HIDDEN FIGURES

BY: Margot Lee Shetterly
Growing Up in Hampton, Virginia
Dorothy Vaughan
(1910–2008)
Mathematician

Dorothy Johnson Vaughan began her work as a mathematician during WWII with a position at Langley Research Center as a human computer. She was made supervisor of the West Area Computers, a unit of mathematicians comprised entirely of African-American women. Her group became part of NASA when it was founded in 1958, and they were an important part of the Mercury program’s success. She retired from NASA in 1971.
Mary Jackson
Katherine Johnson
A Different Time
Segregation
World War II
New Jobs
Victory Through Air Power
The Human Computers
Teaching in an all-black school, 1940's
1930's Weddings
War Work
Leaving Home
Chapter 5

Welcome to Hampton, Virginia
Should I Sacrifice To Live ‘Half-American’?

Suggest Double-V for Double Victory Against Axis Forces and Ugly Prejudices on the Home Front.

[Editor’s Note: A young man, confused and bewildered by all of this double talk about democracy and the defense of our way of life, is writing, like other young Negroes, some very pertinent questions. We reprint this letter in full because it is symbolic.]

Dear Editor:

Like all true Americans, my greatest desire at this time, this crucial point of our history, is a desire for a complete victory over the forces of evil, which threaten our existence today. Behind that desire is also a desire to save, this, my country, in the most advantageous way.

Most of our leaders are suggesting that we sacrifice every other ambition to the paramount one, victory. With this I agree; but I also wonder if another victory could not be achieved at the same time. After all the things that bind the world now are basically the same things which upset the equilibrium of nations internationals, states, counties, cities, homes and even the individual.

Being an American of dark complexion and some 26 years, these questions flash through my mind: “Should I sacrifice my life to live half American?” “Will things be better for the next generation in the peace to follow?” “Would it be demanding too much to demand full citizenship rights, in exchange for the sacrificing of my life?” In the kind of America I knew worth defending?

Will America be a true and pure democracy after this war? Will Colored Americans suffer still the indignities that have been heaped upon them in the past? These and other questions need answering! I want to know, and I believe every colored American, who is thinking, wants to know.

This may be the wrong time to broach such subjects, but haven’t all good things obtained by men been secured through sacrifice during just such times of strife.

I suggest that while we keep defense and victory in the forefront that we do not lose sight of our fight for true democracy at home.

The V for victory sign is being displayed prominently in all so-called democratic countries which are fighting for victory over aggression, slavery and tyranny. If this V sign means that to these new engaged in this great conflict then let us colored Americans adopt the double V for a double victory. The first V for victory over our enemies from without, the second V for victory over our enemies from within. For surely those who perpetrate these ugly prejudices here are seeking to destroy our democratic form of government just as surely as the Axis forces.

This should not and would not lessen our efforts to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion; but should and would make us stronger to resist those evil forces which threaten us. America could become united as never before and become truly the home of democracy.

In answer to the foregoing questions in a preceding paragraph I might say that there is no doubt that this country is worth defending; things will be different for the next generation; colored Americans will come into their own, and America will eventually become the true democracy it was designed to be. These things will become a reality in time, but not through any relaxation of the efforts to secure them.

In conclusion let me say that through these questions often peruse my mind, I love America and am willing to die for the America I know will someday become a reality.

James G. Thompson
Trouble in the Lunchroom
Loose Lips Sink Ships
Wind Tunnel
Inside a Wind Tunnel
OFFICIAL VICTORY!
THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

WAR ENDS AS JAPAN QUITS TODAY, THURSDAY ARE LEGAL HOLIDAYS

U.S.S. Indianapolis Lost; All Aboard Are Dead, Missing Or Injured
HAD ATOMIC BOMB ROLE
Cruiser Carried Explosive To Guam Base Before Sinking With 1,196

MacArthur Is Appointed To Accept Surrender, President Says
HIROHITO IS ALLIED TOOL
All Man-Power Controls Are Removed---Draft Calls To Be Cut

WAR CONTRACTS Are Swept Away

Tears Cheers Whistle Paper Mark End
Marian Anderson
Log Cabin Beach
Hampton Roads
Specialization
The Fastest Plan in the World

U.S. PLANE FLIES 900 MPH, BREAKS BARRIER OF SOUND

Los Angeles Examiner

Maroc Rocket Ship Reaches 70,000 Ft.
Chuck Yeager
Sonic Boom
Supervisor!
CHAPTER 10

Mary Jackson
THE RUSSIANS PLAN TO GET THERE FIRST

The space race is on, and the Russians are racing to be first to send a man-made satellite hurtling round the earth hundreds of miles up. Their efforts will be measured within weeks months, years, and suddenly to win the industrial leaders placed by America.

The first day's achievement of the west to move space was made by Professor Ivan Sokol, chief of the Soviet aeronautics laboratory. It was made under the watchful eye of the Prime Minister, Mr. Joseph Stalin. A satellite 'bigger' than America's

The Duke 'whistles for a wind'

India on the road, on the farm, in the factory - for tough work everywhere...
President Harry S. Truman
Supersonic Wind Tunnel
Mary Jackson’s Engineering Group
Katherine Johnson arrives at Langley
Confusing Signals
A Bumpy Ride
Her Answers: Real Change
New Beginnings… And an Ending
IBM Computers Introduced to NASA
Dorothy Vaughan Leads the Way
Mary Jackson Attends An All-White School
CHAPTER 15
Christine Mann Darden
Sputnik
At War?
Brown V. Board of Education
Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (PARD) – Wallops Island
NACA to NASA
Center of the
Space Program
Only Woman in the Room
Introducing James Johnson
Katherine Johnson
Trajectory Analysis
Civil Rights Movement
Launch and Splashdown
NASA Control
Yuri Gagarin – April 12, 1961
Mercury Mission – “Ham” the Astrochimp
Alan Shepard - Freedom 7
President John F. Kennedy
Chapter 21
John Glenn
Kathrine Johnson meets John Glenn
Katherine Johnson called to duty
GLENN CIRCLES WORLD!

Lincoln Land Suit Is Heard
Condensation Proceedings Open For Extension of Raughman’s Lease

Glenn Worked Long Time For Date With Destiny
Cape Canaveral, Fla., April 24—John H. Glenn Jr., first American to orbit Earth, worked on a “long-time” plan for his historic flight. He has been training for months at the NASA Research Center. Glenn’s flight will be a major milestone in the history of space exploration.

No Road Fatalities In 1961
Fifth Year City Free Of Auto Deaths, Number Of Crashes Decline

Family Is Extremely Happy
Wife, Children Of Astronaut View First Landing Reports Of Orbit

Orbits Earth Three Times
Cape Canaveral, Fla. (AP)—Astronaut John H. Glenn Jr., returned to earth today within two miles of the recovery destroyer, USS Naut. He was recovered by the USS Granada and returned to Cape Canaveral at 7:53 p.m. The flight was over 20 minutes long.

"I feel very good," Glenn told the press after landing. "I feel as if I have just completed a marathon."
Chapter 22
March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
Apollo 1
Mission to the Moon
Apollo 11
Landing – All the world watched on TV
One small step for man, on giant leap for mankind. – Neil Armstrong
Calculating...
Katherine Johnson receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama
MORE HISTORIC FIRSTS…
Edward Dwight, Jr.
First African American to be trained as an astronaut
Mae Jemison – First African American Female NASA Astronaut
Guion “Guy” Bluford
First African American in space
Lonnie Johnson – NASA Engineer who invented the Super Soaker
Loretta Lynch – First African American Woman appointed US Attorney General
Who was the first African American woman to run for president?
Who was the first African American woman to run for president?

Shirley Chisholm

In 1968 Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to the US Congress, and served 7 terms. In 1972 she did not get the democratic primary nod – that went to George McGovern (who lost the election to Richard Nixon).
Yvonne Cagle
ASTRONAUT