

# OPINION

## THE CHRONICLE

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## Our Mission

*The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community*

### Celebrating the nameless women

March is Women's History Month. During the month, we celebrate and tout the accomplishments of female history makers. Most times, our attention focuses on well-known names; yet, there are many names that are left off the "popular" list of women to be acknowledged.

The list of omitted names includes your mothers, sisters, aunts, friends, and daughters. And while global names are important for future leaders to see, it's equally important for young girls to see women in their own households and local communities celebrated for the heroic acts they perform every day. But for some, putting a meal on the dinner table took just as much effort as running for vice president of the United States.

We don't hear about the single mother, standing in both parental roles; or the widow, who has to redefine her role in the household; or the student who stays in school despite all legitimate reasons for her to quit. These nameless women should have a place in our celebration each March, too. In their own way, they are blazing trails that are noteworthy to their families and communities.

I know it's impossible – and impractical – to have a huge list with billions of names that we place on social media for the world to see. But what if we all had our own "big" list that celebrates all the women in our personal and professional circles? Would that not be a start to expanding the celebration beyond the select few?

Look around you. There is plenty of opportunity to celebrate these nameless heroines. She's standing behind the register at the grocery store, or sitting in the boardroom, or nurturing children at a daycare, or making scientific breakthroughs. And even if you don't know her name, she is worthy of the celebration, the acknowledgement. Chances are, somewhere down the line or up the line, she is connected to history and greatness.

A big "Thank You" goes out to all women, especially those who are doing it without the recognition. Today, we salute you!

*Bridget Elam is managing editor of The Chronicle, author, mother and wife, and advocate for women's rights.*

# Have an Opinion

## Let Us Know!

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### We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com) before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 1300 E. Fifth St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website: [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com).

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NCAE responds to the decision of Governor Cooper, lawmakers to reopen schools

To The Editor:

"We agree with Governor Cooper and legislative leaders that North Carolina public school educators are eager to get back into their classrooms as soon as it is safe to do so. We thank all those educators who have been teaching, mentoring, and innovating, both virtually and in-person, under exceptionally difficult conditions since the start of this pandemic," said NCAE President Tamika Walker Kelly. "Educators also acknowledge that this pandemic has been equally challenging on students and parents, and all deserve to be lauded for their cooperation and partnership in the ongoing educational process."

"NCAE continues to stress the need for six feet of social distancing as recommended by the CDC in areas of high community spread to protect students and educators. This agreement between the governor and leaders

in the state legislature will needlessly encourage school boards to push students, educators, and staff into school buildings that do not comply with CDC guidance during a pandemic, which has already claimed the lives of 11,000 North Carolinians.

"It is deeply disturbing that the governor and legislative leaders failed to acknowledge the work that educators have been doing to keep students engaged and learning during the worst pandemic in a century, while effectively absolving themselves of any further responsibility for the health and safety of our public schools and those who learn and work in them. If the social and emotional needs of students is as important a priority to legislative leaders as their comments suggested today, we are looking forward to the immediate reversal of the decade of declining funding for school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and teacher assistants. Anything less would lay bare the partisan hypocrisy of justifying a politically expedient return to in-person instruction with the emotional needs of our own students."

N.C. Association of Educators  
Raleigh

### Women's History Month: What about our daughters?

NEW YORK, NY - To celebrate Women's History Month, Whataboutourdaughters? founded by a former presidential staffer Tiffany Vaughn Jones, has launched a women's empowerment campaign. A campaign that honors her former boss, Vice-President Kamala Harris, while also encouraging women and girls to honor a special woman in their lives through the Iconic Women Changing the World for Women and Girls campaign. A campaign that says being "iconic" is far less about being a superstar, actress, or model, and focuses more on the importance of being a role model to other women and in your community.

The platform encourages women to pass down greatness and build a legacy for women and girls. The campaign features Mrs. Chantel D. Harris, a human rights activist and the great-granddaughter of Alpha Kappa Alpha founder, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle.

Mrs. Harris's commitment to helping others started at a young age. Through her church, she served the homeless and worked with the Circle of L.O.V.E (Let's Overcome Violence Everywhere) program that was started by her grandmother and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Muriel "Puff" Lyle-Smith.

In Mrs. Harris's advocacy for women, she has lent her support to the national initiative Whataboutourdaughters? to help advance issues for daughters that are motherless, fatherless, homeless, forgotten, or hurting. Harris lost her mother at a young age and says, "After experiencing the loss of my mother and knowing the emptiness that can come from such a loss, Whataboutourdaughters?'s mission to help motherless daughters is a cause that is very close to my heart."

As a true heir to greatness, the AKA founder's granddaughter posted a selfie wearing her Whataboutourdaughters? "Heir to Greatness" sweatshirt. The merchandise is offered through Teespring, an online fundraising platform to raise funds for the 100-percent, volunteer-based organization.



Whataboutourdaughters? honors her former boss, Vice-President Kamala Harris, as an iconic woman and role model for women and girls and salutes Harris for her women's activism and refusing to sit on the sidelines of history. Vice President Harris is featured as an Iconic Woman to celebrate in the Whataboutourdaughters? Women's History Month collection.

The female empowerment t-shirt and accessories' line also celebrates unity, inclusion, and sisterhood. "Iconic Woman" is written in English, French, Spanish, Swahili, Chinese, Hebrew, and Hindi to represent women across the globe.

Throughout March, the campaign will bring visibility and awareness to unity, sisterhood, and service, while focusing on initiatives that help eradicate social and economic barriers that prevent a woman or girl from walking in greatness.

The organization will also be kicking off its annual shoe drive with shoes donated by the heir. The Alpha Kappa Alpha honorary member will be passing down new and gently worn shoes from her closet that will be donated to women and girls in need this summer.

In the spirit of sisterhood, Whataboutourdaughters? is encouraging women across the globe to write a love letter to the women in their lives who helped shape them into the women they are today. The platform hopes to inspire women to share their

notes and stories online using the hashtags #letterstoanicon and #womenshistorymonth2021.

At press time, Whataboutourdaughters? founder and former Biden-Harris staffer, Tiffany Vaughn Jones, said, "During Women's History Month, we salute the generations of extraordinary women, suffragists, and Black women that paved the way for women. Our mission is to continue to amplify the vital truth that when women succeed, the world succeeds. The election of Kamala Harris is indicative of how far we have come. However, our work is not done. We must rise to meet this moment and recommit ourselves to building a future of opportunity and prosperity for our daughters, our granddaughters, and all women in the community."

*Whataboutourdaughters? is a national community of women changemakers powered by SisterHood Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization founded by Dr. Rev Hilda Covington in 1996. The initiative inspires women and girls to build a legacy of greatness while pouring back into the lives of vulnerable women in the community that are motherless, fatherless, homeless, forgotten, or hurting daughters. The community-driven program has provided groceries, shoes, business attire, dolls, and enrichment programs to women and girls in need.*