

Extraordinary Women of DMV 2021 Women's History Month



Kimberly Burt

Deputy Director, Highway Safety Office

Nomination: Kimberly has taken the lead in the professional field, but also uses her abilities to shine outside of work. She goes above and beyond for those around her. In her free time, she supports her church family by leading the visual and youth ministry and as the church clerk. She truly cares about helping those around her grow by providing support and implementing new ideas, even promoting highway safety outside of work. She is a faithful leader and has demonstrated what it means to work hard, be passionate and take action.

What are you most passionate about? Family is my passion.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? Faith in knowing I can do all things through Christ. My mother's guidance in always instilling a work ethic that I have carried with me since I began working. She always encouraged me to never give up and always do my best. Even as an adult, she encourages me daily. I always strive to do my best and to always be professional.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? Family time is so important to me and that allows balance in my life. However, COVID has changed that, but I can't wait until we can get back together soon. I also enjoy creating digital creatives in my free time for my church social media outreach and our website.

What is the best advice you have received? To always take time for myself, self-care. I'm working on this daily, but it is advice that was greatly needed.

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? Dorothy Height, an African American civil rights and women's rights activist. I remember when I first joined the Highway Safety Office, I attended a Lifesavers Conference where Dorothy Height received a special recognition. This gave me the energy and encouragement that as an African-American women I can have a voice in highway safety. From that moment I allowed myself to learn more in the area of highway safety and to be the voice to save lives on our roadways. A lunch with her would be so inspiring and uplifting.



Vivian Cheatham

Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Executive Office

Nomination: Vivian has always been a great worker, co-worker and friend. In her current position as the Commissioner's Assistant, she strives to be the best in whatever she does. With the added concerns surrounding the pandemic, she continues to ensure the Executive Office is covered for whatever arises while taking time to listen and help our DMV customers and coworkers daily.

What are you most passionate about? My family and friends.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? Enjoying what I do and making the best out of my day. Learning from my mentors and peers.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? I balance my professional and personal life by having a great husband, great boss and wonderful family. There is never a perfect balance, but, with great support, you can do anything.

What is the best advice you have received? Treat people like you want them to treat you. Be the best you can be.

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? Ruth Ginsburg, Justice of the Supreme Court. Born in a low-income family and continued with a zest for life and education. Never giving up.



Bonita Glover

Training Manager, Workforce Development Division

Nomination: As have many DMV employees, Bonita has made new strides during the pandemic to get the job done. She continues to guide and lead technical training but now, in the virtual world. Outside of work, Bonita is very active in the Youth Ministry at her church. She is the chair of the scholarship committee, head Girl Scout leader for multiple troops, and has worked with the Children's Church. She started working with the youth when her daughter was young. Her daughter is now a young woman and Bonita has stayed the course with the youth. She has a passion for making a difference in the lives of children.

What are you most passionate about? Helping others learn, grow and develop, whether it is a DMV trainee or one of my Girl Scouts

What do you feel has contributed to your success? Wonderful mentors, a loving family and a love of learning.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? I am still learning to find that balance. I love my work and what I do outside of work and I am not always in balance.

What is the best advice you have received? Everyone has magic, beauty and power inside them, you just have to look for it!

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? Nannie Helen Burroughs. I have been reading about her life as an educator and activist. I am inspired by her quote saying she specialized in the "Wholly impossible."



Leslie Harper

Graphic Artist, Communications Office

Nomination: Outside of DMV, Leslie is a teacher and tutor trainer at the Read Center, a community-based nonprofit organization that helps adults improve their lives through adult literacy. In 2020, many in the world had the opportunity to witness and experience what it takes to be a teacher. Real teachers give unconditionally and, if you talk to her about this chapter in her life, it is apparent that she loves her students and is committed to the mission of this organization.

What are you most passionate about? I most passionate about being a good listener, assisting and teaching others.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? My mom taught me about being humble and having a kind heart for others. I would

like to think that's how I'm living my life.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? I stay busy, but the key is carving out some quality time for yourself and enjoying good company from family and friends. I am blessed because I get to do two things in life that I love, being creative and teaching.

What is the best advice you have received? Do what makes you happy and keep doing it.

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? I would love to have lunch with Maya Angelou. Just to sit back over some tea and to listen to her wise motherly voice and her stories of growing up. Have a discussion with her about what inspired her to write "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," one of my favorites, and meeting Martin Luther King.



Stephanie Jessup

Senior Special Agent, Law Enforcement Division, Roanoke

Nomination: Stephanie has a passion for helping her community. She is involved with numerous charitable organizations. She spends a lot of time participating in events, volunteering and raising funds for the Special Olympics. She serves on the Executive Council for Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics in which law enforcement officers carry the Flame of Hope across the state culminating with the lighting of the cauldron to officially open Summer Games. She also participates in The Polar Plunge, the Special Olympics premier annual fundraiser. She says the icy dip is an experience you will never forget!

What are you most passionate about? I have been in Law Enforcement for 18 years and the most rewarding part of my job is being able to help others, especially individuals who are not able to defend themselves. God created us to love and help one another!

Special Olympics Virginia and Law Enforcement Torch Run have been a part of my life for over 10 years. I strive to bring awareness, inclusion, and funds for Special Olympic Virginia Athletes.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? I have to thank God first and foremost. I am very fortunate to work for an agency that allows me to do my job and be on Executive Council for Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run. Having co-workers who share the same passion and work with me to bring awareness, inclusion and funds for Special Olympics. The biggest contributor is the athletes of the

Special Olympics. They have taught and continue to teach me how to push myself to be a better person, love all, work harder, and never give up!

How do you balance your professional and personal life? It took me many years to find that balance! My priority is my family and they will always come first. I had to learn to shut my computer and phone off at the end of the work day. I had to learn issues that couldn't be resolved by the end of the work day will be there the next morning but my family may not. My ride home from the office is my time to decompress and let it go. My family doesn't deserve half of me!

What is the best advice you have received? Do unto others as you would have them do unto you! Work hard, stay humble!

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? I would love to have lunch with Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Ms. Shriver is the founder of Special Olympics. She believed in Justice and Equality for all. She was intelligent, devoted, and motivated the WORLD to see people with intellectual disabilities as people.



Stephanie Jones

Senior Special Agent, Law Enforcement Division, Northern Virginia

Nomination: Stephanie is a dedicated and loyal DMV employee. She is involved in her community as a volunteer helping with the Prince William women's softball league as a director. She is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and is the chairperson of her lodge's Polar Plunge program which raises money for the Special Olympics. Stephanie also serves a trustee for the Fraternal Order of Police overseeing numerous special events.

What are you most passionate about? I'm most passionate about helping people.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? My determination. I refuse to give up.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? I always keep my personal life separate from my professional life. Meaning, I don't bring my work troubles home and I don't bring home troubles to work. My off time is my personal and family time. Time is very precious and cannot be taken for granted.

What is the best advice you have received? I was once told and always try to follow, lead by example and always remember someone is always watching (referring to my kids).

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? While there are so many, the first person who comes to mind because I just met her is Chief Maggie DeBoard from the Herndon Police Department in Northern Virginia. I recently attended a Women in Law Enforcement Leadership Summit in Richmond. Not only was she the leader of the summit, but truly displayed her true self as a female, mother, friend, and a leader. She is a role model for current and future female law enforcement officers. I would love to talk to her more about some of her struggles and strengths.



Angela G. Pipia

Business Analyst, IT, Systems Development Division

Nomination: Angela is very active with her community, church and DMV Employees Association. A few examples of her involvement are: Girl Scout leader, Sunday school teacher and coordinator for the annual DMV Back to School Supply Drive.

What are you most passionate about? Children, my own of course, and those in our Children's Ministry. I believe children need to know they have great value and are capable of so much. I want every child I come in contact to know they are incredibly loved, and have a purpose, and I will be here to always remind them of that. Which is why I'm also proud to be a Girl Scout Leader of Cadettes!

What do you feel has contributed to your success? My faith in God, my patient husband, the support and love of really good friends.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? Balancing a professional life and a personal life for me means prioritizing them. My personal life includes family, church and "me" time (hobbies and interests). These are what bring me happiness and purpose and therefore must come first. I am very proud to work for DMV, fulfilled by the work I do and energized by the people I get to work with. But at the end of the day, I take great care to not let "work" spill over into my personal life, although, some of my work family do hold a very personal place in my heart.

What is the best advice you have received? These two quotes kind of sum up my life's philosophy: "Owning your mistakes take incredible strength" and ""Mistakes are only mistakes if you do not learn from them." Too many people fear failure or making a mistake, I welcome the chance to do so. I can't recall a mistake so terrible that I did not learn, grow and benefit from it in some way, and I've had plenty to grow from! This philosophy requires a strong sense of self awareness and not letting the opinion of others define me.

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? My ancestors from Armenia and Greece, before their families came to America. I think it would be beyond incredible to sit and have lunch with people from my family who lived during the 1700s and 1800s to learn about them and their lives and see how their personalities and traits would eventually impact my own life. Without them, I would not be here, so I'd like to thank them.



Imelda "Del" Rhodes

Work Leader/Floater, CMSA, Richmond District

Nomination: In addition to her important role at DMV, Del has the added responsibility of caring for her mother who lives in another state. Every other weekend, Del travels out of state to coordinate care for her mother among several family members and health care professionals. She has dedicated a large portion of her free time to caring for her family.

What are you most passionate about? Helping people be all they can be.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? Great mentors who have crossed my path have kept me close in their hearts.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? Sometimes they run together. I believe in building relationships that can build on my professional and personal life. So it's easy to balance because I am the same person.

What is the best advice you have received? Work hard because it will pay off.

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? My grandmother. She has been the strongest women in my life and I lost her too early. The wisdom she imparted in me has made me the women I am today and I am so grateful.



Helen Wilson

Program Support Technician, Customer Records

Nomination: Helen is a wonderful, caring person. She has been a foster parent for many years and has fostered numerous children. When she talks about her foster children, you can just see and feel the love she has for them. It hasn't always been easy balancing being a foster parent and working, but she does it with grace and style. She has such a caring heart, not only with the children she fosters but with anyone she meets. Helen retired from DMV and came back to work as a P-14 more than 10 years ago and is still going strong with working Customer Records and as a foster parent.

What are you most passionate about? Living life to the fullest and caring for others.

What do you feel has contributed to your success? Being patient and help from my loving family.

How do you balance your professional and personal life? Taking life one day at a time not limiting myself to just one thing.

What is the best advice you have received? When life throws me a curve, just start over and keep going.

If you could have lunch with any person in history, who would it be and why? President and Mrs. Obama. First I would like to thank them for the service they to this country. Plus, I would like to know how they managed to remain so down to earth with all the unpleasant things going on around them.