



## A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

**IN MEMORIAM:** COLIN POWELL (1937-2021)

To the Hostos Community:

Today we lost a soldier and a statesman – Colin Powell has passed away at the age of 84.



Born in Harlem and raised in the South Bronx, Powell was, in the words of the *New York Times*, “a pathbreaker, serving as the country’s first Black national security adviser, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and secretary of state.”

Powell’s origins were humble. His parents worked in the garment industry. Powell described himself as a mediocre student – he attended CCNY where he studied Geology – but he found success while serving in the Military. His 35-year career as a soldier was brought to a close in 1993 when he retired as a four-star general.

His accolades were many. Among his honors are the Presidential Medal of Freedom (twice), the Congressional Gold Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Secretary of State Distinguished Service Medal, and the Secretary of Energy Distinguished Service Medal. His public life was not without controversy; he once described his role in the 2003 Invasion of Iraq as a “blot” on his record.

Today, however, let us choose to remember a man who spent a lifetime defending his country and provided a role model for people of color in every walk of life.

This justly-celebrated Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi seems appropriate during this time of remembrance and sorrow.

Lord make me an instrument  
Of thy peace, where there is hatred,  
Let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that  
I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we  
Are pardoned, and it is in dying  
That we are born to eternal life.

We salute you, General Powell. Thank you for your service.

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