

PROFILE



SOJOURNER TRUTH
1797-1883

Activist

She was born a slave, with the name of Isabel Baumfree. In Hurley, New York, she became deeply religious. Her faith was strong. Isabel Baumfree knew neither she nor anyone else was meant to be a slave.

Freed from Slavery

She had twelve children, only to see them later sold off to other "masters" as slaves. She was a strict disciplinarian and taught her children to fight the vicious system of slavery.

A Vision

As a result of a religious vision, Isabel Baumfree left New York with 25 cents, one dress and a new name — Sojourner Truth. She took that name because she believed she had been commissioned by God and armed with the truth. She traveled to rallies and conventions and spoke out against slavery. She advocated freedom for slaves and equal rights for women.

Stood on Moral Ground

Although Sojourner Truth never learned to read and write, all who heard her speak were deeply impressed by her oratorical abilities. She felt she stood on high moral ground. Her height of six feet went along with her persuasive and thunderous voice. Indeed, she commanded respect. She had a special talent for reducing issues to a simple, powerful level where everyone could understand them. So powerful and convincing were her speeches, she sometimes shamed her opponents into hiding under their chairs. Her fiery reputation frightened some white abolitionists. However, after hearing her speeches, many realized she was speaking the truth about freedom and equality.

Ain't I a Woman?

She challenged an audience with her most famous speech, in which she said she had borne twelve children; and she could "out-work, out-eat, out-last any man!" At one point she was challenged to prove that she was a woman. She responded by displaying her upper body and continued to speak: "Ain't I a woman?"

A Place in History

Sojourner Truth earned her place in history as a superb freedom fighter. She was the first African American woman to publicly speak out against slavery.

ASTRONAUT

GUION BLUFORD

With achieving parents as models, he knew he would realize his dream to fly



The USA's first black person in space, Air Force Col. Guion Bluford symbolized an end to some man-made barriers on Earth.

"I learned to work hard for success. It was the only way I could achieve what I wanted. I also learned to be persistent and not let intermediate failures deter me from achieving a long term goal."

Hard work and persistence are the cornerstones of success. Our company was built on these principles. We understand the value of investing in people. We are committed to giving you the edge in every area of personal money management by serving your individual needs one at a time.



Supports Black History Month