

Celebrating Jane Bolin and Ruby Bridges: Two Important Resilient African American Women in History

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We wrap up Black History Month with a feature spotlight on two inspiring and resilient African American women – Jane Bolin and Ruby Bridges. Both women faced challenges growing up and were brave in breaking down barriers and thriving in their educational and career journeys.



Jane Bolin

Jane Bolin

First African American Female Judge in the United States

Jane Bolin is a celebrated woman who broke many glass ceilings. She was the first Black woman to attend Yale Law School in 1931. In 1939, she became the first Black female judge in the United States. Although Jane was discriminated against and discouraged by career advisors during her educational career, she was persistent and continued her journey. I learned she had a passion for advocacy and social justice since childhood. Jane dedicated her career to fighting for women's and children's rights and defending those in dire need of assistance.



Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges

First African American Student to Attend Desegregated Elementary School

The history of Ruby Bridges' young life is very intriguing and powerful. I learned that this young girl was very brave and bold. In 1960, at the age of 6, she set off a chain reaction leading to the integration of schools in the South. She became the first African American student to attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary in Louisiana at the height of desegregation. Ruby now chairs the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which was formed in 1999 to promote "the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences."

Sources:

www.biography.com/amp/political-figure/jane-bolin

www.rubybridges.com

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