

Nominee Background Information for Zipporah Parks Hammond

Provide a two sentence summary statement about Zipporah Parks Hammond that demonstrates her outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

Zipporah Parks Hammond was an extraordinary Coloradan and humanitarian who also was a pioneer and a model of how to influence community health. Her philanthropic efforts have helped to address mental-health care for Colorado citizens in homeless shelters and her preservation efforts have painstakingly preserved materials that capture a significant part of northeast Denver history from the 1920s through 1970s.

Zipporah Parks Hammond's significant ties to Colorado.

Zipporah Parks Hammond was a lifelong Coloradan. Her significant ties to Colorado were many and extend back to her Gilpin Street neighborhood in northeast Denver just blocks from Denver's City Park and the Zoo. These ties included historic Zion Baptist church, summer Y.W.C.A. camp Nizhoni in the Rockies, Manual Training High School and Chester Morey, University of Colorado, world renowned National Jewish Hospital, and historic Riverside Cemetery.

Zipporah and her parents were active members of the historic Zion Baptist church in the Five-Points neighborhood of northeast Denver in the 1920s and thus had significant ties there. Zipporah taught primary Sunday school at Zion in the 1940s and was a member of the choir. The church celebrates 150 years in 2015. It was founded when the city's total population was less than 5,000. Blacks who migrated to Denver felt that church community was central to life improvement and thus founded Zion, one of the first black churches west of the Mississippi River. The first school for black children began at Zion, and many other black churches were established as a result of Zion. (<http://www.blackpast.org/aaw/zion-baptist-church-denver-colorado-1865#sthash.AJDuhMRi.dpuf>)

Zipporah had significant ties to Y.W.C.A. Camp Nizhoni in the Colorado mountains. She greatly enjoyed her time there and attended this camp each summer for several years both as a camper and a camp counselor to younger children. Now considered an historical African-American girls camp, Camp Nizhoni was established in 1924 in response to the segregationist policies of the time, which prevented African-American girls from attending the same Y.W.C.A. camps as white children. A group of businessmen, who were developing an African-American mountain resort in the area, offered the 'Y' a piece of ground with a house on it that would be given to them if they camped at the spot for three consecutive years. Thus Camp Nizhoni was

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established: a place where African-American girls would have the opportunity to understand and appreciate nature. (<http://www.blackpast.org/aaw/camp-nizhoni-1924-1945>)

“Zipporah was my best friend even though she was a few years older than me. That was a long time ago, but I remember we had a lot of fun attending Nizhoni together back in the day. I learned a lot from her.”

Yvonne Butler, Zipporah’s childhood best friend

Zipporah has interesting ties to both Manual Training High School and the legacy of Chester S. Morey (1847-1922). Zipporah graduated from Manual in 1941, as did her mother in 1901 and her oldest son in 1974. In 1939, she won the coveted Morey Prize for reading: an oral competition for young women established in 1896 by its namesake. As a school board member, Morey played a significant role leading to the establishment of Manual and its opening in 1894. He was a prominent Denver business man who owned the C.S. Morey Mercantile Company and the Great Western Sugar Company. Like Zipporah, Morey was active in the community. Many charitable organizations benefited by his generosity. Morey Junior High School, where Zipporah also attended, was named in his honor.

“Your grandmother, Zipporah Marcella (Joseph) Parks and your mother, Zipporah Joseph (Parks) Hammond, had what I believe to be genuine milestone accomplishments while attending Manual Training High School that have made history and have positively impacted the city of Denver, the State of Colorado and perhaps even the Nation. In 1901, your grandmother Zipporah M. was the first black student in Denver to earn the distinction as class valedictorian. The accomplishment generated quite a stir of negative sentiment among some here in the Denver community. This made the headlines in many black newspapers across the US.”

“Your mother, Zipporah J., had significant accomplishments of her own. Like your grandmother, your mother Zipporah J. also was a good student. Your mother was the first black to win the [Chester S. Morey] prize. It may seem trivial now, but in 1939 this was a very big deal. It broke down important barriers for minority women’s achievements that previously were reserved only for white students.”

Al Schnegelberger, Manual High School Historian

Entering and winning the competition for the Morey Reading Prize – despite the segregation that existed at her school in 1939 -- was one of many firsts for Zipporah. She did not buckle under the odds stacked against her, nor did she intend to draw attention to herself.

Zipporah’s college experiences at the University of Colorado helped her establish significant ties to the school and strengthened her resolve to make a difference for others. In 2012, the Zipporah Parks Hammond Memorial Nursing Scholarship endowment fund was established in her honor and memory.

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In 1947, Zipporah entered the National Jewish Hospital in Denver as a tuberculosis patient. She spent the better part of two years in the hospital recovering from the deadly disease and, as a result, had significant ties there. Zipporah met her husband Sheldon while they were both patients. She developed many life-long friends as a result of her hospitalization. The National Jewish Hospital was established as a sanatorium in the 1890's under the leadership of Frances Wisebart Jacobs (1843-1892) — a longtime advocate for people with tuberculosis. In 1946, the editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, speaking of the hospital, said: "I know of no other institution in this country which has contributed more fundamentally to our knowledge of tuberculosis." Today, this Colorado institution is known worldwide for its research and care facilities. (<http://www.coloradohealthcarehistory.com/hospitals-national-jewish.html>)

"I first met [Zipporah] in 1952 when I myself was a patient at National Jewish Hospital, a fourth year medical student who had contracted tuberculosis. She was then a recovered patient who had come to visit friends she had made there. We became friends and maintained our relationship until she died in 2011."

Ida I. Nakashima, M.D, Associate Professor, Ret.

Zipporah was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery where she has significant ties. Her grandfather was the first of her family buried there in 1905. Zipporah is there, alongside many other family members and historical figures, befitting her as a true Colorado pioneer. Many of Colorado's most famous pioneers found their final resting place at Riverside, including Augusta Tabor, Barney and Julia Ford, Silas Soule, three territorial governors – John Evans, Samuel Elbert, and John Routt – and numerous mayors, entrepreneurs, and civic figures. Riverside Cemetery was founded in 1876, the same year Colorado gained Statehood to the Union. The cemetery has the distinction of being one of the first park-like, rural cemeteries in the Rocky Mountain West. It is the longest continually operating cemetery in Denver, and one of the most significant historical resources in Colorado. It is designated as a national historic district. Zipporah's biography is featured on the website as a part of its 'Black History at Riverside' program.

(<http://fairmountheritagefoundation.org/zipporah-hammond-first-black-graduate-university-colorado-nursing-school/>)

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Biographical Information for Zipporah Parks Hammond

Zipporah Parks Hammond shaped and enriched Colorado history. She was born on March 1, 1924, the only child of William Edward Parks and Zipporah Marcella Joseph. She was called “Little Zipporah” as an adolescent to distinguish her from her mother. Little Zipporah was the granddaughter of Peter Joseph, a self-educated Civil War veteran. Peter Joseph moved his family to Denver from New Orleans, Louisiana in about 1892 to apply his masonry skills in the Denver building boom and to obtain a better education for his children. His daughter, Zipporah’s mother, attended the University of Denver, taught school in Kansas City and St. Louis, and is believed to be the first black truant officer in the Denver public schools. Unfortunately, she died in 1934 when Little Zipporah was 10 years old. William, Zipporah’s father, through his leadership, helped to raise funds, construct and open the Glenarm Branch of the Y.M.C.A. for Denver’s colored citizens in 1924. In addition, he organized the first colored Boy Scout troop in Denver serving as the City Commissioner for the activity and “established three of the finest scout camps in the United States...” (Fauset, Jessie R., 1923, *Out of the West, The Crisis – A Record of the Darker Races*, Vo 27, No 1, Whole No 157, Nov 1923, pp.11-18.)

Little Zipporah attended Denver’s Whittier Elementary, Morey Junior High, and Manual Training High Schools. By age 17, Zipporah was making an impact with her writing – her essays reviewing the work of the Bureau of Public Welfare calling attention to Denver’s unemployment problems and living conditions for members of her community.

“Problems demanding relief cover a very wide range and show the maladjustment that is caused to a great extent by economic conditions. It is my desire to see the Negro in Denver receive fair treatment. Prejudice must be removed and all people in need given equal assistance. About the only way to receive this treatment will be to have well-trained, conscientious Negro workers who will demand fairness for our people.”

Zipporah Joseph Parks

She was already thinking big thoughts as an adolescent about how to create a level playing field and correct what she thought to be social injustices in order to improve the human condition for Denver and its residents.

Zipporah was accepted at the University of Colorado, School of Nursing in 1941 in a class of thirty. She faced prejudice upon entering, she was barred from living on campus, and she was deprived of educational resources, hands-on learning and study facilities that were for white students. In this era of Colorado and US history, racial tension ran high; blacks and minorities were deemed incapable of learning and developing the skills needed to be outstanding in their fields – Zipporah humbly and gracefully broke down these racial and institutional barriers. Although she was at a disadvantage because she did not have equal access to faculty and resources as her peers, she was not deterred. She participated in The Cadet Nurse Corps when it

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was established in 1943 to help train nurses for the war effort. Despite the many challenges society placed in her path, Zipporah was the first black to be admitted to and graduate from a nursing program in Colorado. During that time she earned the affectionate nickname of ‘Zippy’.

“Zipporah (Zippy) as I knew her was the kindest, least rancorous person I ever knew. I never heard her speak ill of anyone. She had great courage to enter the University of Colorado of Nursing as the first black student. She said she never associated with the students she knew were prejudiced; she made friends with the Japanese-American students.”

Ida I. Nakashima, M.D, Associate Professor, Ret.

At age 22, after earning her nursing degree in 1946, Zipporah started her nursing career as a surgical operating room nurse at Colorado General Hospital in Denver. Later that same year, Zipporah was sought out and appointed as the Chief Surgical Nurse for the Infantile Paralysis Center of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital on the campus of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

“Perhaps she was influenced by her parents to take on that challenge/opportunity: originally becoming familiar with Tuskegee through their personal connections with Dr. George Washington Carver. Mom told us of the time Dr. Carver stayed with her family. He came to Denver in the 1920s, probably to help celebrate the successes of her father William who was ‘the genius’ behind the opening of the Glenarm Branch of the Y.M.C.A. Although Zipporah was a baby at the time, the history told to her by her parents left a big impression and influenced her. So, as a new nurse, my mother already knew of the Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Carver passed away in 1943 while Zipporah was in nursing school, so she never met him. But one thing does resonate. Despite the distance between Denver, CO and Tuskegee, AL, when the request was made by the well-known black physician Dr. John W. Chenault asking her to come to the southern hospital and apply her nursing skills to the care of black children in need, the draw was strong.”

Stephen Hammond, Zipporah’s son, family historian

Zipporah answered the call from Tuskegee and used her expertise and calm demeanor to lead a team that cared for dozens of adolescent polio patients who could not receive care from other institutions because of their skin color. Her work helped establish medical-treatment protocols to correct the debilitating impacts of infantile polio. Unfortunately, late in 1947, Zipporah contracted tuberculosis. Thus she could no longer do the work she loved so much, and she returned to Denver to receive care at the National Jewish Hospital for her deadly respiratory illness.

Despite the setbacks due to tuberculosis, Zipporah’s life-long goal to work in the medical field and serve others remained intact. After spending nearly two years recovering from tuberculosis, she chose to return to her alma mater in order to supplement her nursing credentials with a

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medical records librarian certification in 1951. Her abbreviated-yet-productive nursing career evolved into a rich 30-year career as a sought-after Medical Records Librarian serving other Colorado medical professionals in a leadership role. She became Assistant Director of the Medical Records Department at University Hospital in 1951. In 1953, at age 29, Zipporah became Director of Medical Records at what is now Presbyterian/St Luke's Medical Center, the first minority to hold such a leadership position in Denver (and believed to be the first in Colorado). She served in that leadership capacity until she resigned in 1956 to raise a family. In 1964, at age 40, she resumed her profession in medical records as a senior technician at University Hospital, happy to teach others her trade. Zipporah taught and mentored many medical professionals during that time: some young and others highly experienced. She retired in 1991.

During the course of her long recovery from tuberculosis in the late 1940s, Zipporah met her future husband, Sheldon Leroy Hammond of Schenectady, NY, also a TB patient. They courted and were married on November 29, 1952. Sheldon preceded Zippy in death in April 2003 after more than 50 years of marriage. Zipporah and Sheldon are the parents of two sons, Stephen and Darrell. Zipporah passed away in 2011 at the age of 87.

Zipporah was raised in a home where service was a way of life. Her training and mentoring of young medical students and other physician trainees continued after she retired. Along with her long-time University of Colorado Medical Center physician, Dr. Lawrence Feinberg, Zipporah met on a monthly basis with different groups of 5-6 young physicians, sharing her story of the ill effects of her aortic valve disease.

“[Zipporah] allowed these young doctors to listen to her unusual heart murmur and ask questions. Some of these visits with students were synchronized with routine visits with me, but most of her nearly forty 90-minute sessions involved travel and time solely for this volunteer effort to promote learning for these young physicians-in-training. In total, she helped train more than 200 CU medical students during a 6-7 year period between 1998 and 2005. She did this because she enjoyed it. At the conclusion of every teaching session, smiling students would shake her hand, thank her sincerely, and listen to her usual response: ‘I’m happy to watch you learn. I’m happy to know that you’ll help others someday.’ ”

“You know, Zippy taught me, too.”

Dr. Lawrence Feinberg, MD

Zipporah's contributions to the Colorado community were not limited to the field of nursing and medical records. She cared deeply about her Gilpin childhood community in northeast Denver. As a dedicated volunteer for the Denver Public Library between 1992 and 2009, Zipporah's historical preservation work culminated in the documentation of Colorado artifacts. She volunteered at the Denver Public Library for more than 17 years, contributing an estimated 5,300 hours! Her work comprised a general index and documentation for a valuable collection of

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photographs. Through her efforts, thousands of artifacts were recounted. These artifacts capture the rich history and events of Denver's historic Five-Points community and established a historical legacy for the city and the State of Colorado that will endure and be forever treasured.

“Zippy worked through many issues of the Denver Star and the Colorado Statesman (newspapers). She built a subject index to important events regarding African Americans as chronicled in the pages of the local ‘black’ newspapers. There are about 10,000 entries on about 3000 cards that have been merged into the larger General Index. For that alone she should be canonized. Another major project that Zippy was involved in for years was the identification of the photographs taken by Burnis McCloud. Mr. McCloud took photos of all major events in the Colorado African American community as well as chronicling the everyday lives of people and their community. [Zipporah] identified many of the people featured in his collection of thousands of photographs. She also worked through the negatives as well. (Together, there were more than 100,000 items in the collection.) Burnis McCloud may have taken great photographs but without Zippy’s labor there would be very limited, as in no access, to the images.”

James Jeffery, Collections Specialist, Denver Public Library

Zipporah’s sense of serving others didn’t end with her volunteerism. She had a philanthropic sense and understood that financial support is as important as physical and moral support. Despite her modest station in life, she gave freely. For decades Zipporah contributed thousands of dollars each year to nearly two dozen Colorado charitable organizations that included Mental Health America of Colorado (MHAC), the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver Rescue Mission, Senior Support Services, Friends of Manual High School, Energy Outreach Colorado, Gathering Place a Place for Women, Alzheimer Research, the American Heart Association, and more than a half-dozen other charities and medical research organizations.

“[Zipporah’s] modest contributions that came in year after year are critical to organizations like ours. These are the individuals who are most tied to the organization’s mission and the people we serve.”

Laura Cordes, Mental Health America of Colorado

Zippy has been recognized for some of her efforts. The University of Colorado, College of Nursing, honored her in 2004 with the Diversity Leadership Award for her tenacity, passion and vision. In 2009, Zipporah was honored by her peers as a ‘Living-Legend’ among black women in Denver who have made significant contributions to their community and to society in general. The CU Alumni Association recognized Zipporah in 2012 with their inaugural ‘Pathfinder Award’.

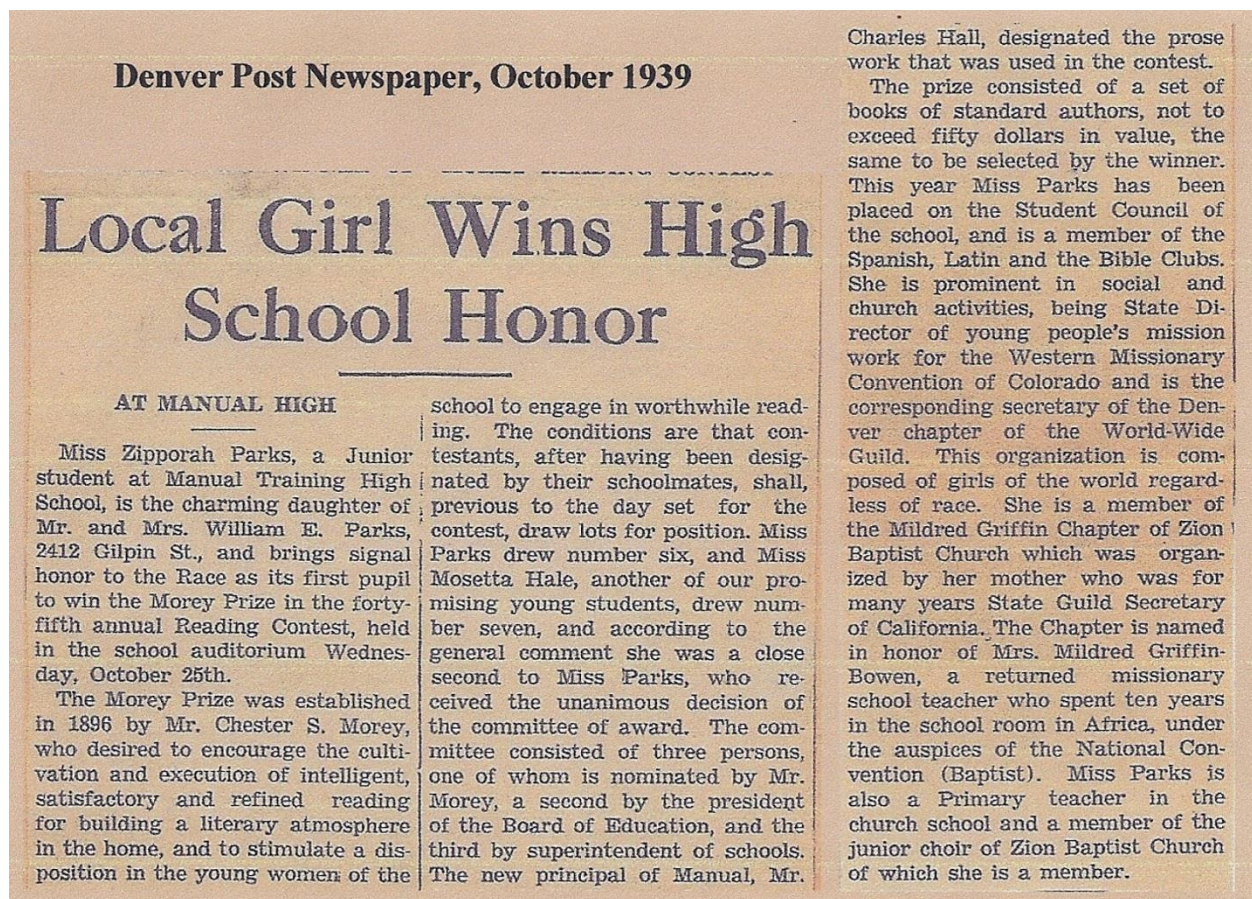
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**16 Documents that Describe the Accomplishments
and Significant ties of Zipporah Parks Hammond**

1) Denver Post, October 1939, *Local Girl Wins High School Honor.*

This newspaper article documents the accomplishment of Zipporah at the age of 15. The article not only highlights the outcome of the Chester S. Morey reading prize competition but also describes the other notable activities of the young high school junior.

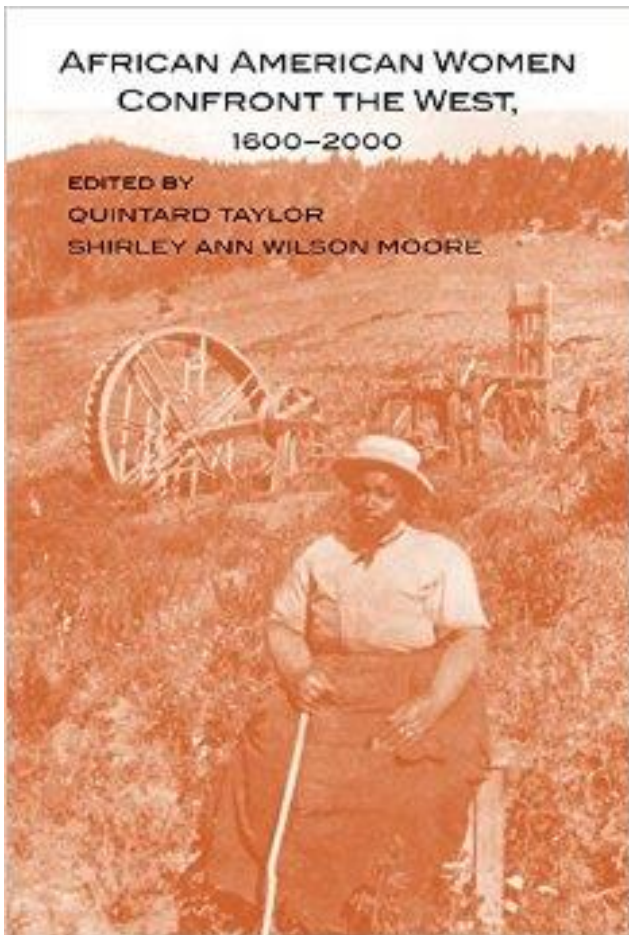


“Miss Zipporah Parks, a junior student at Manual Training High School brings signal honor to the Race as the first pupil to win the Morey Prize in the forty-fifth annual Reading Contest ... ”

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2) Hansen, M.B., 2003, *“Try Being a Black Woman!”: Jobs in Denver, 1900-1970*, pp 207-227, in Taylor, Q. and Wilson-Moore, S.A. Eds, *African American Women Confront the West, 1600-2000*, 390 pages.

Zipporah Parks Hammond is referenced on page 216 of this book where her historic first at the University of Colorado is described. This book was the recipient of the American Library Association CHOICE Award in 2004. It attempts to reconstruct the history of black women’s participation in western settlement. Author Moya Hansen focused her graduate studies at the University of Colorado at Denver on Denver’s African-American population and the Five-Points area.



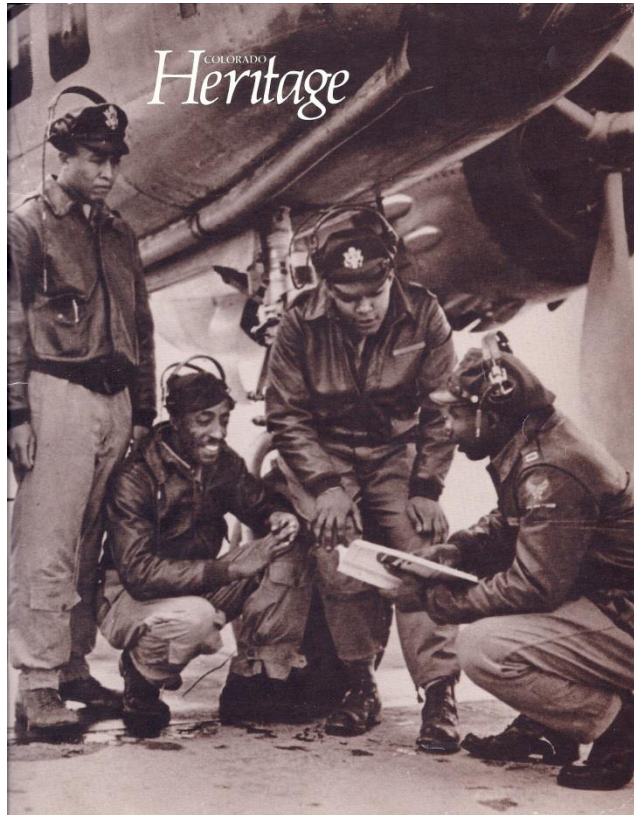
*“Before 1941 none of Colorado’s state universities allowed black women into their nursing programs, and the 1940 census lists only one black nurse in Denver. A breakthrough came in 1941 when the University of Colorado, School of Nursing accepted **Zipporah Parks Hammond** into its program.”*

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3) Reese, Joan, 1990, *Two Enemies to Fight – Blacks Battle for Equity in Two World Wars*, Colorado Heritage magazine, Issue 1, pp. 2-17.

Colorado Heritage is a magazine published by History Colorado (the Colorado Historical Society). Zipporah Parks Hammond and her father, William E. Parks, are both referenced in this article (page 3 (photograph), page 6, and page 14) that describes the challenges of Colorado African-Americans during the years of World War II.

*“In early 1945, Lee Casey, a thoughtful writer for the Rocky Mountain News again called attention to that durable villain Jim Crow. The Army was accepting only 308 black nurses (assigned to black units only) out of a total force of 9,000, and this despite an emergency call for 10,000 qualified nurses. In Colorado, he said, out of 1,600 student nurses now being trained, 60 were Japanese-American and only one was black. That student nurse was **Zipporah Parks Hammond**, whose dearest dream was nursing. Although the school was leery, she was accepted at the University of Colorado School of Nursing but allowed to have no roommate. All students were members of the U.S. Nurse Corps. A graduate of Manual High School in 1941, Hammond was accustomed to discrimination --- silly, demeaning, senseless things such as segregated dances, or exclusion from the Pep Club when blacks were excelling on the Athletic team.”*



4) Robinson, T.M., 2005, *Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice*, Black Swan Mill Press, Boulder, CO, 158 pages.

Zipporah Parks Hammond is referenced in this book on page 102. The author is a University of Colorado School of Nursing graduate. She became a nurse historian after retiring from her 40-year nursing career. Through the encouragement of others, including Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, Director of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Robinson undertook the challenging task of researching and collecting stories of the patriotism of Japanese-American cadet nurses during World War II. One such nurse was Suzu Shimizu Kanitani. Kanitani tells her story of living in two war-time relocation camps - Tanforan and Manzanar - and of having the opportunity to attend the University of Colorado, School of Nursing in Boulder where she met Zipporah. Suzu and “Zippy” became friends and roommates. Robinson received the Cadet Nurse Corps Award in 2003 from the American Association of the History of Nursing for the history she captured in this book.

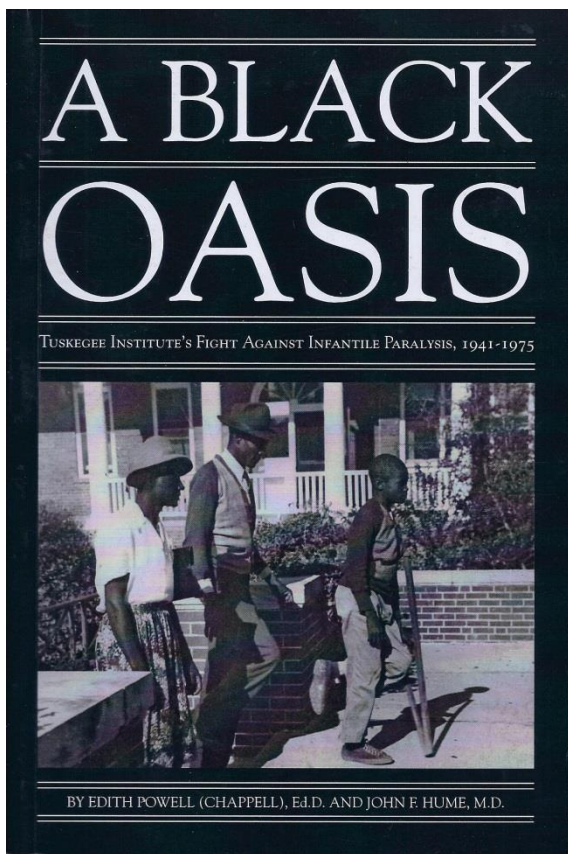


“The war effort stretched nursing resources, and there was pressure to shorten nursing courses. Henrietta Loughran, Director of the CU School of Nursing, found a way for the school to participate in the Corps and at the same time to maintain degree status for the students enrolled in the university. Mrs. Loughran was distressed by the relocation of West Coast Japanese Americans to camps in Western states. She collaborated with directors of university schools in Washington and California for the direct transfer of Japanese American students from the West Coast. Suzu was one of more than a dozen nursing students who would benefit.”

*The University of Colorado School of Nursing was progressive in other ways, **Zipporah Parks Hammond**, the first black student to be admitted into the university program was Suzu's classmate. Suzu and Zipporah, with interracial bonds, maintain a close friendship to this day.”*

5) Powell, EdD, Edith and Hume, MD, John F., 2013, *A Black Oasis: The Tuskegee Institute's Fight Against Infantile Paralysis, 1941-1975*, 186 pages.

Zipporah Parks Hammond is referenced in this book on page 90. The author is a retired Professor of Clinical Laboratory Science and was afflicted by polio as a child. Although she actually lived in Tuskegee, AL, she received treatment in Warm Springs, GA where white patients went to receive care. Powell now works at Tuskegee University. She felt compelled to reconstruct the history of the Infantile Paralysis Center whose creation was predicated on the belief that the need to correct racial inequalities in medical care was paramount to the fight against polio. Zipporah was sought out by the leadership of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital to lead and manage the surgical team in the Infantile Paralysis Center.



Zipporah Parks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Parks of 2112 Gilpin St. and first colored graduate of the University of Colorado nursing school, reads to a young polio victim in the paralysis clinic at the John Andrews Hospital, Tuskegee, Ala. The Hospital, a part of the famed Tuskegee Institute, is one of the institutions which benefits from the nationwide March of Dimes campaign against polio. Miss Parks was graduated from nursing school in June, 1946, and has been at the Andrews Hospital a year.

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6) University of Colorado, Health Science Center Newsletter, October 1990, *Hammond lived the legends of a young medical center.*

Zipporah Parks Hammond is the subject of this employee newsletter article highlighting her career in health care and medical services.

Hammond lived the legends of a young medical center

Legend has it that the Office Annex was once a dorm for the nursing school, that the School of Medicine housed Colorado General Hospital, and that a golf driving range occupied the present site of University Hospital.

These are more than legends for Zipporah P. Hammond, who recently retired from a nearly 50-year career at the CU-Health Sciences Center. She enrolled in the the School of Nursing in 1943, and became the first black to graduate from the program.

While in nursing school she lived at the Nurses Home, now the Office Annex.

"All the nursing students lived on campus then," she said. "You had to be in at 10 o'clock on week nights and 1 o'clock on weekends."

There were only about 30 students in nursing school then, and Hammond was the only black.

"In that day, that wasn't a common thing. It was a little difficult, but as time passed they realized I was no different and that my goals were the same as the other girls

who made the decision to become nurses."

She began working at Colorado General Hospital as an operating room nurse. The wards in the School of Medicine were separated by curtains. Patient sun rooms occupied the ends of the school's wings.

A polio epidemic in the mid-1940s kept the nurses busy applying hot packs to the affected limbs of patients. The hot packs had to be replaced continually as they cooled.

Hammond went to the Tuskegee Institute in

Tuskegee, Ala., and worked in a polio center for a time before returning to Colorado.

In 1949, she left nursing to work in medical records after an illness left her unable to keep up with the physical demands placed on OR nurses. She has been a medical records technician since, and has enjoyed the "extended family" environment in her department.

Hammond has taught courses in medical records. She says the field has grown from one of keeping patient records to one important in

obtaining cost reimbursement, as well as providing information for research activities. New government regulations in Medicare/Medicaid keep the field of medical records ever changing, she said.

Hammond lives in Denver with her husband, Sheldon, who also is retired. They plan to travel more and visit their two sons more often. One lives in Virginia and another in Oklahoma. Hammond also is considering getting involved in volunteer work.

"Hammond has taught courses in medical records. She says the field has grown from one of keeping patient records to one important in obtaining cost reimbursement, as well as providing information for research activities."

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7) University of Colorado at Denver, April 2005, *CU School of Nursing honors nursing pioneer*, Office of Public Relations, School of Nursing newsletter.

CU School of Nursing Honors Nursing Pioneer

Office of Public Relations

April 2005

The UCD School of Nursing's annual Diversity Leadership Reception honors nurses who have made significant contributions working with diverse populations. One of the honorees was Zipporah Parks Hammond, who in 1946, became the first black woman to graduate from the University of Colorado's nursing program.

When Zipporah Parks Hammond picked up the crayons and began drawing a picture of a nurse, the fifth grader just knew that's what she wanted to be when she grew up. Little did she know that her decision to become a nurse would make her a pioneer. With no role models to follow, she became the role model, penetrating segregated environments to achieve her dream.

Hammond, 80, is "one of the school's real pathfinders," according to Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, School of Nursing Dean.



CU School of Nursing Dean Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, left; and Diversity Leadership Award recipient Zipporah Parks Hammond at December 2004 ceremony.

8a) Rocky Mountain News, November 2004, *Nurse honored for leadership.*

This newspaper article describes the recognition Zipporah received in 2004 from the University of Colorado, School of Nursing.



8b) Rocky Mountain News, November 2004, *Nurse honored for leadership.*

This Rocky Mountain News newspaper article describes the recognition Zipporah received in 2004 from the University of Colorado, School of Nursing.

retirement home.

"Being a nurse sounded good to me, so I drew a nurse," she said.

"I had an uncle who was a doctor, and he was quite encouraging. But it was that art class that got me started."

At Manual High School in Denver, Hammond was in the all-school student council and the Highlight Council, the organization of black students.

"We couldn't participate in school activities like dances," she said. "So we would have our own dance."

After graduation, Hammond applied to CU's nursing school and was accepted, the only black woman in a class of 30.

"Back then, it was Colorado General Hospital," she said. "It was three years of working with patients and a lot of classroom work."

Living arrangements were complicated.

"It was right in the middle of World War II," Hammond said. "They put me and some Japanese girls on the third floor with the seniors, while the rest of the freshmen were in a new wing.

After leaving the sanitorium, Hammond still wasn't well enough to be on her feet all day as a nurse. So she switched to being a medical librarian, a post she held for 30 years.

She and Sheldon had two sons: Stephen, a deputy director at the U.S. Geological Survey, and Darrell, a human resources director.

Sheldon died a year and a half ago.

"She was a great mom," Darrell said. "She's always been a caregiver, even when she got out of working with patients. She cared for friends and family all these years. Now, in the retirement center, she gravitates to these people."

When a woman who had lost two limbs first arrived at the retirement center, "Guess who was right next to her making sure she got dinner?" asked the proud son.

Hammond still relishes her nursing days, "being able to help people, to see them flourish and get up and about. I loved it."

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Zipporah Parks Hammond, shown in a 1948 family photo and today, was the first black woman to graduate from the CU nursing program.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS



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9) Longmont Daily Time-Call, December 2004, *Nurse Lived Dreams*.

This newspaper article describes the recognition Zipporah received in 2004 from the University of Colorado, School of Nursing.

This Article is from the Longmont Daily Time-Mirror, December 7, 2004.

Nurse lived dreams

CU honors its first black nursing student graduate

By Pam Melickog
The Daily Times-Call

DENVER — When the Depression-era fifth-grade teacher asked her students to draw what they wanted to be when they grew up, Zipporah Parks Hammond used her crayons to draw a nurse.

Years later, in 1946, she would become the first African-American woman to earn a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Colorado.



Hammond

The school of nursing honored Hammond, now 80, at an on-campus diversity celebration Friday afternoon to mark her place as "one of the school's real pathfinders," according to Patricia Moritz, school of nursing dean.

Hammond's second son — Darrell Hammond of Longmont — introduced his mother at the ceremony by recapping her journey's highlights.

"Most moms are proud to talk about their children," he said. "But this son is proud to talk about his mom."

CU accepted Zipporah Parks Hammond's application in 1941, the year she graduated from high school in Denver, her son said. But it barred her and approximately 60 Japanese-American students from rooming with white students.

Some white students expressed anger at the school for allowing Hammond to even study with them, Darrell Hammond added. But over time, the sole black nursing student made friends with her classmates, women who nicknamed her "Zippy," which has stuck ever since.

Zipporah Parks Hammond, who now lives in a Denver retirement home, did not remember many details from her school days. But she did describe her student uniform: a plain blue dress, pointy white cap, white panty hose and white shoes.

Academically, she found "almost anything in the operating room" engaging, she continued, and launched her career as a surgical operating room nurse at Colorado General Hospital.

A year later, the chief of orthopedics at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Ala., recruited her as his chief surgical nurse. Hammond served at John Andrews Hospital-Infantile Paralysis Unit, a polio clinic at the institute established in 1881 by the state of

See NURSE / B6

B6 DAILY TIMES-CALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004

NURSE:

Continued from B3

Alabama to treat and educate recently freed slaves and their children.

Memories of the poverty and tuberculosis that plagued the black community near the institute have stayed with her over the years, she said. After 18 months, she also contracted tuberculosis and returned to Denver for two years of hospitalization at the National Jewish Hospital.

Hammond met many European Jews there, struggling like her to recover from the respiratory disease, she said.

"All of them had numbers on their arms from the concentration camps," she added. "That was very sad to see."

Doctors finally released Hammond, but discouraged her from nursing because of the scarring in her lungs.

She followed their orders. But by 1948, Zipporah Parks Hammond had earned a medical records librarian certificate from CU and landed an assistant director position at the University Hospital's medical records department.

Presbyterian Hospital hired her as its medical records director in 1953, where she worked for 11 years before returning to University Hospital, where she worked until her retirement at age 68.

According to Hammond's

daughter-in-law, Longmont resident Cheryl Hammond, the ceremony reminded extended family of her special place not only in their lives, but also in American history.

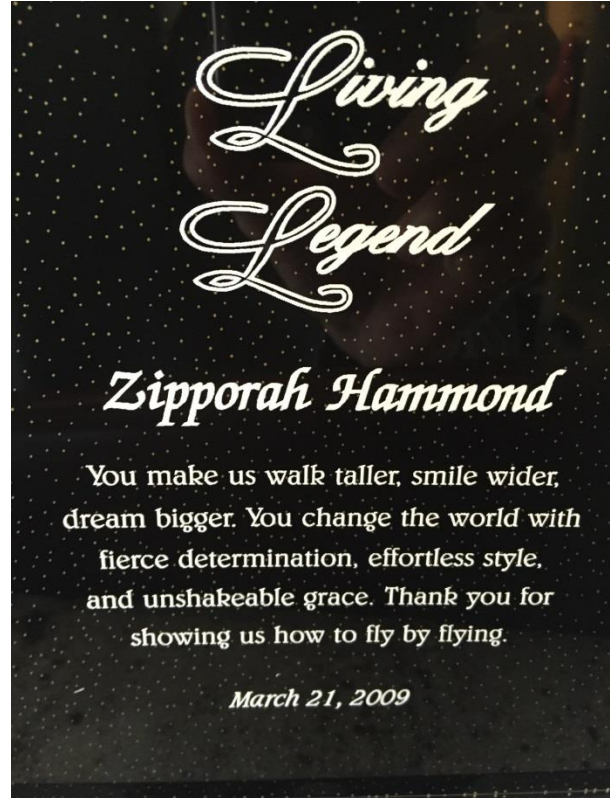
"We're just hearing about a lot of this now," she said. "She's from the old school, where 'mum's the word.' She doesn't talk about herself that much. She's a very humble woman."

The retired nurse and medical records librarian never returned to the Tuskegee Institute, designated in 1974 as a National Historic Site by the federal government. Nor did she look back much on her graduation day in 1946.

"I think I was just being me," she said of her trailblazing. "I had always wanted to be a nurse."

10) Living Legend Award

In 2009, Zipporah received a Living Legend Award. This recognition, given by her community peers, brought attention to her life-long contributions as a successful professional who also was a subtle agent of change. She cared deeply for her community and the State in which she lived. Her accomplishments have lasting value that serve as examples to young women, society now, and generations into the future on how an individual can affect their community and influence in a positive way the world in which we live.



Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

11) Benson, Bruce D., July 13, 2011, University of Colorado President, written communication to the Family of Zipporah Parks Hammond upon her death.



University of Colorado
Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Bruce D. Benson
President

July 13, 2011

Dear Members of the Hammond Family,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences for the passing of your mother, Zipporah. By all accounts, she was a remarkable woman who dedicated her life to her family, her career and her community. The University of Colorado is proud and honored that she was the first African-American to graduate from our School of Nursing.

Your mother exemplified the best of what we hope for in all of our alumni. She took deep pride in her work in the nursing profession and achieved considerable success in that important endeavor. Yet she also demonstrated admirable perseverance after her career was cut short by tuberculosis. While this would have been a significant setback for many, she did not let it slow her down. She returned to the University of Colorado to earn certification as a medical records librarian. Her second career was important and meaningful, and we are grateful for the years she spent working at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Her community work was as notable as her professional careers. Volunteering with the Denver Public Library's renowned Western History Collection, she made valuable contributions to collecting and archiving the rich history of the northeast Denver and Five Points communities. That work will have lasting value for generations to come.

I believe your mother's life and work will serve as an example to our current students and to all CU alumni. She was a pioneer, but she also demonstrated the qualities we hope for in every member of our university community – caring, compassion, competence, and commitment to family and community. We are honored to call her one of the university's own. I hope fond memories of her sustain your family during this difficult time and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce D. Benson', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce D. Benson

President

University of Colorado

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

12) Oster, Cynthia, A., July 30, 2012, President, University of Colorado College of Nursing Alumni Association, Announcement of Zipporah Parks Hammond selection as inaugural Pathfinder Award recipient.



College of Nursing
13120 E. 19th Avenue, C288-1
Aurora, CO 80045
303-724-4869
www.nursing.ucdenver.edu/alumni

July 30, 2012

Stephen E. Hammond
47787 Fathom Pl.
Sterling, VA 20165

Dear Mr. Hammond,

The CU College of Nursing Alumni Association is pleased to inform you that your mother, Zipporah Parks Hammond, has been selected to receive one of its inaugural Pathfinders Awards. As a young girl, Miss. Parks dreamed of becoming a nurse—and she let nothing get in the way. Despite segregation and sometimes scorn from her peers, she blazed a pathway in the college and the profession for others to follow. After contracting TB—at the time, a career ending disease for a clinician—she continued to work in health care by returning to school and becoming a medical records librarian. Zipporah Parks Hammond's perseverance in the face of adversity and her dedication to the field of health care, along with the example she set for others as the first African American graduate of the college, led the association to honor her with this award.

The award will be announced at the 2012 Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon at noon on Friday, Sept. 7, 2012. The alumni board invites you and your family to participate at no charge. (We will send a separate invitation letter to your brother Darrel.) The luncheon will be held in the Reading Room at the Health Sciences Library, located on the Anschutz Medical Campus. You are also welcome to attend any of the reunion activities on campus that day (see the attached reservation form). At the very least, we hope you will be able to join us during the luncheon to receive this award on your mother's behalf.

Deanna Geldens, the director of marketing, communications and alumni relations at the College of Nursing, will be your contact should you have any questions about the luncheon and will send additional information closer to the event. She can be reached at 303-724-4869 or deanna.geldens@ucdenver.edu.

We hope you and your family will be able to join the College of Nursing Alumni Association and the CU College of Nursing in honoring your mother's memory and her enduring spirit.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cynthia A. Oster in black ink.

Cynthia A. Oster, PhD, MBA, APRN, CNS-BC, ANP
President, College of Nursing Alumni Association

Handwritten signature of Patricia Moritz in black ink.

Patricia Moritz, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean, College of Nursing

CC: Joy French
Terry Biddinger

13) Denver Post newspaper, July 15, 2011, *Hammond is believed to be CU's first black nursing grad*, obituary, page 10A

JULY 15, 2011 DENVER POST

OBITUARY

Hammond is believed to be CU's first black nursing grad

By Virginia Culver
The Denver Post

Zipporah Hammond, thought to be the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Colorado school of nursing, died in a Longmont care facility July 6. She was 87.

As a student, Hammond was allowed to live on campus, but she and Japanese students were segregated from white students, said her son Stephen Hammond of Pottomac Falls, Va. She and other minority students also didn't have the same access to professors and even some of the facilities, he said.

"She was friendly, outgoing and quiet," said a childhood friend, Yvonne Butler of Nashville, Tenn. "But she was also determined, and if she had something in her mind, she stuck to it."

"She wasn't a radical or the kind who stepped up. She just quietly pushed on," said her other son, Darrell Hammond of Longmont. "She never fought; she just persevered when other people might have shut down."

She married Sheldon Leroy Hammond on Nov. 29, 1952. He died in 2003.

For many years, Zippy Hammond was a volunteer at the Denver Public Library, helping to identify, catalog and archive photographs and artifacts of Denverites, primarily African-Americans.

In addition to her sons, she is survived by seven grandchildren.

Virginia Culver: 303-954-1223
or vculver@denverpost.com



Zipporah Hammond became a medical librarian after having TB.

Hammond, who usually went by "Zippy," was given a recognition reception by CU in 2004, but no mention was made of the earlier segregation. This week, the family received a letter from CU president Bruce Benson, noting her accomplishments.

Zipporah Joseph Parks was born in Denver on March 1, 1924, and graduated from Manual High School.

She had wanted to be a nurse from the time she was in grade school. When she was a fifth-grader, students in her class were asked to draw a picture, and she drew a nurse, Stephen Hammond said.

After graduating from CU in 1946, she was chief surgical nurse at John Andrews Hospital in the polio unit at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

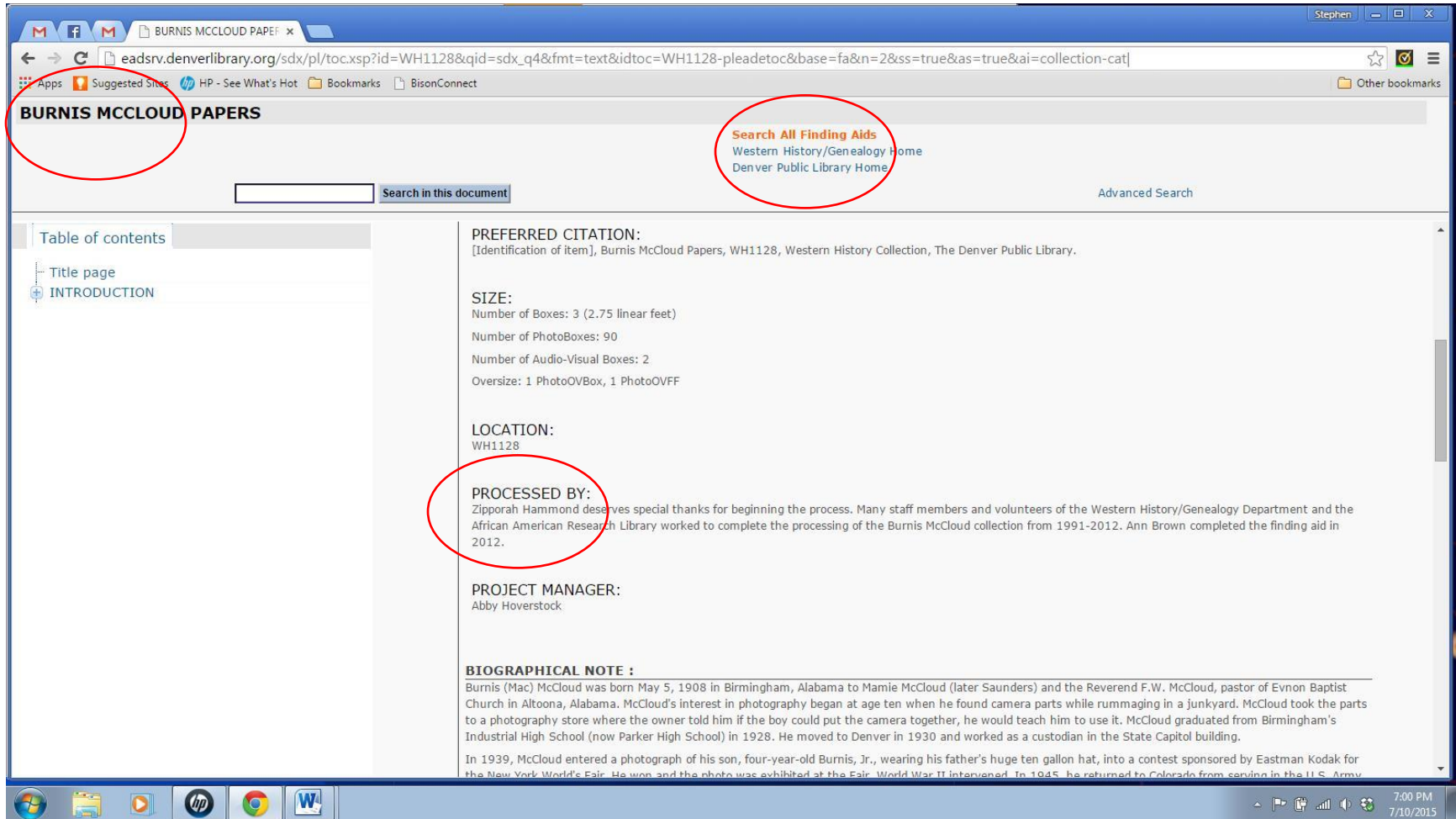
She contracted tuberculosis and was hospitalized for a time at Denver's National Jewish Health.

After recovering, she trained to be a medical-records librarian and worked at Presbyterian Hospital and the University of Colorado medical center.

← Continuation of column 1 here.

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

14) The Denver Public Library website subtly acknowledges Zipporah Parks Hammond and her leadership of a project to establish a tool to search and discover historical information related to events in northeast Denver (below).



The finding aid for the Burnis McCloud photograph collection is online and accessible through the following URL.
http://eadsrv.denverlibrary.org/sdx/pl/toc.xsp?id=WH1128&qid=sdx_q4&fmt=text&idtoc=WH1128-pleadetoc&base=fa&n=2&ss=true&as=true&ai=collection-cat

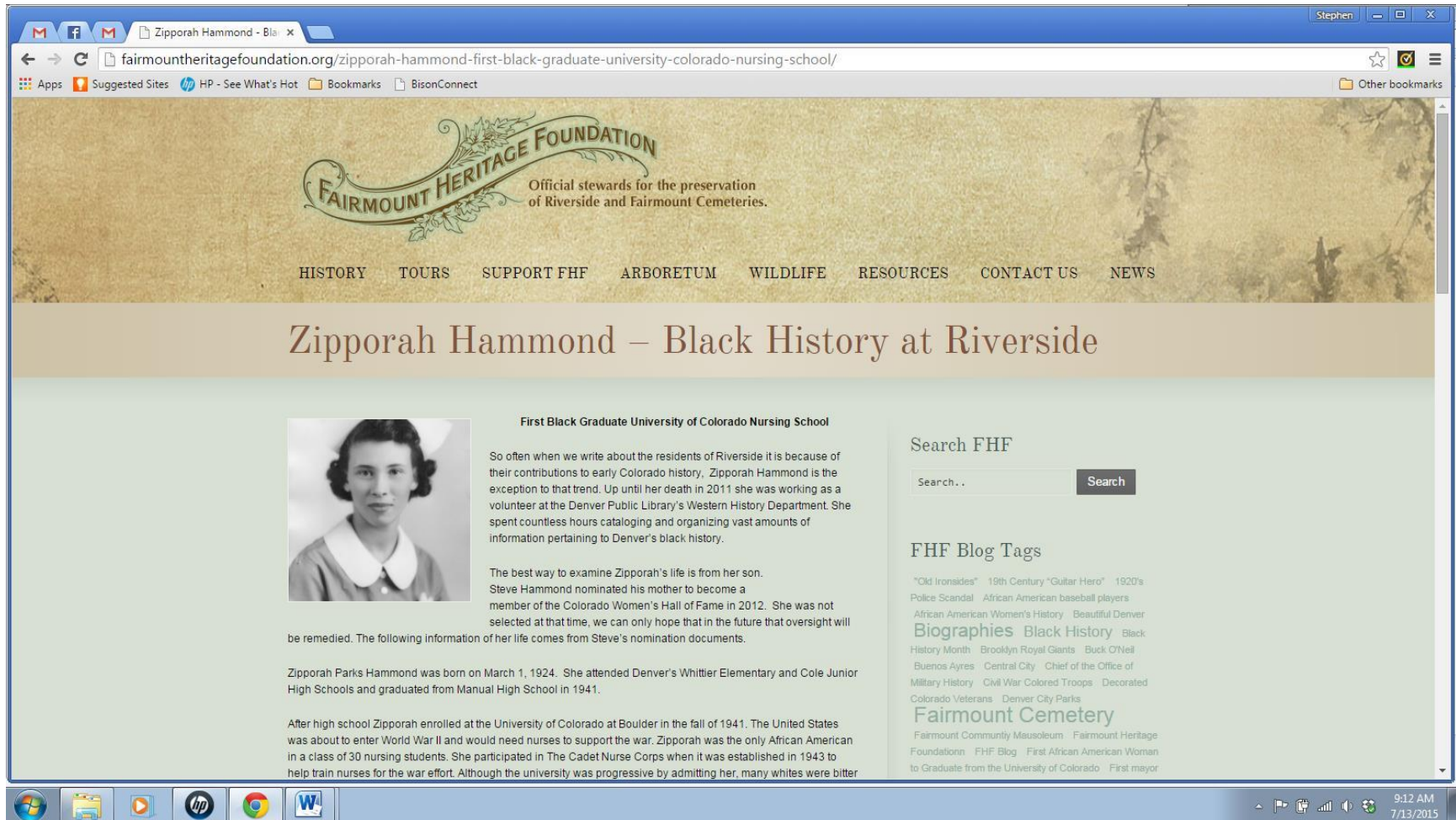
Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

15) In 1924, Camp Nizhoni, a Y.W.C.A. summer camp for African-American girls was established in the Colorado Mountains near Pinecliff, CO. Zipporah Parks Hammond loved Nizhoni as a girl, participating as both a camper and a camp counselor to younger children. Zipporah is featured in photos on a website (below) that documents the history of Lincoln Hills – the first African-American resort area west of the Mississippi River. (<http://lincolnhillscars.org/history/>)



Nominee: Zipporah Parks Hammond

16) Riverside Cemetery is the oldest operating cemetery in Denver. It is designated as a national historic district. The biography of Zipporah Parks Hammond is featured on a Fairmount Heritage Foundation website as a part of its 'Black History at Riverside' program. (<http://fairmountheritagefoundation.org/zipporah-hammond-first-black-graduate-university-colorado-nursing-school/>)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying fairmountheritagefoundation.org/zipporah-hammond-first-black-graduate-university-colorado-nursing-school/. The page features a header with the Fairmount Heritage Foundation logo and the text "Official stewards for the preservation of Riverside and Fairmount Cemeteries." Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HISTORY, TOURS, SUPPORT FHF, ARBORETUM, WILDLIFE, RESOURCES, CONTACT US, NEWS. The main content area has a large title "Zipporah Hammond – Black History at Riverside" and a section titled "First Black Graduate University of Colorado Nursing School" which includes a portrait of Zipporah Hammond and several paragraphs of text describing her life and contributions. To the right of the main text is a search bar labeled "Search FHF" and a section titled "FHF Blog Tags" with a list of tags including "Biographies", "Black History", and "Fairmount Cemetery". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the date and time as 9:12 AM on 7/13/2015.

Fairmount Heritage Foundation
Official stewards for the preservation
of Riverside and Fairmount Cemeteries.

HISTORY TOURS SUPPORT FHF ARBORETUM WILDLIFE RESOURCES CONTACT US NEWS

Zipporah Hammond – Black History at Riverside

First Black Graduate University of Colorado Nursing School

So often when we write about the residents of Riverside it is because of their contributions to early Colorado history, Zipporah Hammond is the exception to that trend. Up until her death in 2011 she was working as a volunteer at the Denver Public Library's Western History Department. She spent countless hours cataloging and organizing vast amounts of information pertaining to Denver's black history.

The best way to examine Zipporah's life is from her son. Steve Hammond nominated his mother to become a member of the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2012. She was not selected at that time, we can only hope that in the future that oversight will be remedied. The following information of her life comes from Steve's nomination documents.

Zipporah Parks Hammond was born on March 1, 1924. She attended Denver's Whittier Elementary and Cole Junior High Schools and graduated from Manual High School in 1941.

After high school Zipporah enrolled at the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall of 1941. The United States was about to enter World War II and would need nurses to support the war. Zipporah was the only African American in a class of 30 nursing students. She participated in The Cadet Nurse Corps when it was established in 1943 to help train nurses for the war effort. Although the university was progressive by admitting her, many whites were bitter

Search FHF

Search ..

FHF Blog Tags

"Old Ironsides" 19th Century "Guitar Hero" 1920's Police Scandal African American baseball players African American Women's History Beautiful Denver Biographies Black History Black History Month Brooklyn Royal Giants Buck O'Neil Buenos Ayres Central City Chief of the Office of Military History Civil War Colored Troops Decorated Colorado Veterans Denver City Parks Fairmount Cemetery Fairmount Community Mausoleum Fairmount Heritage Foundation FHF Blog First African American Woman to Graduate from the University of Colorado First mayor

Criteria Questions Supporting the Nomination of Zipporah Parks Hammond

1. Describe how the nominee has made significant and enduring contributions to her field(s) of endeavor. (40%)

“Zipporah’s professional accomplishments were extraordinary considering the time frame in which they occurred: between 1939 and 1991. She opened nursing-education doors that were closed to minorities. She is an inspiration to women and girls having blazed a trail for those that have followed and serves as an example for countless people, young and old, who aspire to serve others.”

Stephen E. Hammond, Zipporah’s son, family historian

“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 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.”

Karen Pauley, Resource Room Educator

Through her actions and perseverance Zipporah made significant and enduring contributions to nursing education that forever changed the perspective of what could be expected of minorities who choose to pursue nursing as a profession. Zipporah contributed significantly to the education and development of medical professionals. Through her medical volunteer work with her own physician, she provided invaluable medical education through on-the-job training experience for doctors in understanding the symptoms and effects of aortic valve disease.

The Tuskegee Institute opened the first polio center for blacks in 1941, funded by the March of Dimes. The center’s founding was the result of a new visibility of black polio survivors and the growing political embarrassment around the policy of the Georgia Warm Springs polio rehabilitation center, which Franklin Roosevelt had founded in the 1920s before he became president and which had maintained a whites-only policy of admission. This policy, reflecting the ubiquitous norm of race-segregated health facilities of the era, was also sustained by a persuasive scientific argument about polio itself: that blacks were not susceptible to the disease.

After a decade of civil rights activism, the notion of polio as a white disease was challenged, and black health professionals, emboldened by a new integrationist epidemiology, demanded that in polio, as in American medicine at large, health care should be provided regardless of race, color, or creed. (Naomi Rogers, PhD, 2007, Race and the Politics of Polio Warm Springs, Tuskegee, and the March of Dimes, American Journal Public Health, May; 97(5): 784–795)

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

When asked to comment on Zipporah’s enduring contributions and accomplishments during her time at the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital in Tuskegee, AL, Rev. Dr. Deidre Walton, Dr. Kim Carter, and Dr. Edith Powell wrote the following:

“[Zipporah] made an impact on the quality and compassionate care for those stricken with the devastation of polio.”

Rev. Dr. Deidre Walton, President and CEO,
National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

“Polio was at its peak in the 1940s and 1950s, and communities rallied against the devastation that the disease created for the individuals and families who were affected. The Tuskegee Institute in Alabama was a leading organization serving persons of color in the south, and the importance of [Zipporah’s] work is illustrated by the January 1947 article published in the Denver Post.”

Dr. Kim Carter, Office of Nursing Research
and Evidence-Based Practice

“I never cease to be amazed at the accomplishments of those like your mother, Zipporah Parks, who provided care to the children in the ‘Polio Unit’ at Tuskegee Institute. Their caring, determination, pride and love of their professions and those children had such an impact on the lives of those little patients; and gave them the courage to try harder each day to get better. Your mother was a bright star in the halls of the polio unit and she brought light in those dark days to those children stricken with infantile paralysis. Be proud of her and her work, and share this story.”

Dr. Edith Powell, polio survivor, Tuskegee University Historian

Zipporah’s significant and enduring contribution at the Infantile Paralysis Center was her leadership of the medical-treatment and surgical teams whose developing protocols she implemented for the care of adolescent polio victims who without treatment would have otherwise faced a life time of deformity from the life-threatening illness or childhood mortality. The opportunity in 1946 for Zipporah to care for and serve young polio patients was driven partly by her desire to bring equality of nursing care to those unable to receive it. This was groundbreaking work for the Nation in the mid-1940’s.

Between 1951 and 1991, Zipporah’s contributions not only opened doors for minorities, they helped prepare the medical records profession for the twenty-first century legal and financial requirements and for the technology explosion that has since allowed more information to be gathered and maintained. She used her nursing knowledge and experience and applied it to her second profession as a Medical Records Librarian. As the first minority Director of medical records at what is now the Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center, Zipporah’s technical

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

competence and leadership skills were tested repeatedly and heavily scrutinized. Nevertheless, she earned the respect of her white peers.

“Zipporah had the benefit of being acutely aware of patient needs as well as the needs of the medical professionals who cared for them. Her knowledge and experience enhanced the work of medical research professionals as well as the hospital administrators. The implementation of efficiencies in medical information recordkeeping made it easier to conduct research and analysis. Bookkeeping became more accurate and timely. Without her significant and enduring contributions, hospital medical and administrative activity likely would have slowed to a crawl.”

Stephen E. Hammond, Zipporah’s son, family historian

“I can vision Ms. Parks-Hammond being strong in her convictions that women have a place in the hospitals beyond direct patient care. [Zipporah] paved the way demonstrating for those of us who have followed, it won’t be easy but it can be achieved.”

Melinda Patten, President, Colorado Health
Information Management Association

“[Zipporah] had exemplary qualities of kindness, fairness, loyalty, dependability and humility. She had an admirable life. I have been inspired to make some attempts to emulate her good qualities.”

Joanne Riser Richards, Zipporah’s medical records colleague

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

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2. Describe the specific ways in which the nominee has elevated the status of women and helped open new frontiers for women and/or society. (40%)

Zipporah elevated the status of women, not just black women, by refusing to be held back by societal and institutional barriers that made attaining her goal so difficult. When Zipporah entered the University of Colorado in 1941, she did not see the barriers or the threats that existed. Rather, she was focused on her personal goals to study hard, do good work and become a nurse to serve others. These milestones, however, became major accomplishments altering perspectives about the capabilities of minority girls and women in Denver and Colorado opening new frontiers.

“[Mrs. Parks-Hammond] shared the foresight, vision, and the power with other distinguished women of Colorado. The records will reveal a lifetime of commitment, dedication, and quiet visionary leadership for the nursing profession. Zipporah should be saluted among the architects and pioneers in the struggle for equality in nursing and for their exceptional service, advocacy and determination of African Americans in the profession.”

Rev. Dr. Deidre Walton, President and CEO,
National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

“Mrs. Hammond is a role model for young women who dream big dreams.”

Elbra Wedgeworth, former Denver City Council President

“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.”

Karen Pauley, Resource Room Educator

“[Zipporah] was truly an incredible woman who made significant contributions to nursing. She was clearly one of the leaders who forged the barriers of racism and discrimination to become the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Colorado’s prestigious nursing school. This was at a pivotal time in nursing education, when trailblazers such Ms. Parks challenged the system head-on to accomplish their goals to serve the community. The doors that were opened for college education for nursing as a result of strong women such as [Zipporah] are important.”

Dr. Kim Carter, Office of Nursing Research
and Evidence-Based Practice

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

“[Zipporah’s admittance to CU] was questioned from the start, despite the fact that the school had admitted Japanese-American students several years earlier. She was criticized and ostracized by the other students, but her strength of character and ability to win others over prevailed. Her personal and professional presence was impressive enough to be hired by Colorado General (now the University of Colorado Hospital) as an operating room nurse after graduation and, later, to be recruited to Alabama to become the chief surgical nurse. Women like Zipporah Parks Hammond are pathfinders. By turning the stereotypes of others upside down, she made a nursing career easier for the next black nurse and the next medical records librarian.”

Sarah Thompson, Dean, CU College of Nursing

Zipporah’s history-making graduation from the University of Colorado in 1946 signaled a start of slow but significant change at the university and in the state of Colorado. Through her ground-breaking accomplishments and actions, she elevated the status of women and proved by example that minorities were fully capable of meeting the high standards of a university nursing curriculum. It took nearly 35 years, but in 1979, Betty Williams was named as the first black Dean of the CU School of Nursing. Today the University of Colorado, College of Nursing offers multiple degrees and has an enrollment of more than 1,000 students. Ethnic diversity has grown to nearly 25%. Eleven percent of CU’s current nursing students are male.

“[Zipporah] offers all professional nurses today a model of how to influence community health. She really was a Colorado nurse pioneer in so many ways. But her accomplishments ultimately resonated beyond her chosen profession. Her efforts made it easier for women of color to achieve their goals whether or not it was nursing. We benefit today by honoring women like Ms. Hammond as a reminder of the foundations we have to build a more diverse workforce today in Colorado. Important as that is, Ms. Hammond’s leadership as community and health care volunteer from 1946 until 1991 reinforces her commitment that went beyond the work day.”

“Ms. Hammond is a true example of the values held by the CNA for the advancement of the nursing profession in Colorado. She accomplished a significant first for nursing in Colorado breaking down barriers, changing perceptions and bridging an important gap in underrepresentation of minorities in nursing.”

Colleen Casper, Executive Director, Colorado Nurses Association

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

“I wish that I could have met [Zipporah]. Truly Ms. Park’s dedication to health care, literacy, and history were unwavering, and her work to preserve Denver history will benefit the telling of meaningful lessons throughout the generations. It is only through such devotion that important stories will be passed on.”

Dr. Kim Carter, Office of Nursing Research
and Evidence-Based Practice

“Ms. Parks-Hammond entered the medical records profession at a time of when it was practically non-existent for women to hold leadership roles in hospitals. Challenges in the profession, later to be known as health information, was changing requiring care providers to document the treatment of the patient to assure great care was delivered but also to justify the cost of the treatment provided. The pioneers of health information like Zipporah fought to be recognized, educated and mostly to earn a place at the table with other leaders in the hospitals.”

Melinda Patten, President, Colorado Health
Information Management Association

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

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3. Describe the positive and lasting changes that the nominee's contributions have made that will continue to inspire others, especially women and girls, by her example. (20%)

Zipporah's firsts represent positive and lasting milestones in Colorado history. Her success ultimately broke down barriers and made it easier for women and minorities to enroll in college to pursue nursing as a career. She bettered the health-care and medical-services professions by hoisting others on her shoulders. As a success story, Zipporah set precedence and it became easier for qualified women and minority candidates to pursue their dream of a professional career caring for others.

“As an African American woman, Zipporah faced oppression related to race and gender, challenges that made her resilient and determined to succeed. I am pleased to write this letter recognizing her resilience, leadership, and significant contributions to the state of Colorado and nation. Zipporah's professional work and service to her Colorado community and country make her a leader. Zipporah has had a tremendous impact on the lives of others. She is an inspiration to our community as her legacy has left a lasting impression. Her accomplishments live on through the Zipporah Parks Hammond endowed scholarship at CU College of Nursing. Zipporah's outstanding achievements and character makes her an excellent candidate for the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.”

Michael F. Bennet, United States Senator

“Zipporah's accomplishments continue to have a huge impact on young women today facing their own challenges, be they cultural or economic. Sharing her story of determination and success offers inspiration as well as courage to move beyond any of the limitations that may be encountered throughout life.”

Patricia Carmody, Executive Director, Fairmount Heritage Foundation

“Zipporah was so courageous to stand up to the system and do what she knew was right even though the system did not believe she could be a nurse, much less a Negro nurse in the deep South. She did not succumb to the prevailing beliefs of the time. In later years, Zipporah would share these stories with calm assertiveness that did not speak of victimhood but rather strength. Her character was impeccable; her principles uncompromising. Her strength was her quiet, humble, accepting presence. Yet you knew she was solid in her beliefs. What an exceptional role model she was.”

Reverend Nancy Driver, family friend

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

“I felt such an honor taking care of a woman who not only persevered through the many challenges of nursing school, but she did this during a time when segregation was the norm, and certain privileges were not allowed to minorities. There is a kinship among nurses that is unspoken, and the ability to take care of someone so special renewed my spirit. My time with Zippy was short, but during that time I learned some important lessons. Thinking of all that Zippy had overcome to become a nurse totally inspired me. When she fell ill she did not allow it to stiffen her gifts. She turned it into something beautiful, something that would forever become a part of Colorado history. Rarely do I go to a funeral for a patient, but I was compelled to see her family. At the funeral, I discovered an array of people, young and old, male and female, every ethnicity, and financial class. She managed in her life to impact so many, and as a legacy she left behind a beautiful family full of children, and grandchildren who display the voice of gratitude, and quiet perseverance that she lived throughout her life. As I walked away that day, I realized that my spirit had been renewed by this contact with Zippy. I was inspired to continue in my nursing career that I not only feel is a job, but a calling, knowing that I would be forever be able to keep in my heart and thoughts the ‘thank you’s’ of Zippy!”

Tammie Tearpak, Longmont United Hospital Nurse

“Mrs. Hammond was a great communicator that everyone admired who sincerely demonstrated consistently she was someone who cared about the community where she lived and the City of Denver. Despite many obstacles facing her, she was respected as a generous and caring woman who helped many women realize their dreams. Through her work is a lasting legacy for her family, the City of Denver and the State of Colorado that she loved so much. Zipporah was a trailblazer dedicated to her profession. ... I’m proud to have known Mrs. Hammond. She was an amazing lifelong resident of our great City whose accomplishments and contributions transcend her quiet demeanor.”

Elbra Wedgeworth, former Denver City Council President

“Zipporah Parks Hammond’s insistence that she continue to work in health care after fighting a career-debilitating disease is inspiring. During a time when most women didn’t go to school at all or pursue a career outside the home, [Zipporah] valued her university education enough to come back to study medical records management and start a new career. Her work ethic and determination to pursue her dreams despite her circumstances makes her a great role model for others.”

Sarah Thompson, Dean, CU College of Nursing

“[Zippy] was an incredible example in the black community and both [she and Sheldon] had a great commitment to serving there. Her achieving in two fields that were closed for women of color is absolutely amazing and set an example that certainly was noted by many young women. [Zippy] was an inspiration to those of us who knew her with her quiet,

Nominee: **Zipporah Parks Hammond**

steady ways. We never heard her complain about the difficult past or present. She gave of herself unstintingly but never sought the limelight. She gave because it was her calling. [Zippy] was truly an example for all women.”

Marvin and Helen Alexander, family friends

“Zipporah’s words in her high school essay where she described ‘Problems demanding relief...’ and ‘...all people in need given equal assistance’ were as powerful 75 years ago as they are today in making a difference in the lives of Coloradans. She continued to be fully committed to this cause as an adult and a seasoned medical professional. The ‘problems’ she wanted to address were mental health and homelessness. Mom gave whatever she could. Her consistent, deliberate contributions to organizations have made a positive difference in the lives of those who face these difficult problems. Through her unostentatious giving she has illustrated by example what each of us can do to help others. For example, her support of A Gathering Place serves women, children, and transgender individuals in Denver experiencing poverty or homelessness. The Denver Rescue Mission continues returning people to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless works collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for homeless and at-risk families, children, and individuals throughout Colorado. Zipporah’s long-term support of the Mental Health America of Colorado have helped the organization serve the people of Colorado by collaborating with strategic partners to promote mental health, expand access to services and transform systems of healthcare. Collectively, these organizations that Zipporah supported, work to improve the ‘human conditions’ that she thought need society’s ongoing attention. Zipporah understood that while she could not change the world by herself, she could touch people directly and indirectly to lift them up. By doing so, she helped those in need and also leaves a lasting impression that inspires others to do what they can as individuals to contribute their skills or other resources. Her quiet but committed support is an inspiration to all Coloradans.”

Stephen Hammond, Zipporah’s son, family historian

“In researching our mother’s significant contributions, [Laura Cordes] helped me to understand and appreciate Zipporah’s intentional and consistent financial contributions to support of those whose lives are unstable, uncertain and on the fringe. Our mother raised us to lookout for the underdog. As a result, my brother and I, as well as others, have been inspired by her to give and serve the community in our own respective ways.”

Darrell Hammond, Zipporah’s son

“There is much movement afoot that there is no health without mental health. With Zipporah’s help, the clients of homeless shelters and social service organizations are better prepared to find jobs, housing, and get back on their feet because they have their mental health needs met and can live in wellness and recovery.”

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“It sounds like [Zipporah] had a heart for individuals less fortunate than herself and that she understood what a difference earlier screening, diagnosis, and intervention can make in the lives of both an individual experiencing mental health conditions and the person’s family. It is likely that [Zipporah] was interested in supporting our work providing free mental health counseling to those who cannot afford it. Beginning in 1986, MHAC has partnered with local homeless shelters and social service organizations who were committed to meeting the physical needs of their clients (food, shelter, housing, job placement, etc.), but who also recognized that these individuals were struggling to have their emotional needs met. MHAC began to place volunteer therapists at locations such as The Gathering Place (which Zipporah also supported financially) who would meet with the people there and provide short term one-on-one or group therapy. The therapy is provided completely free of charge – the client pays nothing for the service and the therapist donates his or her time. Contributions like those provided by Zippy support the program to enable the screening and placement of therapists onsite at these organizations.”

Laura Cordes, Mental Health America of Colorado

Zipporah contributed significantly to the rich documentation of artifacts in the Western History Collection that today contains more than 600,000 photographs, 75,000 pieces of microfilm, and thousands of magazine and newsletter titles, charts, clippings, atlases, and manuscripts. The Denver Public Library maintains an online tool used for search and discovery of artifacts stored in the Burnis McCloud collection of more than 100,000 photographs. The following acknowledgement on the website subtly documents Zipporah’s lasting contributions. ‘Zipporah Hammond deserves special thanks for beginning the process.’ The finding aid was initiated in 1991 and completed in 2012.

“Her community work was as notable as her professional careers. Volunteering with the Denver Public Library’s renowned Western History Collection, she made valuable contributions to the collection and archiving the rich history of the northeast Denver and Five Point communities. That work will have lasting value for generations to come.”

Bruce D. Benson, President, University of Colorado

“Zipporah’s work has been critical to our historic preservation efforts here at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. She was incredibly knowledgeable of the community which is important but difficult to quantify. The indexes that she devoted so much time to are powerful assets to the library, Colorado historians and the public who conduct research on our State’s history. Without these valuable resource tools to help discover and guide us to information, we have little more than rolls and rolls of microfilm making research both slow and difficult. Long after they were developed, Zipporah’s tools

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continue serve many library patrons daily as they work through the large volume of valuable photographs and black newspapers.”

Terry Nelson, Senior Special Collections Manager,
Denver Public Library

“Although I never met Mrs. Hammond, she would have been an extraordinary person to know. Stories of women like Mrs. Hammond help inspire my love of history. From a trailblazer to a history keeper and cultural preservationist, [Zipporah] contributed greatly to the history of Colorado. Being the first African American women to graduate from the University of Colorado’s Nursing School contributed to Colorado’s history and her preservation work at the Denver Public Library leave a legacy for historians and the public to research and study.”

Alexandra Lane, Historian, White House Historical Association

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Additional Questions and Information about Zipporah Parks Hammond

For which of the nominee's accomplishments is she least well known?

Least well known, but nevertheless significant and enduring, are Zipporah's contributions to the Colorado community through her volunteerism and philanthropy. Her willingness to help train more than 200 medical professionals on her own time is an impressive accomplishment of which few people are aware. Similarly, adoration for Gilpin, her childhood community in northeast Denver, ran very deep and made her volunteer service at the Denver Public Library a great passion. Her sense of social equity was strong. As a result, she contributed quietly, but generously, to a wide variety of Colorado charities and organizations that work to support mental-health and medical-research causes as well as those groups dedicated to stemming homelessness.

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What other information about the nominee would you like the Selection Committee to know? For example, What hurdles has the nominee overcome in her life?

Zipporah was a courageous woman who was filled with fortitude and integrity. Like many of us she faced challenges in her life.

“It was not an easy journey for this gentle young woman. However, she survived the loss of her mother at the young age of 10 years and the slings and arrows sustained during her nursing school days, and triumphed!”

Emily and Mike Bocko, family friends

She fought prejudice, bigotry and segregation to attain her college degree, and she battled serious health issues in the form tuberculosis and heart disease. At every juncture Zipporah persevered giving back to the State and community she loved so much. Through adversity, she always found a constructive way forward.

“A story told to me by my mother Zipporah highlights one of the experiences that undoubtedly affected her drive for excellence which relates to the treatment my father, Sheldon, received in the early 1950s after he recovered from TB. He enrolled at Denver University, worked extremely hard and received multiple certifications as an aircraft mechanic. Fresh out of college and preparing to support a family, Sheldon applied for jobs in his field only to learn that airlines would not hire blacks for fear that they were not competent and that their patrons would not use their services if blacks were seen servicing aircraft. The prejudice he experienced first devastated then angered Sheldon. Although he went on to a very different social-services career in child welfare, that anger and resentment raged within him for the rest of his life. For Zipporah, the prejudice reinforced her beliefs that equity for blacks was critical for both her local community and for society as a whole. This undoubtedly was a catalyst that drove her to excel as a medical-records professional.”

“Zipporah’s contributions to Colorado and mankind cannot be measured by a single personal milestone or professional accomplishment, but rather by the body of work that constituted her life. Mark Benbow, Director of the Arlington (VA) Historical Museum and a professor of American history at Marymount University noted that ‘The average, day-to-day people that live out their lives typically tend to get lost in the historical narrative.’ (Washington Post, June 2015, Exhibit documents African American life in Arlington) It is difficult to pigeon-hole Zipporah’s broad accomplishments in to a single category. Professionally, Zipporah was a healthcare provider. As a Colorado citizen, Zipporah was a humanitarian and civil-rights champion, trailblazer, educator, volunteer, historical and cultural preservationist, mentor, philanthropist and a role model. Her contributions to Colorado are both substantial

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and noteworthy. Zipporah's accomplishments should not be allowed to get lost in the historical narrative. Her story belongs in the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame."

Stephen Hammond, Zipporah's son, family historian

"Although Zipporah did not see her own accomplishments as important milestones, she was so happy to see progress and the opportunity given to others like fellow Manual High School alumni Wellington Webb when he was elected Denver's first black Mayor in 1991. Like many others, she was both amazed and overjoyed to learn that President Obama was elected in 2007. She was convinced that in her lifetime she would never see the day when a minority would take on such esteemed leadership roles. But ask her about her own accomplishments and the trail she blazed, she would likely say, 'I was pursuing what I loved to do for the benefit of others and the distractions did not matter.'"

Darrell Hammond, Zipporah's son

"Grandma Zipporah was one of the gentlest, most well-loved women I've ever known. She was adored by all of her grandchildren. The hand-stitched pictures and books she made for us are cherished to this day. Understanding the barriers and hurdles she overcame, I feel obligated to take advantage of every opportunity afforded to me, particularly as it relates to education. Her accomplishments strongly influenced my motivation to pursue my Master of Science degree in the geosciences, a field in which women and minorities are underrepresented. Without having her as a strong female role model, I doubt that I would have pushed myself to be where I am today. I aspire to help others as much as she has."

Brianna Hammond, Zipporah's granddaughter

To honor Zipporah's legacy and her lifelong service to others, the Zipporah Parks Hammond Memorial Nursing Scholarship endowment fund was established in 2012. She positively impacted many people over the course of her life and opened doors for those that have followed behind her. Nursing students today face different difficult challenges, but they are challenges nevertheless. The scholarship was established with the intent of 1) making a positive difference in the life of deserving nursing students by helping to overcome financial challenges as she or he pursues their nursing degree, and 2) encouraging and recognizing volunteer or public service rendered to those in need. It is with this in mind that deserving students who receive the Zipporah Parks Hammond Scholarship will positively represent the nursing profession and will do good things to help assist others in our society no matter what their circumstances.

Finally, Zipporah was a great mother. As a young man, a family friend, Bob Williams, was preparing to leave his boyhood home and go out on his own. Somewhat unsure of his decision, he asked his own mother if she thought leaving was a good idea. She replied "A mother's job is to raise children who will become responsible and productive members of society. It is time for

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society to judge whether or not I have done my job.” Reflecting on what his mother told him, Williams wrote the following about Zipporah.

“It is easy to judge Zipporah’s unquestionable success as a mother when viewing the qualities and accomplishments shown in her sons and grandchildren. Clearly the qualities recognized by others in Zipporah’s public life have been passed on to her descendants. She was not just a student of nursing; she was also a quiet teacher of life. What she accomplished as one person will now be accomplished many times over through her descendants. As a mother with descendants in Colorado and across the Nation, Zipporah has truly given local and national communities a legacy of sons and grandchildren who are highly responsible and productive members of society.”

Bob Williams, family friend