

Legacies of Achievements



Mary Seacole, who acquired knowledge of herbal medicine in Jamaica where she was born, traveled independently to the Crimea in the 1850s to care for sick and wounded servicemen on the battlefield of the Crimean War. There is a statue of her in London to commemorate the incredible service and care she provided the British soldiers. And she was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991.

In America a decade after Mary Seacole served, former enslaved person **Susie King Taylor** tended to an all-black army troop, the 1st South Carolina Volunteers (Union), later designated the 33rd United States Colored Infantry Regiment, where her husband served during the Civil War. Her memoir, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir*, was republished by the University of Georgia Press in 2006. Taylor is also remembered as the first African American to teach openly in a school for formerly enslaved people in Georgia.



Mae Jemison is a physician, engineer, and a dancer — not a nurse, but she is one of my heroes nonetheless. After medical school and a brief general practice, Jemison served in the Peace Corps and was then selected by NASA to join the astronaut corps. She became the first African American woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in September 1992. Later she founded a company researching the application of technology to daily life and even appeared on an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.



Now, to November 2018, when **Lauren Underwood** was elected as the US Representative for Illinois's 14th congressional district and became the youngest black woman to serve in Congress. Rep. Underwood received her degree in nursing from the University of Michigan, where a course on nursing politics inspired her to enter health care policy. She also received two master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University, in nursing and public health, and worked first as a policy professional and later as a senior advisor at the Department of Health and Human Services, where she helped implement the Affordable Care Act. Rep. Underwood also served as an adjunct instructor at the Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies.

NLN History

As I have said before, colleagues, we're today making history, challenging it, and weaving it to reflect a truer story than before. We never know the impact we will have on those around us, and we never know where acts of leadership and courageous conversations will emerge.

- *Beverly Malone, CEO NLN*