

Autobiographies from 'our times' - Carolyn Mosby-Williams

Giving thanks

The black belt of Flourney's generation had expanded far beyond its narrow borders when Carolyn Elizabeth Mosby was born 26 years later, in November of 1967. Richard Hatcher had been elected Gary's mayor earlier that month, one of the first African-Americans to head a major city in the U.S.

With honesty and humor, Carolyn 'Beth' Mosby-Williams' writes her story at age 40, reviewing her life built on the foundation laid by her parents. The daughter of John and Carolyn Brown Mosby – her mother, a prominent Lake County public official, served in both the Indiana State House and Senate.

When Carolyn Mosby returned to Gary, taking on a community relations position at United States Steel in 1997, she was amazed at questions and rumors she was back home to run for the office her mother once held.

"I will never go into politics" was her answer, "it is a dirty game." Mosby is critical of the political arena that forgot it was her mother, Carolyn Brown Mosby, who brought the casino industry to Gary. When her mother was dying, she remembers her brother hiding the daily newspapers, unless her mom read unkind stories written about her.

That game though was a life changer when her mother was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1978.

Mosby credits it with being her unofficial start in public relations, the career she has today. "While other 11-year-olds were busy learning the lyrics to the latest hit record, I faced studio microphones ... doing campaign radio spots on behalf of my mother."

She enjoyed the campaigning; it was fun and a way to get friends involved.

But mother Mosby was no influence when it came to academic achievement. Another of daughter Carolyn's "Unflappable" moments – the "creative things" and "little magic" she performed on report cards and transcripts.

Mosby's dad, John Oliver Mosby, undoubtedly contributed to that unflappable distinction. Mosby says her dad was carefree and nothing bothered him. If the day was sunny -- fine; cloudy – fine. He told her to always make the best of it.

At 22 and in her last year of college, the most important people in her life were gone. Her mother died in 1990. Two years earlier, her father John had passed.

She was on her own when she returned to complete the last year at Indiana State University.

The responsibilities of fending for herself after college and the decision to live in Indianapolis were the beginning of her growing up years.

It was her work as marketing manager for Indiana Black Expo (IBE) that inspired and propelled her to pursue a career in public relations.

She was the "one-woman public relations team" that promoted the annual Circle City Classic, a weekend of college football and entertainment that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to Indianapolis in October and IBE's annual Summer Celebration in July.

Success at IBE launched Mosby-Williams into corporate America. Today, she is a very successful public relations professional, something that came naturally to this daughter of a public official.

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