

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Nominee Background Information (1000 words or less for this section):

Provide a one to two sentence summary statement about the nominee that demonstrates her outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

As the first black nursing graduate from a Colorado university, Zipporah Parks Hammond used her skills as 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 whose contributions to Colorado are both substantial and noteworthy.

Describe the Nominee's significant ties to Colorado (examples: born and raised in the state, educated here, most notable achievements here, etc.).

Zipporah Parks Hammond was a lifelong Coloradan. Her significant ties to Colorado extend back to her Gilpin Street neighborhood near the Five-Points Historic Cultural District. These ties included historic Zion Baptist church – the oldest black church in the Rocky Mountain west, summer Y.W.C.A. camp Nizhoni in the Rockies, Manual Training High School and Chester Morey, University of Colorado (CU), world renowned National Jewish Health and historic Riverside Cemetery. Zipporah's small steps over a lifetime continue to make a big difference in the world – even today.

Nominee: Name: Zipporah Parks Hammond

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.

“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. 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.

Zipporah’s college experiences and graduation from CU established 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 at CU in her honor and memory.

Provide essential biographical information on the nominee including her major achievements and contributions, education/training, professional/work history and honors/awards received. Do not attach another bio, resume or article as a substitute. All information in this section should be stated in narrative form. Please include only essential documents that communicate the nominee’s accomplishments as concisely and directly as possible.

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.

“Little Zipporah” and later known as “Zippy” attended Denver’s Whittier Elementary, Morey Junior High, and Manual Training High Schools. Zipporah was accepted to the CU School of Nursing in 1941 in a class of 30. She participated in The Cadet Nurse Corps when it was established in 1943. Despite the many challenges society placed in her path, Zipporah was the first black to graduate from a nursing program in Colorado. At age 22, Zipporah started her nursing career as a surgical operating-room nurse at Colorado General Hospital in Denver. Later that same year, Zipporah was appointed Chief Surgical Nurse for the Infantile Paralysis Unit of the Andrew Memorial Hospital at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Unfortunately, late in 1947, Zipporah contracted tuberculosis.

Despite the setback, Zipporah’s life-long goal to work in the medical field and serve others remained intact. After nearly two years in the National Jewish Health in Denver recovering from tuberculosis, she supplemented her nursing credentials with a medical records librarian certification in 1951. Her abbreviated-yet-productive nursing career evolved into a rich 30-year career as a Medical Records Librarian serving in a leadership role. 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).

During her hospitalization, Zipporah met Sheldon Hammond, also a TB patient. They were married in 1952 and later became parents of two sons, Stephen and Darrell. Zipporah passed away in 2011 (age 87).

Nominee: Name: Zipporah Parks Hammond

Zipporah was raised in a home where service was a way of life. As a volunteer, she trained and mentored young medical students and other physician trainees after she retired. Over a seven-year period (1998-2005) Zipporah helped train more than 200 CU medical students.

Zipporah's contributions to Colorado history were not limited to her profession. She cared deeply about her Gilpin childhood community in northeast Denver. Her historical preservation work culminated in the documentation of tens of thousands of Colorado artifacts. She volunteered at the Denver Public Library for more than 17 years (1992-2009), contributing many thousands of hours. 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.

"... 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. She gave freely for decades.

"[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 CU 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'.

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

*"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 in training, 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 [CU] 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 ..."*

-- Reese, Joan, 1990, 'Two Enemies to Fight', in Colorado Heritage, Colorado Historical Society, Issue 1.

Zipporah was accepted in the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington VA in 2015. Zipporah contributed significantly to the education and development of medical professionals throughout her adult life. Her perseverance through nursing school was a monumental achievement for her and nursing in Colorado. Through her medical volunteer work with her own physician, she provided invaluable on-the-job medical education experience as a live patient with heart disease for doctors in understanding the symptoms and effects of aortic valve disease. Many dozens of doctors benefited from these first-hand experiences with Zipporah and became better physicians as a result.

The Tuskegee Institute opened the first polio center for blacks in 1947. Zipporah agreed to go to Tuskegee the same year to take on the responsibility of Chief Surgical Nurse for the Infantile Paralysis Center. She stepped in to a void in health care to fill a critical need for ailing polio patients that, until that time, was reserved in other hospitals only for white patients. She had a leadership role in the development and application of orthopedic service protocols for polio patients and other orthopedic cases. The Infantile Paralysis Unit became a leader in developing public awareness of the needs of those who were crippled and disabled, ultimately leading to improved care for polio patients. (Powell, Edith and others, 2008, A Black Oasis – Tuskegee Institute's Fight Against Infantile Paralysis, 1941-1945, 186p.) All of this progress countered the long-standing beliefs that blacks were not susceptible to the disease.

Why did Zipporah leave Colorado and go to Tuskegee, Alabama? Zipporah was one of a growing number of black healthcare professionals who saw a need and believed that healthcare 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 of Public Health, May; 97(5): 784-795)

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 shared 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 Evidenced-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 and 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 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 lifetime 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.

"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

Through her dedication, Zipporah contributed significantly to Colorado history as illustrated by her sustained efforts with the Colorado Historical Society and 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 after Zipporah's death.

"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 continue to 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

2. Describe the specific ways in which the nominee and her accomplishments have elevated the status of women and helped open new frontiers for women 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 CU 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

"[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 CU 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 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

"[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

"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

"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

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 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 practitioners, 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. Storage, review and discovery of records in the rapidly increasing volumes of information was less burdensome. As a result, patient care was improved because documentation and tracking procedures were improved allowing nurses and physicians to focus more on the care of the patient. Without her significant and enduring contributions, hospital medical and administrative activity likely would have progressively slowed to a crawl."

-Stephen Hammond, Zipporah's son, family historian

"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

3. Describe the characteristics that make her a role model for others. Identify specific positive changes that the nominee's contributions have made that will inspire others, especially women and girls, by her example (20%).

Zipporah had the fortitude, integrity, perseverance, empathy, and dedication among other characteristics that qualify her as role model for others.

Zipporah's firsts represent positive change 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 through the quality of her work and by hoisting others on her shoulders leading to future progress. 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.

"[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, 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

By age 17, Zipporah was developing a vision for changing people's lives for the good. One of her high school essays reviewed 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

As an adolescent, she was already working on ways to create a level playing field for minorities and correct what she thought to be social injustices in order to improve the human condition for Denver and its residents. Her contributions to Colorado organizations have had a lasting effect on citizens of the State who are homeless with mental-health challenges.

"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. [Zipporah] had a heart for individuals less fortunate than herself and 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

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.

"This scholarship has helped with the financial burdens of paying for a second degree and has allowed me to focus solely on school. I am very grateful. It was inspiring to hear about Zipporah and her journey into the nursing profession as an African American female. Zipporah sounded like a quite force with a huge heart and passionate for helping others. I only wish I could have had the opportunity to meet her."

-Kathleen "Katie" Kerski, Zipporah Parks Hammond Memorial Nursing Scholarship recipient

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

Like many of us, Zipporah 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 and noteworthy."

-Stephen Hammond, Zipporah's son, family historian

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 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, PhD, family friend