

Impact Statement

Lauren Caudle, Grade 7.

APGAR, 2018.

Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24 Inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Virginia Apgar

Virginia Apgar has saved the lives of countless babies since the creation of the APGAR score. It is given to a baby at 1 minute and 5 minutes after birth and assesses their condition and health when born. Throughout Dr. Apgar's life she was in the shadow of the men she worked with, despite this she became the head the division of anesthesiology being the first female division head in history at her school. The next year anesthesiology became its own department and she was passed over as department chairman but did become the first full female professor at her school. She then created the APGAR score and published it in 1953 and it began to be used in hospitals all over the country. She joined the March of Dimes and devoted herself to preventing and treating birth defects and in 1973 she published a book titled "Is My Baby All Right? : a Guide To Birth Defects" with Joan Beck. Her whole life she overcame the struggles that came with being a female physician so that she could help people and save lives. The spirit and optimism she has is truly inspirational and she should be more well known for her achievements.

In my painting Dr. Apgar is holding a baby in a hospital setting. I want it to show how she is nurturing and caring towards the baby to represent what she has done to save infant lives everywhere. She is wearing her hospital scrubs and hanging face mask in attempt to make it unmistakable that they are in a hospital. I wanted there to be a chalk board in the background showing part of what I think would be the baby's APGAR score again adding some relevance to how she has saved so many infants in her work. Lastly, I made the expression on her face to be giving a small smile and almost proud since she should have been so honored and satisfied to be the amazing person she was making a difference in so many individuals lives.

I have explained to anyone and everyone who has seen my piece how relevant and important Virginia Apgar is by explaining to them what she has done and what her great impact on the world was and still is. I have not yet but intend to share my piece and Dr. Apgar's story on social media where it can hopefully spread and possibly become more well known by everyday people. I will also try with my newfound knowledge of her to work things about her into conversation and help more and more people learn about the huge impression she left on infant mortality rates and women's equality in the world of science and medicine.

I am very glad I used Virginia Apgar as my unsung hero for this project because I love the things she did while she was alive and the things she continues to do after she has died. I genuinely hope that her story becomes more familiar because it really is incredibly inspiring and uplifting.