

Q U I T T I N G I S N E V E R A N O P T I O N

THE CHARGE

THE STORY OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RETIRED) TERESA L. KING

A NOSLACK TALKING, LLC PRODUCTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINORITY FILMS INSTITUTE

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THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE

MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE PRESS RELEASE

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After 12-year fight against Racism and Sexism, First female Commandant of the U.S. Drill Sergeant School tells her story in soon to be released film

[COLUMBIA, SC] The Minority Film Institute has partnered with Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Teresa L. King to produce a new documentary film, **The Charge**, which chronicles King's inspiring story of triumph after a lengthy struggle against institutional racism and sexism in the Army she loved and served.

Culminating a highly decorated military career, on Sept. 22, 2009, Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King became the first female commandant of the Drill Sergeant School at Fort Jackson, S.C., an event that thrust her into the national spotlight. She was selected by Oprah Winfrey to appear beside Kamala Harris and Dianne Sawyer in **O Magazine's "Top 20 Power List of Women in the World"**. She also was included among **TheGrio's 100 History Makers** and interviewed/profiled on **The Today Show**.

Incredibly, despite her many commendations and pioneering achievements, King was relieved of her position not once, *but twice*, both times based on allegations that the Army's highest review board eventually judged to be unfounded. This victory rectified a grave injustice.

CSM King's story speaks directly to the challenges that women in positions of power continue to face today. Minority Film Institute director Duane Cooper says, "I believe CSM King's compelling journey, marred by adversity, but ultimately leading to vindication, is one that is relevant, relatable and needs to be told."

King says "I can't get the years back, but I did get my life and my honor back and I want this to inspire women, African Americans and everyone to keep fighting for what is right. I didn't ask for this burden, but when God asked who shall I send, Isiah didn't hide, he stepped up and said send me!"

The Minority Film Institute was created to be a principal resource for minorities with interest in film and television. MFI is also focused on creating and producing historically accurate and realistic content for film and television that portrays the stories of diverse individuals, leaders and communities in American society. (minorityfilms.org)

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Story background

CSM Teresa King, the United States Army's first female Commandant of the Drill Sergeant School was improperly relieved from her position after suffering years of harassment and discrimination at the hands of her superiors. What began as requests being ignored and public belittlement eventually turned into gaslighting, complete isolation from her peers, and the untimely end of her career. Left with nothing but her own will and determination to prevent the cycle from being repeated, *The Charge* tells CSM King's story of gender and racial discrimination, harassment, and the fight to clear her name within a broken system.

King's charge

The Charge is a spiritual calling given to advance our military service in the area of equal rights and fair treatment for all. The advancement of women and equality for all is what is most important. The story of CSM Teresa L. King's Charge is a call to go within ourselves and examine how we use our power. Does it bring honor to those we lead regardless of our differences, or does it compromise the values we are charged to live out?

The Importance of The Charge

The Charge is a documentary film that chronicles the true story of Command Sergeant Major Teresa L. King. The film's purpose and intent are not to weaponize any actions or events against individuals featured in the story or against the United States military. The film looks to bring awareness on important topics in hopes that the US military can learn from these events, heal, and become a better organization for current and future soldiers. The injustices documented in the film took place at one of our country's most distinguished institutions, the United States Army Drill Sergeant School. This illustrious school's mission centers on training those leaders that instruct and groom every recruit that enters the US Army. The injustices done to CSM King struck and compromised the core foundation of the Army. The mission of *The Charge* is to remind viewers that compromising standards, discipline, and ethical behavior can destroy the very institution that is charged to teach and instruct these values.

George Washington said, "Discipline is the spirit of the Army." In that vein, if those who are charged with instilling discipline fail to lead by example in that most fundamental attribute, how can we as a nation fight and win future wars and ultimately live up to the standards that make us all Americans?

King's service assignments

- Special Assistant to the Commanding General of Fort Jackson
- Commandant, United States Army Drill Sergeant School
- Acting Brigade CSM, Dragon Support Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps (9-11)
- CSM, USA NATO, Shape Belgium
- CSM, 3-13 Infantry Battalion, Fort Jackson
- CSM, 369th AG Battalion, Fort Jackson
- First Sergeant XVIII Airborne Corps (first female)
- Enlisted Assistant to Director of Defense Security Assistance Agency, Pentagon, Washington DC
- NCOIC, Army Chief of Staff Office

King's awards/honors

United States Army Drill Sergeant Hall of Fame
President of the United States Coin of Excellence
Legion of Merit
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
National Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal
Drill Sergeant Badge
Secretary of Defense Identification Badge
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Army Parachutist Badge
Canadian Parachutist Badge
German Parachutist Badge
Air Assault Badge
Master Fitness Graduate
Army Overseas Service Ribbon
Army Service Ribbon
Recipient of Adjutant General Corps Horatio Gates Medal
Recipient of the Prestigious Medal of Saint Maurice,
Patron Saint of the Infantry

Other press/media resources

High-resolution photography of Teresa King

thechargefilm.com/media

Film website and promo video

thechargefilm.com

CSM Teresa L. King website

noslacktlking.com

Minority Film Institute website

minorityfilms.org