

Honoring the life of RBG

saying
goodbye to
a trailblazing
feminist



By Katie Lewis

“My mother told me to be a lady. And for her that meant be your own person, be independent.” – Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

On Sept. 18, the sad and stunning news arrived that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had passed away, after serving 27 years on the Supreme Court of the United States. Ginsburg has left a [powerful legacy](#) as a trailblazing feminist, and throughout her life made enormous contributions to bettering the lives of American women and of Americans as a whole. Through her career in politics and long battle with cancer, Ginsburg showed what it truly means to never stop fighting. As we mourn the loss of one of America’s most powerful female voices, we also celebrate all the [positive change](#) “The Notorious R.B.G.” brought to our country.

Here are some of her most monumental [accomplishments](#) to remember.

In 1972, Ginsburg became the

first woman to be hired with tenure at Columbia University School of Law.

In 1970, she co-founded the first American law journal about gender equality, called *The Women’s Rights Law Reporter*. In 1971, she played an important role in the launching of the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and in 1974, she published *Text, Cases, and Materials on Sex-Based Discrimination*, the first textbook on sex discrimination law.

In 1973, she argued her first case before the Supreme Court. She continued to appear before the Supreme Court, with victories in important cases such as *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld* (1975), relating to discrimination in Social Security child support benefits, and *Durren v. Missouri* (1978), which made jury duty compulsory for both men and women in Missouri. During these years, Ginsburg became a pioneer of modern women’s rights and fought relentlessly against sex [RGB cont. from pg 1]

Making an Alamar-k in the Beauty Industry

By Elizabeth Rivabem

In a day and age where minority representation is more important than ever, Latinas are stepping up their game, especially in the beauty industry. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we are shining the spotlight on Gabriela Trujillo, a proud Cuban woman and talented makeup artist. She now adds CEO of Alamar Cosmetics to her list of accomplishments.

Trujillo founded her makeup company right here in Miami, Florida to entwine her culture with her passion for beauty and cosmetics in 2017. The brand is named after her hometown in Alamar, where she frequently broke into her mother’s beauty collection as a girl. Cuban influence pervades every aspect of her cosmetics, with names inspired by singer and icon Celia Cruz, and colors themed with the energy of the brightly-painted women that walk the streets of Havana.

The MUA turned businesswoman emphasizes diversity and accessibility through her products; Alamar Cosmetics offers an array of vibrant eyeshadows, nude lipglosses, and smooth bronzers to fit all skin tones at affordable prices. The brand also promises excellent quality and pigmentation to inspire anyone and everyone to create something beautiful. To top it off, all of Trujillo’s products are cruelty-free! [cont. page 3]

discrimination issues.

In 1993, after serving 13 years on the U.S. Court of Appeals, President Bill Clinton appointed Ginsburg to the U.S. Supreme Court. She was only the second woman ever to be named to the Supreme Court. With the Supreme Court, she joined the majority on cases such as *United States v. Virginia* (1996), which prevented the state from using taxpayer dollars to fund an all-male educational institution. She also participated in many monumental Supreme Court decisions — she dissented in *Bush v. Gore* (2000) and joined the majority in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company* (2007), as well as in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), which legalized same-sex marriage in the United States.

In 2010, Ginsburg was awarded the ABA Medal, the highest honor from the American Bar Association.

In 2019, Ginsburg was awarded the [Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture](#), an award dedicated to social justice and equality, given to a thinker whose ideas “have profoundly shaped human understanding and advancement.” The award also included a \$1 million charity donation.

In 2020, Ginsburg was awarded the National Constitution Center’s Liberty Medal. She was honored through a [video tribute](#) on Sept. 17, Constitution Day and the day before her passing.

We will finish with some of Ginsburg’s most famous quotes, that truly embody her inspiring mindset and the powerful way that she shaped our

country and gave a voice to American women in politics.

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

“I don’t say women’s rights—I say the constitutional principle of the equal citizenship stature of men and women.”

“People ask me sometimes... ‘When will there be enough women on the court?’ And my answer is: ‘When there are nine.’”

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

“I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability.”

Feminism in pop culture: check these out!

To support women not just with our words, but with our actions, the Feminism Explained staff have curated a list of recommendations for movies, writings, products, and music created by females and/or empowering and inspiring women. As we continue our journey of educating ourselves and others, we aim to enjoy ourselves through these creative mediums. We hope you will, too.

Movies

On the Basis of Sex (2018)
Hidden Figures (2016)
Mrs. America (2020)
Little Women (2019)
Wonder Woman (2017)
Captain Marvel (2019)
RBG (2018)

Books

A Thousand Splendid Suns
The Handmaid’s Tale
Young Jane Young
The Penelopiad
The Beauty Myth
Clap When You Land

Essays

Men Are More Afraid Than Ever
(Lily Loofbourow, from *Slate*)
On Likability (Lacy Johnson, from
The Tighthouse)

Feminist TRIVIA what do you know?

1. Who was the first woman to run for president?
2. What is the most common occupation for American women?
3. In what year did American women win the right to vote?
4. For how many years did Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg serve on the Supreme Court?
5. Who invented the modern medical syringe?

Keep her where
she belongs...



O.M.G. this used to be okay?

By: Olivia Martin-Johnson
The image to the left appeared in Playboy magazine in 1974 as an advertisement for Weyenberg Massagic shoes. The target audience is male, as the shoes were made for men. To grab men's attention, the picture shows a naked woman laying on the floor with her hair, make-up, and nail polish done perfectly. In this ad, the naked lady appeals to men and provides sexual attraction. The caption above her head reads "Keep her where she belongs..."

This caption implies that women belong on the bottom. She is below where men stand, representing her inferiority. The fact that she is on the floor also suggests that men can walk all over her. However, the woman is smiling at the shoe, as if she were admiring it, which implies she is happy to be treated that way. Ads like these reinforced society's sexist views, as they were seen as acceptable and even humorous in that time period. Let us hope that it will not continue in the future.

on feminism

By Juliana Vair

and on the train he grinned (or grimaced she couldn't really tell) and told her that she shouldn't be spewing that out all day long it was, stupid, really, stupid, really, and she glared a bit but it's no use arguing with the stupid (cause she told him that he should stop by and maybe take a flyer or two and she told him that it wasn't really, really, really, really stupid but rather somewhere in the middling range)

and her mother told her that those were the women who got themselves into trouble and that she was too good too good to hang out with those girls those women (cause she told her where she'd been on friday where her sunburn came from why her sneakers were so much dirtier and the grimace was all she needed to know)

and it's physically impossible for her to stress enough the fact that she's not trying to murder all the men contrary to popular belief, rather, rather, rather she just really wants to extra couple or cents or maybe you know maybe make a difference or two

[Alamar, cont. from page 1]

There is a Cuban phrase that says, "a mal tiempo, buena cara," which means that in bad times, you should smile and carry on. Trujillo embodies this through her successful enterprise. Despite setbacks caused by Covid-19, Alamar Cosmetics recently launched in Target this September and will be restocking its most popular and sold out products soon. Want to try out one of her products? Hurry to a local Target store or purchase online at alamar-cosmetics.com.

How a male feminist thinks

By Olivia Martin-Johnson

“I am a feminist because I believe people should be treated fairly and I recognize that people are not being treated fairly,” said high school business teacher Kamal James. Mr. James is known for confidently wearing his sweatshirt reading “this is what a feminist looks like.”

As a business teacher, Mr. James believes that the word “businessman” is a sexist title. He says that simply being more aware of one’s language can be the first step to changing society’s mindset. For example, instead of saying “businessmen,” one can say “business leaders.” Small conscience changes like this make Mr. James and his students more aware of subtle generalizations that have been nurtured into our society from birth. He told of his daughter’s preschool experience: “for Halloween, little boys arrived at school dressed as Superman, Ninja Turtle, a plumber, or Super Mario, while all the girls were dressed as princesses. How is it okay that society taught boys to be engineers, plumbers, CEOs, etc., but we only taught girls to look pret-

ty?” The idea of encouraging men to aim for higher goals is evident when kids get to highschool, Mr. James said. Through his experiences, he recognizes that girls are less likely to enroll in his business class as compared to boys, as attendees are usually 1/5 girls.

Another way to consciously change one’s sexist habits, Mr. James further explained, is to question one’s expectations. Men are less willing to be feminists due to the idea that it impedes on their self-interest. “What’s rational is at odds with what’s moral,” he recalled from a podcast he heard. “If the female gender is empowered, the male gender is at a disadvantage. Therefore, their self-interest would not be in favor if they were feminists.”

Mr. James was raised in a household with no father. His mother was given the task of providing and raising her kids

as a single mom. This atmosphere prompted Mr. James to see the strength of women that many overlook. Similarly, Mr. James has been supporting his wife throughout her career.

“I believe that my partner deserves the opportunity to showcase her brilliance. My role throughout my wife’s career has been to support, encourage, and bolster her and in order for me to do that, I have to be a feminist!”

Moreover, Mr. James relates that being a black man has helped him reflect on the inequalities faced by women. He understands the struggles of the under represented groups. By pointing out discrimination against race, Mr. James believes it is also his responsibility to recognize other communities that face inequality in society, such as women.

About Feminism Explained

Feminism Explained (F.E.) is a monthly newsletter. Its intent is addressing the negative connotations associated with the word ‘feminism’. In today’s society, it is somewhat common to hear people say they do not believe in feminism due to its “radical ideology.” As feminists, we know this not to be true. Feminism is not radical, nor is it dangerous. Feminism is simply the desire for equality amongst the genders.

What you can expect: F.E. Monthly newsletter will include interviews with women in high power positions. These women will be speaking about obstacles they faced, if any, to get to their positions. They will share the hardships they endured and how their present position continues to demonstrate the ongoing struggles many women must face to have influential places in society. F.E. will include statistics, providing facts and examples of gender inequality locally, nationally, and internationally. F.E. will also feature historical events, reminding us how our ancestors fought to allow modern women to function as we do today. Our newsletter will highlight initiatives taken on by women and the positive difference we can make in the world.

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