Phyllicia Rashad introduces the "In Memoriam" segment at the 2014 BET Awards. On screen behind her are the late actress Ruby Dee and author Maya Angelou. — MARIO ANZUONI, REUTERS, June 30, 2014

Excerpt taken from 2014 BET Awards. “Important figures in the Civil Rights Movement that we both celebrated, we are saddened by the physical absence of Ruby Dee and Maya Angelou...Ruby Dee was the embodiment of grace and strength. Her deep intelligence and sensitivity as an actor, poet, and playwright transformed and elevated even the most limited opportunities...Yes, with her deep commitment to excellence in craft, she was movement woman...in art and activism, she stood at the front line of our struggles for human rights for decades, sacrificing her career again and again to stand on the right side of history, to make history!

Maya Angelou lived an epic life. A single mother, a survivor of abuse, a dancer, singer, actor, a contour...unafraid of risks, an adventurer, an internationalist, and a pan-Africanist who, in her own living room in Ghana, introduced African leaders to Malcolm X. She, too, marched with Martin Luther King in some of the most dangerous counties in the rural south, and all of this happened all before she even picked up a pen. And when she did...Oh, yes...the world changed shape and color and was augmented in strength...Her soaring tribute to resilience, “And Still I Rise,” will serve as both compass and guiding light for generations to come. Ruby Dee and Maya Angelou traveled unchartered territory, blazing a path and illuminating new pathways...May we ever speak their names.” Phyllicia Rashad


WORDS OF WISDOM

Ruby Dee, My One Good Nerve: Rhythms, Rhymes & Reasons (NY: J. Wiley &Sons, 1999)

“The greatest gift is not being afraid to question.”

“Get up an hour earlier, stay up an hour later, make the time.”

“The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that comes from within: strength, courage, dignity.”

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Maya Angelou, I know Why the Caged Bird Sings (NY: Random House, 1969)

“Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between.”

“Anything that works against you can also work for you once you understand the Principle of Reverse.”

“Pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS & GRAD STUDENTS—GREAT JOB—DON’T BE A STRANGER!
FRESHMEN – JUNIORS...BE SAFE OVER THE SUMMER, AND SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

PICTURED ABOVE – CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES STAFF [LEFT TO RIGHT]: Mr. Derrick Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator; Dr. LaVerne Gyant, Director; Dr. Joy Coates, Associate Director; and Ms. Regina Curry, S-Plan Coordinator (not pictured, Ms. Ronnie, Office Support Specialist)