

## Impact Statement

Zoe Bevill, Grade 7.

***Let My Parents Vote***, 2020.

Mixed media, 24 x 18 Inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Sheyann Webb

For my Lowell Milken art project, I chose to portray Sheyann Webb. I chose her because she was a very brave nine-year-old girl. She chose to skip school more than once to go to the Brown's Chapel AME Church where she learned about marching for freedom and voting rights. She also went to march even when her parents told her not to because they thought it was too dangerous. Sheyann even tried to convince her friend, Rachel West, to join her when she started marching. This makes her brave because most nine-year-olds would not go against their parents' wishes and most nine-year-olds would not skip school. When Sheyann Webb skipped school and went to the Brown's Chapel AME Church for the first time, it was the beginning of her fighting for freedom and the right to vote for African Americans. The Brown's Chapel AME Church was the first place that she heard about the Selma to Montgomery march she was involved in. She was with many marchers that were mostly adults, including Martin Luther King. Many of those adults were beaten, but Sheyann Webb continued to march for voting rights and freedom.

I chose to portray my story about Sheyann Webb as a protest sign. It shows her message and her small hands holding the protest sign. The speech bubble refers to Sheyann Webb's birthday wish, which was to have her parents be able to vote. The pictures of the marchers include images of Martin Luther King, who Sheyann believed "you could receive his message regardless of how old you were. I thought it was important to add Martin Luther King in my project because Dr. King named Sheyann the "smallest freedom fighter". This is also why I showed the small hands holding the sign. She was one of the youngest marchers, but such a mighty girl.

Working on this project has helped me learn about the struggles of African Americans and what they must have dealt with to get where they are today. I think the African Americans fighting with Sheyann Webb were all brave and strong because while they were fighting for freedom and voting rights, some of them were beaten, but they kept marching and fighting.

In conclusion, I would like to make sure kids my age understand how difficult it was for African Americans back then, how brave kids like Sheyann Webb were, and that we can still do more to help with equality. I will do my part to share Sheyann's story with people and help fight when needed. I will tell people that Sheyann went against her parents' wishes even when it was and went to the Brown's Chapel AME Church, met Martin Luther King, and marched for freedom and voting rights. I will also tell people that she only asked for her parents to vote and nothing more, she did not ask for a doll house like any other nine-year-old would. This showed me that there are more important things to life than a phone or laptop.