

***Created for the National Urban League***

*Started as a volunteer auxiliary, the National Urban League Guilds fundraise and support National Urban League activities and projects. This script, written especially for National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial, was presented as a video homage at the Guilds' 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala.*

**National Urban League Guilds 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Marc Morial**

For 70 years the Urban League Guild has been our heart and soul, our inspiration and impetus for change. We celebrate each and every Guild member, who has dedicated themselves to service, to fundraising, to building awareness and to leadership.

**Marc Morial continues**

*(we see visuals to illustrate some of the comments below)*

Guilders are the people that help make it possible. Connecting to communities, helping fund our Affiliate programs, taking the message of I AM EMPOWERED into our hearts, our homes and our communities.

For 70 years their efforts to support the Urban League movement have helped us advance our goals: That every American child is ready for college, work and life. That every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits. And lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy efficient housing. With access to quality and affordable health care.

And just as our I AM EMPOWERED campaign reminds us of the power of one person to become a force for change, so today we are reminded of a remarkable, empowered woman, Mollie Moon.

We know our policy initiatives are critical; they define the Urban League movement. But as we also know, nothing in this world happens without the people to power the ideas. And 70 years later, we owe so much to the personal power of Mollie Moon. She broke through all the barriers and launched the Urban League Guild to help power our National Urban League movement.

An innovative fundraiser, she marshaled her talent and energy to create educational, cultural and social events that built awareness and helped remove racial barriers. And those events also helped fund our Urban League initiatives.

The elegant Beaux Arts Ball was the toast of New York and the nation's premier African-American gala. Over the years, thousands of people attended those festivities to celebrate and support our efforts on behalf of equal opportunity for all. Fundraising events and activities also included book parties, exhibits, film screenings, art forums, The Rainbow Party, and The Ebony Fashion Fair.

Molly Moon's legacy continues today in the accomplishments of our Guild chapters.

*Frankie Brown and the Jaspers will talk about why the Guilds are important and how they help support the Affiliates and NUL initiatives.*

Voter registration, jobs counseling, educational outreach, tutoring, encouraging healthy lifestyles, fighting childhood obesity, fundraising activities and so much more. Reaching out to our communities, churches, fraternities, sororities and other organizations to build awareness and support for the Urban League movement.

This is what they do. This is who they are. They are role models for our youth and an inspiration to us all. And on behalf of the National Urban League and all that we hope to accomplish, we honor you. We celebrate you. And we thank you. Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Urban League Guilds.