

**The Conversation**

# From Presidential Women to Power Rangers

Meet J.F.K. Jr.'s nanny, Lyndon B. Johnson's inspiration, and the U.S. Army's daring female "diamonds."



Maud Shaw, in white, with John-John Kennedy outside the Oval Office in 1963

## Who's Behind the First Families?

You've seen *The Butler*. Now comes *The Residence*, Kate Andersen Brower's new book on the staffers who've made their mark on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Paging Hollywood: These women have biopic-worthy stories.

**The nanny who broke news of an assassination:** It was beloved caregiver Maud Shaw who told Caroline, five, and John-John, two, that their father, President John F. Kennedy, had died. "There was an accident, and your father was shot," she said. "God has taken him to heaven."

**The convicted murderer who became a trusted nanny:**

In 1970, less than a year after she got a life sentence for killing a man in Georgia, Mary Prince moved into Governor Jimmy Carter's mansion to care for daughter Amy, three, as part of a prison trustee program. When Carter won the presidency in 1976, Prince's work release was terminated, and she was sent back to jail. Rosalynn Carter, who believed Prince was wrongly convicted, secured a reprieve so Prince could join them in Washington. Prince was later granted a full pardon; to this day she occasionally babysits the Carters' grandkids.

**The cook who helped inspire the civil rights movement:**

Lyndon B. Johnson, a young politician, and wife Lady Bird hired Zephyr Wright to cook for their family in Texas while she was still a home-ec major in college. Wright then moved with them to D.C. for L.B.J.'s budding career; on their drive through the segregated South, several hotels refused to house Wright, who was black. That experience helped inspire Johnson's civil rights efforts. As president, he sought Wright's opinions on M.L.K. Jr.'s March on Washington and more. She cooked for them for 27 years. —*Andrea Bartz*

## *The Pep Talk of All Pep Talks*

"Every single one of you is used to being the best female in the unit, hands down.... Now all of a sudden, you aren't.... You're now a diamond among diamonds.... You are going to fail at things. That is going to happen when you are around people this good. Someone is better than you at something?... Figure out why, and do it better next time."

This is the advice an Army Ranger trainer recalls giving to the first all-female Army team to serve alongside Special Ops Forces. Read more about this historic team—and the extraordinary hero at its heart, the late Ashley White, below—in the new book *Ashley's War*.



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*The pay gap in Belgium...*



*...and in the United States*



## Pay Gap, Begone! What the U.S. Can Learn From...Belgium

Women are paid less than men in every country in the world, but some places—like Belgium, New Zealand, and Norway—have narrowed that gap to just 6 percent, according to the Clinton Foundation's new "No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project" report. That's much smaller than America's 19 percent gap. Why? A big reason: Those three countries guarantee policies—like paid sick leave, flexible hours, paid maternity/paternity leave—that make it easier for women to keep working and growing their salaries after kids. "Encouraging men to use these policies is key too," says Katherine Gallagher Robbins of the National Women's Law Center. "The countries succeeding in gender equality are recognizing that women and men have responsibilities to balance." —*Monica Potts*