

## Dr. Mary Walker

Dr. Mary Walker was arguably the greatest woman figure in history. Her contributions on the battlefield saved many lives as well as earning the respect of countless other people. Mary Walker was and still is a role model for women aspiring to be doctors. She went down in history as one of the greatest people, whether male or female, with her outstanding qualities of courage, commitment, and unrelenting pursuit of the causes she believed in.

The first character quality that Mary Walker displayed is courage. In the 1800s not many women held positions of high regard. When Mary Walker tried to join the army in 1861 she was denied because she was a woman. However, she did not give up. Instead of becoming a nurse, like suggested, she volunteered for the Union army. She would treat wounded soldiers until 1863 when her expertise we're finally recognized. She would be moved to Tennessee and become a medical field surgeon. This was a position held in high regard, with it being at the same level as a lieutenant or captain. In 1864 she was captured by confederate soldiers and held prisoner for four months. Instead of brooding on her time in prison, she got right back to work helping at local hospitals. Even after the war was over Mary Walker still continued to be very impactful. She was a main advocate for women's rights. She continued to support women's rights even to the point of being arrested. She was arrested multiple times for impersonating a man. In 1865 she received a very deserving medal of honor. No matter what she did Mary Walker always showed courage to the fullest.

Mary Walker constantly showed commitment as well. As I touched on previously, she was denied a spot as a surgeon previously but still volunteered for the Union. Once she finally

got her surgeon spot she served with no fear always operating on the front lines. Mary Walker was determined to become revered and respected as a woman surgeon. She became known as one of the best surgeons in the Civil War. She greatly helped the Union , always being ready to operate, even on the front lines of the battle. Even after her surgeon days, she continued to be committed in everything she did. She would not stop until woman became valued and respected in the United States. She did everything in her power to help fight for women's rights including going to jail multiple times. Even to the most dangerous extent Mary Walker was always committed.

Lastly I will be talking about her contributions to women's rights and her achievements. Dr. Mary Walker was one of the greatest women's rights leader to ever walk the earth. After her days in the army she advocated for women's rights. The first one was dress reform. She was famously arrested in 1870 because she dressed like a man to protest women's dress code. In 1871 she tried to register to vote but was ultimately rejected. She became one of the first women to participate in politics when she ran for US Senate in 1881 and ran for Congress in 1890. She lost both, however, her efforts were not without fruit. She got a chance to testify in front of the US House of Representatives regarding women's rights. She was given a Medal of Honor in 1865 for her outstanding work on the battlefield, being the first woman to ever receive the prestige award. Although in 1916 the medal of honor was rescinded from Mary Walker because she wasn't technically a doctor instead she was a citizen. Almost 60 years after her death in 1977 President Jimmy Carter restored the medal of honor to Walker's name, forever cementing her in the history books

I hope that this essay has opened your eyes to one of the greatest figures in history. She set precedents for women in the country that are still seen to this day. She opened the door for a new generation of female doctors and surgeons and fought for a cause that impacted the lives of many women in her time and still to this day. Dr. Mary Walker truly was one of the greatest figures in history.