



Colonel Monica M. Allison-Ceruti
26 July 1982 - 26 July 2012
Thank you from the U.S. Air Force and
a grateful Nation for your dedication,
service, and selfless sacrifice.
Integrity— Service— Excellence—

CPO Paula Allison
USN
1944 - 1986
1951 - 1976



1
00:00:02,490 --> 00:00:18,020

I
2
00:00:18,020 --> 00:00:25,480

am the first African American woman to earn
the rank of Colonel, which is O-6, in the

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00:00:25,480 --> 00:00:29,449

United States Air Force Judge Advocate General
Corps Reserve.\h

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00:00:29,449 --> 00:00:35,680

I've always prepared myself to lead, I've
always prepared for the next step, I've

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00:00:35,680 --> 00:00:36,890

always prepared.\h

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00:00:36,890 --> 00:00:42,110

When I first arrived at Johnson in 2008 I
told one of my colleagues my goal was to be

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00:00:42,110 --> 00:00:43,950

a chief counsel.\h

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00:00:43,950 --> 00:00:46,890

And he said, "OK Monica, you can do it,"
and he kind of laughed.\h

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00:00:46,890 --> 00:00:48,100

I said, "I really am."

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00:00:48,100 --> 00:00:52,960

So I have constantly prepared to lead, I have
constantly prepared for my position.

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00:00:52,960 --> 00:00:54,940

So how has it impacted me?

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00:00:54,940 --> 00:00:58,960

It really hasn't because I have continued to do what I needed to do to achieve in my

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00:00:58,960 --> 00:00:59,960

career.\h

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00:00:59,960 --> 00:01:05,470

I worked very, very hard and I studied hard, I studied hard.

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00:01:05,470 --> 00:01:08,990

If there was an educational opportunity available I took it.

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00:01:08,990 --> 00:01:09,990

\hI took it.\h

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00:01:09,990 --> 00:01:13,020

And I did and I passed on what I learned to others.

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00:01:13,020 --> 00:01:14,619

So how did I get here?\h

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00:01:16,619 --> 00:01:15,619

Hard.

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00:01:16,619 --> 00:01:17,619

Hard work and preparation.\h

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00:01:17,619 --> 00:01:22,079

And surrounding myself with very positive people; people who believed in me and believed

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00:01:22,079 --> 00:01:24,859

in my goals and a whole lot of praying.\h

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00:01:24,859 --> 00:01:28,770

My faith plays a huge part in who I am.\h

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00:01:28,770 --> 00:01:36,010

So my background, my military background,
helped me to succeed at NASA because I never

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00:01:36,010 --> 00:01:40,641

allowed anyone to define me and to tell me
what my success was going to be.\h