

## Advocacy

Ms. Baker,

As a person who wholeheartedly believes that men and women should be equal, you have inspired me to speak out as to how I want my life as an adult woman. I admire your activism for women during WWII, as well as your activism for the Women's Emancipation Bill. When I first read your biography, I was shocked by the idea that married women were not allowed to continue working as their husbands went off to fight. I am constantly trying to educate myself on the inequality between genders that has been ongoing for hundreds of years.

Much has happened this year surrounding gender equality. August of this year marked exactly 100 years since the 19th amendment, which allowed women the right to vote, was ratified. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman, and the first Jewish woman, to be a justice on the Supreme Court, passed away on September 18. Ginsburg fought against the unfair treatment between genders and advocated for equal pay, reproductive rights, and gay marriage. This year has allowed many to inform themselves about how people are and should be treated based on their race, gender, and other conditions.

Both my parents went to law school, where they met, and both now work in law careers. Your work on the Florida House of Representatives inspires me because my mom faced something similar when she got her first job at a law firm near where she lived at the time. Although she is now a County Court judge, when she first started at the firm, she was one of the few women working there. She worked with people who treated her differently because she was a woman. Her male coworkers told her to dress a certain way and disregarded her as a person. They called her the token minority of the firm because she is a Hispanic female.

The story of your life and accomplishments have motivated me to advocate for how I want to live my life. As I grow up and begin my career, I want to be treated as an equal to my male coworkers. I don't want women to go through life feeling like they're treated as inferior because of their gender. Thank you for all that you've done towards advocating for equality.

Sincerely

## Works Cited

“Mary Lou Baker.” *Florida Women's Hall of Fame*, 2 Feb. 2018,  
[flwomenshalloffame.org/bio/mary-lou-baker/](http://flwomenshalloffame.org/bio/mary-lou-baker/).