

July 19, 2010

To: Mablean Ephriam

Fm: Elzie Madison

Re: H.U.F. Awards

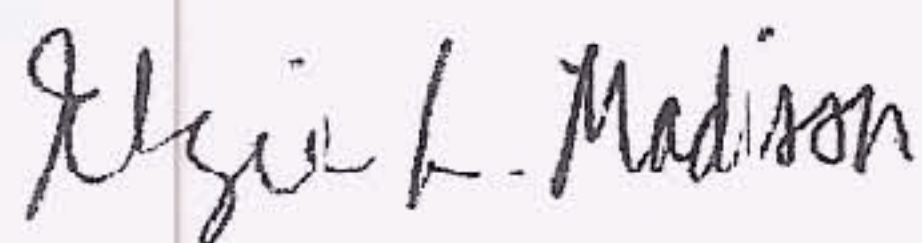
Dear Ms. Ephriam:

I would like to express my humblest gratitude and thanks to you for the branch of your foundation that honors unsung fathers. I would also like to thank the board members at the Mablean Ephriam Foundation for selecting me for the Fatherhood Forever award last month; it was an honor and a privilege to have received such worthy consideration. As you are well aware, many men bear the armor of fatherhood without recognition or fanfare; likewise, many men are negligent of their duties, particularly in the African American community. The strength of a family, the stability of a community, and ultimately the integrity of a people is defined by the presence or absence of a father. A father's presence dictates a moratorium against misogyny, wayward, disrespectful behavior, gang involvement, and school truancy, the moral decay with which is all too prevalent in our society. In short, fathers serve as an invaluable link in the hierarchical family structure.

However, with the changing dynamics in the African American household, a major shift has occurred wherein more than half of all households are headed by single women. This shift has diminished African American males' role in the household and more emphasis has been placed on the women that run them. This phenomenon, along with heavy media disparagements regarding black men, has given rise to the terms "deadbeat dad," "sperm donor," and other such colloquialisms. These characterizations, whether accurate or perceived, overshadow the ilk of men who have made a commitment to their children. To be sure, the father's role is one of the most vital in any household. That being said, it is spiritually uplifting and inspirational to have met a benevolent Godsend who has made a concerted effort to recognize unsung fathers.

Once again, I thank you and I pray that your efforts to highlight unsung fathers resonate throughout the cities across the nation.

Sincerely,



Elzie L. Madison