



Clara L. Adams-Ender, R.N.

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When it comes to forging your own path, Clara L. Adams-Ender believes the most important step is to make a decision.

“To not decide is a decision. You need to decide what you want and go after it,” she said. “If you go out with a negative attitude, chances are it’s not going to work out good for you or for anyone else.”

While still a young girl, Adams-Ender made her decision to follow a path that would lead to success. One of 10 children, she worked three jobs to make her way through nursing school and joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps upon graduation.

“I always enjoyed taking care of people. And I’ve always respected nurses,” she said.

She began her career in the Army as a second lieutenant. By the time she retired 34 years later, she had risen through the ranks to become a brigadier general; chief of the Army Nurse Corps; and finally, the commanding general of Fort Belvoir in Virginia.

Today, Adams-Ender is the executive director of Caring About People with Enthusiasm (CAPE) Legacy Fund, Inc. The organization helps students of modest means complete their college educations. Many of the students are enrolled in nursing and ROTC at historically black colleges and universities.

“To be able to serve others is a calling. It takes many sacrifices. But it’s worth it,” said Adams-Ender.



1993
Bobby Rush is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to his election, Rush served in the Army for five years and cofounded the Illinois Black Panther Party.



1997

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Danyell Wilson of the U.S. Army becomes the first African American female to be presented with the job of guarding the Tombs of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery.

NOVEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1945: John H. Johnson publishes first issue of <i>Ebony</i> .	2 1983: President Ronald Reagan designates Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national holiday. Election Day	3 1981: Thirman L. Milner elected mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, becoming first African American mayor in New England.	4 2008: Senator Barack Obama elected 44th president of the U.S., becoming first African American to be elected chief executive in the 232-year history of the country.	5 1968: Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn, New York, becomes first black woman elected to Congress.	6 1900: James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson compose "Lift Every Voice and Sing."
7 1989: L. Douglas Wilder elected governor of Virginia, becoming nation's first African American governor since Reconstruction. Daylight Saving Time Ends	8 1938: Crystal Bird Fauset elected state representative in Pennsylvania, becoming first black woman to serve in a state legislature.	9 1731: Mathematician, urban planner and inventor Benjamin Banneker born.	10 2006: Benny Andrews, painter and teacher whose work drew on memories of his childhood in the segregated South, dies.	11 1989: Civil Rights Memorial dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama. Veterans Day	12 1941: Mary Cardwell Dawson and Madame Lillian Evanti establish the National Negro Opera Company.	13 1940: The U.S. Supreme Court rules in <i>Hansberry v. Lee</i> that blacks cannot be barred from white neighborhoods.
14 1915: Booker T. Washington, educator and writer, dies.	15 1881: Payton Johnson patents swinging chair.	16 1981: Pam Johnson named publisher of the <i>Ithaca Journal</i> in New York, becoming first African American woman to head a daily newspaper.	17 1980: Howard University airs WHHM, first African American-operated public radio station.	18 1797: Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and Civil War nurse, born.	19 1953: Roy Campanella named Most Valuable Player in National Baseball League for the second time.	20 1923: Garrett A. Morgan patents traffic light signal.
21 1893: Granville T. Woods patents electric railway conduit.	22 1930: Elijah Muhammed establishes the Nation of Islam.	23 1897: A.J. Beard patents the Jenny Coupler, used to connect railroad cars.	24 1868: Pianist Scott Joplin, the "Father of Ragtime," born.	25 1955: The Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation in interstate travel. Thanksgiving Day	26 1883: Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and Civil War nurse, dies.	27 1990: Charles Johnson awarded National Book Award for fiction for <i>Middle Passage</i> .
28 1961: Ernie Davis becomes first black to win the Heisman Trophy.	29 1908: Adam Clayton Powell Jr., politician and civil rights activist, born.	30 1912: Gordon Parks, writer, filmmaker and photographer, born.				