

JOANNA HAIRABEDIAN MS. AMERICA 2019



BIOGRAPHY

Long Beach, CA – Joanna Hairabedian, Ms. West Coast was crowned Ms. America® 2019 at the National Pageant held Saturday, August 24, 2019 at the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California. As Ms. America® 2019, Joanna Hairabedian starts her new role as Queen, that will take her from spotlight to spotlight on behalf of an organization that empowers women across the nation and around the world, who are passionate about giving back to others through volunteer service and being the inspiration that helps others achieve their dreams. Hairabedian is a singer, song writer and author who helps transform lives through her music and motivational speaking. Founder of The Royal Princess Crowning Program she instills inner confidence and self-esteem for girls and women. Hairabedian also received the "Crown with a Purpose" Community Impact Award.

What does "success" mean to you? Have you achieved it? Success to me is overcoming something on the inside that blocks or hinders us from being our best selves. I used to struggle with a terrible fear of singing or speaking in public. After working hard to change, have achieved the inner confidence and victory needed to fearlessly speak in front of thousands. I'm therefore able to help so many others in their journey.

What do you most strive for in your life: accomplishment, security, love, power, excitement, knowledge, or something else? I strive to maintain peace, love and balance within my mind, body soul and spirit.

What do you believe is America's greatest quality? I believe America's greatest quality is the heart of sacrifice, courage against all odds and unwillingness to compromise it's beliefs. This is reflected in our National Anthem of the Star-Spangled Banner. In the war of 1812, all the forces of Britain's Navel army aimed fire at the "American Flag" at Fort McHenry. The Americans knew that they couldn't bow their knee to compromise of their freedom by taking down the flag. All night long the bombs went off, lighting up the night with its red glare, yet the flag still stood there. The next morning when the onslaught was over, the flag was still standing, waving it's star spangled banner because of the courageous men and women, whose bodies laid around it, that had held up American flag until they died and the next person would take over.

Do you feel you have much impact on the lives of the people you come in contact with? Every day my goal is to have someone's life made better for having met me, whether it's through a smile, word of encouragement, pay it forward gift or whatever is in the moment.



Name a charity you are passionate about and explain why it matters to you. How do you show your support? There are several charities that I support. The top two are HeartPrisonMinistries.org and the NEGU.org (Never Ever Give Up) Foundation. I support them through donations and volunteer service. I'm passionate about them because Heart Prison Ministries has a waiting list of 2000 people that have made big mistakes in their lives and want to change. This organization provides beautiful hand bound leather study bibles to inmates wanting a bible. NEGU.org provides joy jars for kids battling cancer and resources for their families. It's also an amazing organization that impacts lives all over the country.

Do you believe that beauty pageants make a difference in women's lives? Yes, beauty pageants make a difference in the lives of women. As a multiple titleholder, I've witnessed first-hand the power of the crown in helping make a difference.

Do you believe that social media shows a positive or negative outlook on the women of younger generations? I think social media can play a big role in the pressure women feel to be beautiful and have to perform as well as influence their inner confidence and self-esteem in a positive way. I use social media as a vehicle to inspire and empower women.

Who is the most influential person in your life? The bible is my largest influence for setting my values, character and ethics. My husband is my number one fan. He supports me with the Pageant journey, encourages me to write and produce my music CD, books and coaching programs (currently in the works). He loves to see me shine.

What brings you the greatest joy? My greatest joy is seeing someone's life transformed and a smile on their face.

Tell me about a memorable moment during reign? A memorable moment so far was when I was doing a "Royal Princess Crowning" Event, where I taught on identity and crowned the young women at the physical rehab facility a "Royal Princess". One young lady was a quadriplegic and was unable to attend the crowning, so we took the service to her room, but when I walked into her room, her eyes were closed. So I called out her name and she opened her eyes. I explained that we were here to crown her a "Royal Princess" and explained what we were going to do. I placed the crown on her head and explained the definition of a princess and how she is one and gave her words of encouragement and affirmations. Then we placed a beautiful red rose on her shoulder. She had a trachea as well as no use of her limbs and suddenly started talking. We later found out that she had been non-responsive for 5 weeks until I called her name and she had not spoken in 5 years. Everyone in the room was undone.

What is the most meaningful project you have done? What would your dream project be? One of the most meaningful projects is the Royal Princess Crowning program, where I crown women of all ages and backgrounds a "Royal Princess". At least 7 out of 10 girls don't feel they are good enough. I've seen first-hand the power of the crown when a woman who doesn't feel good enough or pretty enough, receives a crown and forever rose with words of affirmation through my program. My dream project is to see the "Princess Crowning Program" to be implemented in schools across the US.

What is the best advice you've been given? The best advice I've been given is to never give up, no matter what the circumstances.

What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you? One thing people would be surprised to know about me is that I'm 51 years old and won the main Ms. America 2019 title in the category of age 26+.

What should every woman know how to do? Every woman should learn how to love herself. This impacts every choice she makes.

What is on your bookshelf? Books on changing mindset, personal development, beauty tips, the bible, health and finances.

What song do you listen to that psyches you up and makes you feel strong? This may be an oldie but goodie..."Take the Shackles Off My Feet So I Can Dance" by Sister Sister.

What item in your closet do you wear the most? My favorite item in my closet that I wear the most is my comfy yoga pants, sweat shirt and Ugg slippers.

