

## Impact Statement

Lindsay Bunch, Grade 11.

***Unsung Heroes***, 2017.

Chalk pastel, collage, yarn, 22 x 15 Inches.

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Unsung Hero: Margaret Hamilton

Imagine living in a world where the thing that you are so passionate about is looked down upon for you to be doing because of your gender? This was a harsh reality for many women throughout history and even today, but especially it was one for Margaret Hamilton. Hamilton was a young woman who had a dream to be a software engineer so much so that she taught herself how to code at a young age. At the time, it was known as 'women's work' not software engineering because it was thought to be illegitimate, and therefore it must be for a woman to do. Hamilton was so dumbfounded by this idea, that she revolutionized this work to be known as software engineering. She was taunted and bullied by the men surrounding her who thought that what she was doing was pointless and that they were so much better than her. Later on, she began to work at NASA, where women were treated like all they could be were secretaries, but without her, our whole history and life today would be completely different.

By defying all odds, Hamilton wrote a code that got Neil Armstrong to the moon. During the time of the space race, it was deemed as imperative to get to the moon, and without Hamilton, there would have been no way that we would have gotten there as quickly as we did. The sad thing is, she didn't get recognized for her achievements until 40 years later because no one would want to admit it was her who did the work because she is a woman.

Nevertheless, Margaret Hamilton is a huge inspiration to every feminist out there for her work in fighting for her own equality; in the past year, she has been winning awards for this and her work in the engineering field. As a supporter of women equality myself and having a deep rooted love for math and science, I felt it necessary for myself to recognize her and celebrate everything she has done for the world. Especially in recent events in history, it is important now to honor those who have fought for any form of equality by showing what they have done and encouraging others to educate themselves on the topics.

While keeping the weight of how to honor her on my mind, I struggled to find the correct way to do so. I ended up using chalk against black paper for her face and the moon to represent the chalk she used on the chalkboards to learn the way to code and the overall knowledge she had. There is an infamous picture of her standing next to a large stack of books that were filled with her code to the moon, which is why I used a pen drawing of books on the left side of the piece, and the strings to represent the flow of the code from the books to the moon. All this was done on blue and maroon printed flower paper, with accents of gold to show how timeless and classic this woman is.

Hamilton showed me that you should never stop striving for what you believe in, no matter what someone tells you, especially if they are talking down to you because you are a woman. You are useful and worth so much and should never let anyone deny you the right to what you love.

This woman deserves so much more recognition than she got. I am so glad to have done this project so that I can now do my part to share who she is and spread the joy, love, and ideology of equality that this woman had with the world.