



Carol Moseley Braun was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992. The "Chicago Tribune" observed that she "earned her victory through determination, an honest message, and a confidence in her ability to win."

first woman to try. African Americans and women of all color began involving themselves at increasingly high rates in politics. Shirley Chisholm's contribution to politics were with the Democratic Party. She will forever go down in history as "one of those who fought to open the doors for the rest of us."

**Carol Moseley Braun**

While Shirley Chisholm broke through the previously locked door into big time politics for blacks and women, a skilled lawyer ran through it behind her. In 1992, less than a decade after Chisholm re-

tired from Congress, Carol Moseley Braun became the first African American woman in the Senate. Braun, a former lawyer and assistant U.S. attorney had also served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1979-1989. Her seat in Congress came available when Clarence Thomas gained Senate confirmation as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Braun almost lost her chance to be seated in Congress when Thomas was charged with sexually harassing Anita Hill, a former aide to Thomas. Thomas beat the charges, joining the Supreme Court and Braun went on to join the Democrats in the Senate. Braun, a liberal, received

great support from women voters. Along with Senator Dianne Feinstein, they became the first women to serve on the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee.

took a deep breath, graced them with her always-gorgeous smile and stepped forward. A white male voice announced her appointment. She was the first Black woman in Congress. As member of the House of Representatives from 1969 to 1983, Ms. Chisholm showed them it could be done by a Black woman. In 1972, she sought the Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States. Although she did not win, Shirley was the

**Saluting Black History Month**

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