



Harriet Tubman

"God's time is always near. He set the North Star in the heavens. He gave me the strength in my limbs. He meant I should be free"

Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) is one of the most famous women in America history for the freedom she brought to others. She was born on a plantation in Maryland and given the name Araminta Ross. At the age of 12, she was assaulted with a weight and left with a serious head injury after trying to stop the abuse of a fellow slave. The attack left her with severe headaches and other health issues for the rest of her life, but she would also have visions in which she believed she received messages from God. After marriage, she adopted the name by which she would be remembered, Harriet Tubman. In 1849, she fled to the North, escaping slavery and becoming a free woman. Despite the extreme dangers as a fugitive slave, she returned to the South multiple times to guide over 70 family and friends to their freedom. As a conductor on the Underground Railroad, she never lost a single passenger on any of her many missions in the South. Her success in leading people to liberty caused her to be known as "Moses." Yet, this work for which she is most famous is only a part of her story. Because of her knowledge of Southern territory, she served as a scout and spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1863, she helped lead a raid into South Carolina by an infantry of Black troops, resulting in the freeing of approximately 750 slaves. The successful operation was the first time a woman commanded U.S. combat soldiers in action. After the war, Tubman remained active in several important causes. She assisted in raising money to support a new life for former slaves. She became a prominent figure in the struggle for women to obtain civil rights and the vote. In 1896, she created a home near her residence in New York for the care of elderly persons. She passed away in 1913 and was buried with full military honors.

Harriet Tubman's achievements rank among the most impressive in our country's history. Not only was she a major force for the downfall of the horrors of slavery, but she was also a hero and a patriot. As a result, a serious campaign is currently ongoing to place her portrait on the \$20 bill, which was the amount of money she received in 1899 as a pension for her military service. Her courage in risking her life to save others remains an inspiration to us today, and we honor the memory of everything she did in the cause of freedom.