Shirley Chisolm
1924 - 2005
The first black American woman
elected to the U.S. Congress
in 1968, she was known as a
strong liberal, championing
civil rights, women's causes,
and anti-poverty efforts.

Alice Walker
Pulitzer Prize winning author for The
Color Purple, her novels, short stories,
and poems are noted for their
insightful depictions of black
American culture.

Jackie Joyner-Kersee
Described by sports commentators as
"the greatest athlete in the world."
Joyner-Kersee is a two-time Olympic
gold medalist in the heptathlon, a two-
day track-and-field event which
requires proficiency in seven events: the
100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot
put, 200-meter dash, long jump,
javelin, and 800-meter run.

“You don’t make progress by
standing on the sidelines,
whimpering and complaining.
You make progress by
implementing ideas.”

“How simple a thing it seems to me
that to know ourselves as we are, we
must know our mother's names.”

“Age is no barrier.
It's a limitation you put on
your mind.”
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“The strong man is the man who can stand up for his rights and not hit back.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.
1929 – 1968

An eloquent Baptist minister and leader of the civil-rights movement from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. King promoted non-violent means to achieve civil-rights reform and was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

“There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America — there’s the United States of America.”

Barack Obama

Currently the only African-American serving in the U.S. Senate, the fifth in U.S. history, and the third since Reconstruction, Obama received international attention when he delivered his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

“It is really important that young people find something that they want to do and pursue it with passion.”

Spike Lee

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