

# Honoring Juneteenth: A poetic tribute to freedom and resilience



## Their Courage, Our Corridor

By Chiara Sanders

The Taste of Freedom I don't despise.  
Pressed down, shaken together, evolved from demise.  
Longsuffering and forgotten, and yes, I still DO rise.

We are more than a conqueror and stay undefeated.  
Greeted by Ms. Tubman with the underground railroad,  
Because she knew a better story for us had to be told.

The forerunners, the heroes, that stood before our feet.  
Who refused to stay planted in the soil of defeat.  
We are here because they were there. It took a long journey  
of fight and despair.  
But they fought, they told, they ran, they shared.  
They shared with us that sweet taste of glory.  
Not writing the conclusion with only one winner of the story.  
If I got it, you got it was the song that they sang.  
Putting their life on the line to provoke a change.

Dr. King, who had that unforgettable dream.  
To demolish oppression and change our well-being,  
For the better...If only I could write him a letter,  
To say thank you so much for being our **Vetter**.

Who vetted us to be equal in all aspects of life.  
Who marched in Selma with John Lewis for our civil rights,  
In spite of brutal attacks and unimaginable strife.

We are here because they were there.  
Sister Ida B. Wells who handled us with care.  
Telling it like it is, reporting with no filter on the brutality of our biz,  
Because that's what it took to get folks shook.  
Closed mouths don't get fed, and if I have to shout, then I will shout to shed...

Shed Light on what needs to be done.  
William Dubois had it right when he said, "The cost of liberty is less than the  
price of repression."

Depression will not keep our people down.  
Bebe Campbell helped pave the way for mental health research in Black towns.

Their struggle just to have a voice and a presence,  
and not to be looked upon as **less than**.

Rosa Parks took her seat wherever she saw fit.  
And today we take for granted just being able to sit,  
Somewhere, to have a seat at the table.  
President Obama showed the nation that WE are more than able.

Remembering the heroes who stood up and fought the good fight and who didn't give in.  
I am thankful for the freedom to be bold, proud, strong, and unapologetically before you  
with melanated skin.

Hiram Revels, Thurgood Marshall, Shirley Chisholm – just to name a few.  
Oh how appreciative we are of what you do.  
**Their Courage**, Their Resiliency...**Our Corridor**, Our Victory...  
I am here...**WE** are here, because **THEY** were there!

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## A Poem for Unity

*By Amy Edis Marcellini*

Country of liberty,  
Where some can't even dare to be.

Killing people's families,  
Cause fear overwhelms our faculties.

When flight or fight turns into proving one's might,  
While ordinary people stare down the barrel of a system –  
that ain't never been right.

Overdosing on capitalism;  
Got no room for one more "-ism."

Standing on the precipice of opportunity,  
Acting like you're the only one that's supposed to be.

Why can't you see?  
It all begins with unity.

Together is our way to be free.

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## Unity

*By April Carroll*

Unity is not just for me. Unity is the ability for us to just be...  
Uniquely who I am, and how God created me. However, Unity is not  
always what I see.

We are all more alike than not alike. We bleed the same blood, thus...  
We should allow our oneness to unite, rather than separate or divide us.

If we were to truly join hands together as whole...  
The impact and change would be good for my soul.

The burden, the pain, the heaviness I carry...  
Makes some days seem enormously heavy.

Togetherness is the opposite of divide...  
Unity, if practiced would bring about a sense of pride.

When we accept our differences and be open to change...  
And celebrate each other even when variations from your norm seems strange.

Advocate's focus on unity is what we celebrate today...  
Unity yields compassion, caring and an empathetic display.

Unity brings joy and alleviates hate, and allows us to achieve more...  
It provides strength, power, courage and will restore.

The phrase " United we stand, divided we fall..."  
Is oh so true and is my heart for us all.

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