first role model, and I am happy to say my collaborative spirit comes from her."

"Not too often do we get a chance to acknowledge our loved ones, but I want to take this opportunity to let her know how much I love her and how influential she has been in my life. I am who I am because of her love and sacrifice. Not to mention, she is great grandmother and continues to influence her grandkids in the most positive way"

INTERVIEWER: PLEASE TELL US SOME FACTS ABOUT YOU!

Daynia La-Force: "I played college basketball at Georgetown University and my son wears my jersey number, #14. I love to cook. I am very social. I think it's because I am an only child."

"Powerful women coming together to support and encourage their children who all happened to be professional basketball players, another team I wanted to be a part of! "

DAYNIA LA-FORCE





*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

*- Maya Angelou*









## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players Honors: LOUISE JACK

QUESTIONS  
BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT



LOUISE JACK

"My dad was a sharecropper, which means we had to work the land and pick the crops in turn for living on the property.."

LOUISE JACK





## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

**Honors:** LOUISE JACK

INTERVIEWER: INTRODUCE YOURSELF!

Louise Jack: I am Louise Jack. My official residence is in Fort Washington, MD, but since September of 2019 I have been living in Atlanta, serving as granny nanny for my first grandchild, Nash. Nash will be 2 on May 30th. It's an experience and joy I can't put into words.

INTERVIEWER: INTRODUCE YOURSELF!

Louise Jack: I love to sing, and have since I was 12 years old. I really miss singing with my choir in MD, "The Seasoned Saints".

INTERVIEWER: TELL US ABOUT YOUR SON.

Louise Jack: My son Jarrett Jack has been in the league since 2005 and after returning from two major injuries has played in the G-League for the last 2 years. The President of the G-League, Shareef Abdur-Rahim, (Deborah Hester's son, one of my Atlantic Region mom's), asked him to work and play with G-Team Ignite, which is a team of High School All-Star athletes anticipated to go high in the upcoming NBA Draft. They asked Jarrett to mentor them about their upcoming transition from high school to the NBA and the difference in the game going from high school to college. Quite a challenge and honor for him to be asked.





## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

**Honors:** LOUISE JACK

CONTINUED...

My second son is Justin, who played ball at Morehouse College until a shoulder injury and surgery ended his career. Justin graduated from Morehouse with a degree in Sports Medicine in August 2012.

Jarrett returned to Georgia Tech and completed his degree in Business Management in 2015.

INTERVIEWER: WHEN DID YOU JOIN MPBP, INC.?

Louise Jack: " I joined MPBP, Inc., in 2007 at the National Conference sponsored in Houston.

INTERVIEWER: SHARE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.

Louise Jack: I will always cherish my first experience in Houston, meeting the moms of many players I had seen play for so many years. The feeling of gratitude that the Lord had chosen Jarrett to be blessed to earn a living in something he loves to do. How proud I was of him and humbled to be a part of such a special organization, MPBP, Inc. I was greeted with open arms by the moms. Many of whom I have strong relationships with to this day.





## **Mothers of Professional Basketball Players**

**Honors:** LOUISE JACK

INTERVIEWER: TELL US AN INTERESTING  
FACT ABOUT YOURSELF!

Louise Jack: My dad was a sharecropper, which means we had to work the land and pick the crops in turn for living on the property. We had to feed the animals everyday, at the crack of dawn. One of the crops was Cotton.

I will never forget, the long days of picking hundreds of pounds of cotton each day in the smoldering heat. We moved to our own house when I was 14. I admire my dad because he never kept us out of school, (six of the eight of us went to college). I wear very little cotton clothing to this day.





"Get in Good trouble,  
necessary trouble."  
- Rep. John Lewis









## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players Honors: CAROLYN BREWER

QUESTIONS  
BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT



CAROLYN BREWER

"I own a hair  
supply store."

CAROLYN BREWER





## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

**Honors:** CAROLYN BREWER

INTERVIEWER: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Carolyn Brewer: I live in Farmington, Arkansas.

INTERVIEWER: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Carolyn Brewer: I love to collect old watches.

INTERVIEWER: TELL US AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF!

Carolyn Brewer: I own a Hair Supply Store and every time you see me I am usually wearing a wig or weave or clip ons!!

INTERVIEWER: WHO IS YOUR SON?

Carolyn Brewer: My son is Ronnie Brewer (retired). He was drafted by the Utah Jazz, 14th pick in the first round and played for 9 years.

INTERVIEWER: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF MPBP, INC.? SHARE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.

Carolyn Brewer: I've been a member since 2007. One of my greatest memories of MPBP, Inc is when we played a basketball game against the Football moms and I was a cheerleader! It was so much fun! Shaquille O'Neal and some other NBA sons came and refereed the game, we had a ball in Orlando, Florida! All the moms were laughing and just having a great time.





## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players Honors: JENNIFER IVEY

QUESTIONS  
BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT



JENNIFER IVEY

"I make  
jewelry..collect  
black art...and  
[I'm] a  
professional  
painter"

JENNIFER IVEY





## Mothers of Professional Basketball Players

**Honors:** JENNIFER IVEY

INTERVIEWER: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Jennifer Ivey: I live in NYC in HOLLIS Queens; the home of Run DMC, LL Cool J, Russell Simmons and Kareem Abdul- Jabbar

INTERVIEWER: TELL US ABOUT YOUR SON.

Jennifer Ivey: My oldest son Royal is a ten year vet. Drafted to the NBA 37th overall in 2004 to the Atlantic Hawks. He played 10 yrs on 3 different teams 76ers, Bucks, and OKC. He also played in China. He returned home to start his coaching career as an assistant coach for the OKC Blue- D league. Currently, he is an assistant coach for the Brooklyn Nets. He is in his 3rd year coaching in the NBA.

INTERVIEWER: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Jennifer Ivey: I love jewelry! I make jewelry and collect black art. My husband and I are professional painters.

INTERVIEWER: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF MPBP, INC.? SHARE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.

Jennifer Ivey: I've been a member since 2004. My fondest memory is working with the Northeast Region members to create a wonderful conference in NYC Aug. 2019 and as part of that creating an ongoing project with the Mother and Child program at Covenant House that just ended in Dec. 2020





# Mother's Day Poems

## A Mother's Love

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*"If she could change the world for you,  
without a doubt, she would.*

*If she could move all the stumbling blocks  
and sometimes she thinks she could.*

*But that's just a Mom's opinion,*

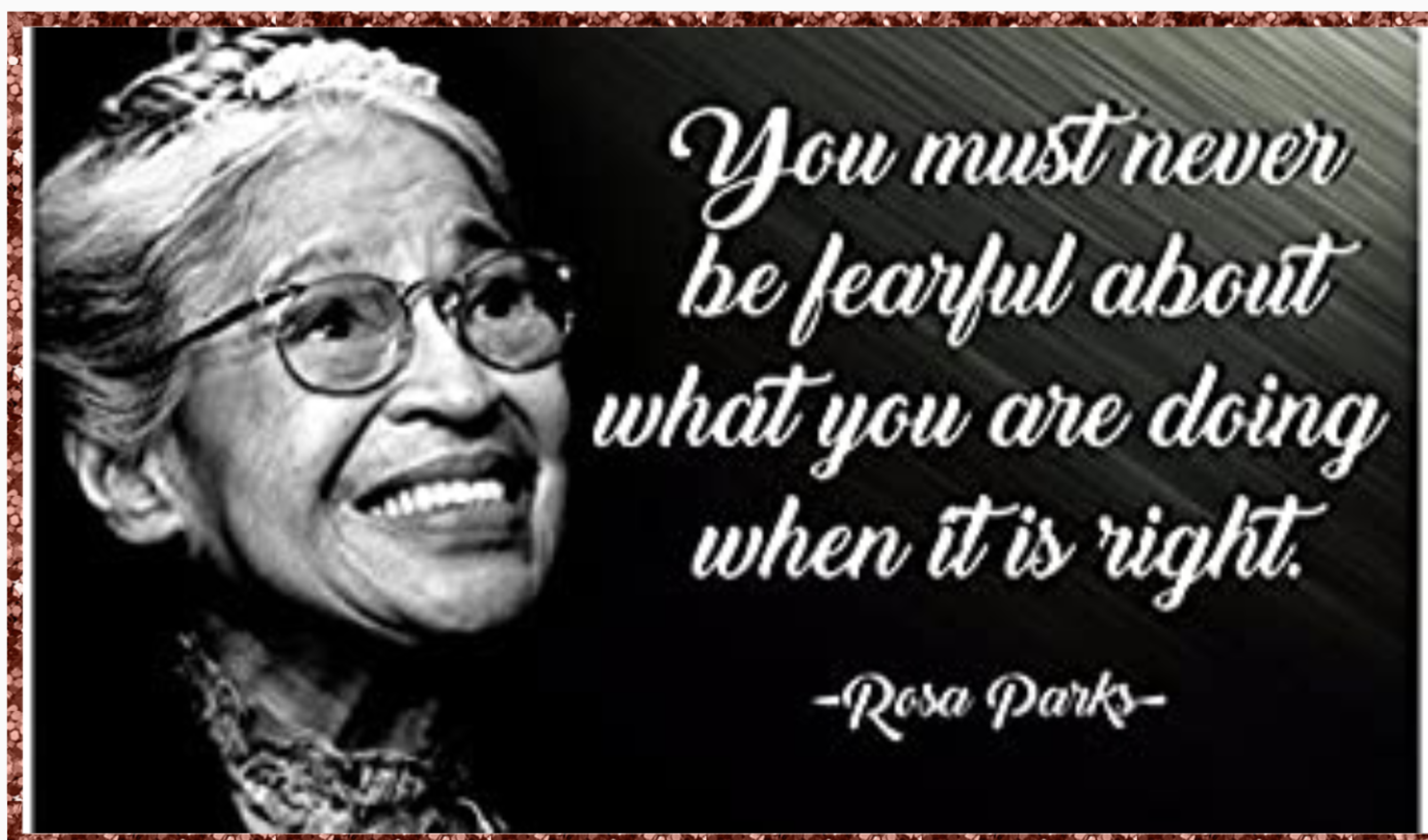
*Sometimes a Mom gets blind, so she builds  
her own little perfect world with only you in  
mind.*

*She knows the dark clouds are coming, she  
hears the thunder roar, that's why she  
shields you in her arms, fearful to let you go.*

*But that's just the way a Mother is, I guess  
they will always see their children through a  
tinted glass of what they want them to be."*

-SHAKIDAH









# Mother's Day Poems

## *A Mother Is...*

*"A mother is the salt of the earth...*

*A mother is the first teacher at birth...*

*A mother is that stone that will melt...*

*A mother is in a class by herself...*

*A mother is that tear that never shows...*

*A mother is that love that overflows...*

*A mothers is the bass where we all run...*

*A mother is the warmth of the sun...*

*A mother is the tried and true...*

*A mother is that special you!!!"*

-SHAKIDAH





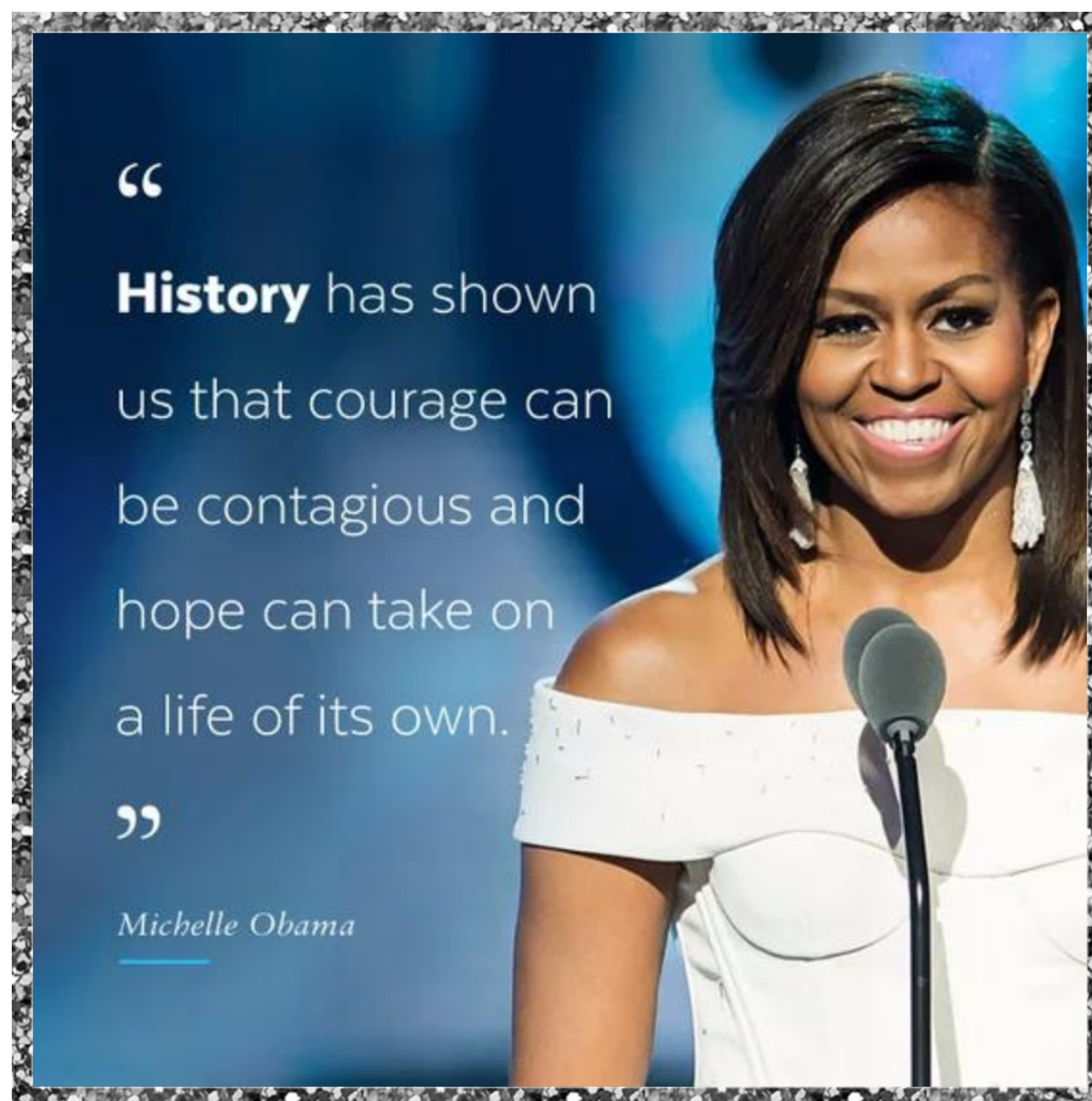
# Mother's Day Poems

## My Mother, My Jewel

*"A mother is a jewel to treasure,  
her love and kindness know how to measure.  
She can turn a frown into a smile,  
she helps you go that extra mile.  
I won't believe there is another  
to give the love that comes from mother."*

-SHAKIDAH







## SPECIAL GUEST: Wendy Sparks

How do you raise a professional athlete? That was a question that host Wendy Sparks didn't think she would know the answer to when raising her two sons but was more than prepared to learn as each of them started their young athletic journeys, in basketball (Khem Birch-Toronto Raptors) and football (Dre).

A strong and passionate woman of faith, Wendy puts her family first, and started "Court-side Moms" to showcase the other amazing women who have journeyed to the same spot, while taking very different pathways as their children became professional basketball players. She brings her spirit, joy and knowledge to each episode creating a warm environment for guests, an entertaining show for fans, and an excellent resource base for those parents who are just starting the journey with their own kids.







# *Congratulations*

*Monica Baldwin & Regina Glenn- Speights.*

*They were the 1st to pay their MPBP Inc. dues for 2021...  
Thank you so much ladies"*



# Congratulations



**Wanda Durant**

*(Mother of Kevin Durant)*



**Mary Ford**

*(Mother of TJ Ford)*

**CONGRATS TO THESE MOTHERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.**





# Mental Health Awareness Month!

SELF CARE IS SELF LOVE



**MAY 2021**





# Happy Juneteenth

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# *A Father's Day Tribute from MPBP Inc.*



*When someone has given  
so much of himself through the years,  
It's hard to find a way to say thanks.  
But for all the times  
You took the time,  
For All the sacrifices  
You've made....  
For All the wonderful memories  
You have given  
Thank You.*

*Happy Father's Day!*

-CHERRY POWELL

MPBP INC. NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Happy



Anniversary

Mothers Of Professional  
Basketball Players, Inc.





## Special Thanks to:



STACY ADAMS-WRIGHT  
MPBP INC. HISTORIAN

I'm the mother of three, 2 sons, 1 daughter. I have 4 grandsons, I'm patiently waiting on my granddaughter. 😊

My oldest son, Dorell Wright, played professional ball for 16 years. My son, Delon Wright, is in his 6th season, currently playing for the Sacramento Kings.

My position on the board is Historian. I collect & record history about our wonderful organization and moms. I also lead in organizing the MPBP, Inc. newsletter. It all started with my love for photography.

Please periodically check out our website & Onboard for great news & updates.  
Fun fact about me: I love to roller skate.





## Special Thanks to:



ROSON MUHAMAMD (EAST)  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Emerging pre-med student with more than 5 years working in the field of education as a full-time teacher. Currently working in the public health sector as a Field Base Mental Health Case Manager serving people who experience homelessness.

My hobbies include yoga, fitness, roller-skating, poetry, and serving my fraternity-Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

In addition to being in graduate school for my Master's in Public Health, I lead my community health organization--Black People Promoting Health--dedicated to leading Black health initiatives and providing a health network for Black people and organizations.



THE END