

The HistoryMakers® Salute Nelson Mandela



"We were invited to go back to South Africa with Zenani Mandela and her husband Mussie when Nelson Mandela was released. So there we were, sitting and watching Winnie and Nelson walk out of prison. A day later, my husband and I flew to Boston and got on a plane and flew to London and then to South Africa. We walked into Winnie Mandela's house. She was doing dishes and she put down the dishcloth and the dishes and said, 'My sister, you've come home,' and she embraced me. Nelson Mandela was just around the corner in this small dining room, sitting there with Walter Sisulu and two or three other men. It was the high point, the absolute high point, in my career."

Susan Taylor, MediaMaker, former editor-in-Chief Essence Magazine

"It occurred to me when he came out of prison that day with his head high, the essence and quintessence of manhood, particularly, African manhood. He was not bitter. He had every right to be bitter after 27 years of imprisonment without crime, without guilt. And yet, he was positive. He remained full of good will. I never saw hatred; hatred for the philosophy of apartheid and the practice, but not for the people."

Joseph Lowery, CivicMaker, co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)



"I was coordinator of Nelson Mandela's trip to the United States in 1990. I got to know Mr. Mandela and his then wife. It was one of the great honors of my lifetime, to be able to serve him and to serve his cause and help present him to the American people; to help him raise consciousness about the ANC and also help to raise money. That was just a wonderful opportunity for me."

Roger Wilkins, MediaMaker, former editor, New York Times

"After meeting Mandela, I am now willing to consider that the same soul may have inhabited Jesus, Gandhi, and Mandela. He just lived on a plane that was different, higher, better, more thoughtful than the plane I lived on."

Leroy Richie, LawMaker, former vice-president and General Counsel, Chrysler Corporation



"I was standing out in front of Victor Verster when Nelson Mandela walked out of the prison with the 12 other men. They walked out in the order in which they went to prison. When they walked out of that prison, they were all dressed up in suits and shirts and ties, and they hit the ground running. What a proud moment to see. It was impossible for them to break him! It was such an inspiration to me to see him walk out of that prison. I knew, at that point, this man's going to be president of this country. It's going to happen. That was a watershed event in my life."

Warner Saunders, MediaMaker, award-winning broadcast journalist

"I remember on election day, standing in the ballroom of the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg, and Nelson Mandela stood there and said 'I always believed this day would happen when I would stand up and say 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God, almighty, I'm free at last.' And I just cried. It was such a dramatic thing, and to me, it pulled together the African American struggle at once."

Monica Faith Stewart, PoliticalMaker, international observer for the 1994 South African election

"Mandela coming out of prison on a Sunday morning, the rest of the world was quiet. The universe stopped because this Black man, 27 years locked down, and he's walking out from a prisoner to become a president."

Al Sampson, ReligionMaker, pastor of Fernwood United Methodist Church

Visit the History Makers at: www.thehistorymakers.com.

46664: 1 minute for AIDS in Africa

Nelson Mandela - former Robben Island prisoner number 46664 - is the driving force behind a worldwide music-led campaign to raise global awareness about HIV/AIDS and funds to fight the pandemic in Southern Africa.

For more information visit www.46664.com



Mandela's Lifeline

34 When he became a lawyer and became actively involved in politics.

46 Sentenced to life in prison.

72 Released from prison.

75 Received the Nobel Peace prize.

77 Elected as South Africa's first Black democratic President.

81 Established the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

84 Launched his global HIV/AIDS campaign.

90 His birthday on July 17, 2008

His prison number. **46664**