

Let me tell you a bit more about myself. I am a native of the Motor City of Detroit, Michigan, born in Women's Hospital on November 17, 1959. I watched my mother return to Wayne State to receive her degree and begin teaching in the Detroit system. A single mother of four, she always encouraged us to strive for greatness. She was able to send my twin sister and me to Immaculata High School.

I began my college career at Oakland Community College, majoring in Emergency Medical Technology in 1978. Wanting more, I joined the Michigan Air National Guard in 1979, where I served for 16 years, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. During my enlistment, I received numerous awards, including life-saving awards, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, a Bronze Award, a Unit Citation, a Leadership Management Certificate, a Noncommissioned Officer Certificate, and an Administration Specialist Certificate.

While working several jobs, I joined the Detroit Police Department in 1986 and poured my heart and soul into my chosen profession. I married, then later divorced, and taught my daughter Jessica the values I hold dear. During my career in the department, I received several meritorious awards, a Perfect Attendance Award, an Officer of the Quarter award, department citations, and four lifesaving awards. The highest honor I received was a

Citation for Valor after climbing into a crashed aircraft to free the pilot, preventing further injuries.

I returned to Oakland Community College in 1993, majoring in Aviation Technology, where I earned many certificates and an FAA license for Single Engine Airplane while making the Dean's List. I was one of three officers chosen to develop the Community Policing Program for the Tenth Precinct in Detroit. This program became successful and is still in use today.

Knowing my love of flying, my friend Benny Napoleon transferred me to the Aviation Unit the same day he became Chief of Police. Chief Napoleon always encouraged his officers to achieve greatness every day. That transfer made history as I became the first female helicopter pilot for the City of Detroit Police and the first African American helicopter pilot in law enforcement in the entire country. This opportunity allowed me to meet Jerome, who also shared a love of flying, and we have been flying together ever since.

My achievements earned me the Spirit of Detroit and a Testimonial Resolution awarded by the Detroit City Council. Throughout my career in Detroit, I received certificates for Community Policing, Executive

Protection, Advanced Executive Protection, Breath Test Operation, Defensive Operation, Auto Theft Investigation, and Field Training Officer. In 2002, I received an Award of Recognition, Salute to Women of Excellence, from the City Council.

After retiring from the Detroit Police Department, I immediately joined the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, starting at Division One and later transferring to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. I continued to achieve recognition, receiving a Meritorious Recognition, a Sheriff's Citation, and several additional certificates. In 2007, I was injured in a vehicle crash and was told I would not be able to return to law enforcement. While recovering, I earned a certificate in culinary arts and became a chef. Several surgeries and aggressive rehabilitation later, I returned to the career I loved. In 2015, I was promoted to the rank of sergeant, returned to Division One, and worked hard to earn the respect of my officers and the inmates I supervised.

In 2021, I retired from Wayne County to run for the position of Sheriff to address many issues within the department. Winning this election will be historic, as I will become the first female sheriff for Wayne County and the first African American sheriff in the state of Michigan.