

Maxine Waters, wife, mother, member of Congress. Waters is the most senior of the twelve black women in the United States House of Representatives, and was the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Over her time in Congress, Waters has become a powerhouse figure. She claims to have been the first to call for President Donald Trump's impeachment; she opposed both Bush presidencies; and the war in Iraq.

Maxine Waters is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics today. Waters inspires me because I'm very interested in women in politics. I find Waters to be especially interesting because of the reputation that she has gained throughout the political world. She is known for being a fierce and formidable advocate for women, children, people of color, and the poor. Waters represents a large part of Los Angeles, and is very well-liked by her constituents.

Congresswoman Waters is well known for her quote, "Reclaiming my time." In a hearing in 2017, Waters repeatedly used this phrase when United States Secretary of Treasury, Steve Mnuchin, whom she was questioning, would avoid answering her questions. She said this in order to take back time that she had lost for her question because Mnuchin tried to get out of answering her question. This phrase became popular on social media and became associated with her dislike of President Trump.

Waters has not only achieved success in the political world, but also in the humanitarian world. Waters was awarded the Bruce F. Vento Award for her work on homelessness and poverty, she had an employment preparation center named after her, and she is the co-founder of two organisations. One of these organisations is called Community Build. Community Build is an incorporation dedicated to the resurgence of South Los Angeles communities. They do this through contribution to the youth and to commercial economic development.

Possibly the most inspiring part of Congresswoman Waters is her upbringing. Waters was born in Saint Louis, Missouri, not too far from here, and was the fifth of thirteen children raised by a single mother. She began working at the tender age of thirteen in factories and segregated restaurants. Waters moved to Los Angeles, where, after earning a Bachelor's degree from the University of California, she became a teacher. Waters has held her position in Congress for twenty seven years. She is just one

example of someone who has done great things despite the odds against her. Waters truly has achieved the American dream.

It makes me think that if she has overcome so much, and was still able to do so much, maybe there is hope for all of us. Maybe the fortune, or misfortune, of our birth doesn't have to define what we do with the rest of our lives. Maybe we can decide whether we want to make a difference or not. I'm not sure if we can, but I am sure that Waters has decided to make a difference.

MS-04