

14 June, 2015

Colorado Women's Hall of Fame  
P.O. Box 18849  
Denver, Colorado

RE: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**, 2016 Nominee for Colorado Women's Hall of Fame

Dear Selection Committee,

Zipporah Parks Hammond (1924-2011) can be held up as a fine example, a bona fide trailblazer, for young women, and most notably for African American young women. Zipporah had vision - a dream of accomplishing something that no other African American woman before her in the history of the State of Colorado had done: to be admitted to and successfully graduate from the formerly all-white nursing program at Colorado University. And in spite of much skepticism from all quarters, she succeeded with aplomb. She fearlessly challenged the status quo and refused to allow the color of her skin to confine her to arbitrary and limited choices routinely conscribed to women of color during her time.

Zipporah was offered and held many positions of importance in her chosen field of Nursing. Zipporah rallied despite being afflicted with a life changing disease. Unable to practice nursing after contracting tuberculosis, she regrouped, made a plan, furthered her education, and continued working in the medical field, albeit with a new title as Director of Medical Records Management.

Working and raising a family, she additionally devoted inestimable time and energy to another pursuit involving her personal desire to keep the history of her lifelong community alive. The fruits of her work as Historian are evidenced in the wealthy archives held at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Denver.

Zipporah Parks Hammond excelled at all endeavors in which she engaged, throughout her academic pursuits and subsequent successful careers in her chosen field, to her dedication to her family and even through her active role in the community at large. Because she dared to challenge the limits facing her, Zipporah's courageous footsteps have forged the way for so many others who have come in her wake. She has truly earned a place in the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Karen Pauley, Resource Room Educator  
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