

The Florida Woman Who Brought Color to Fashion

Fashion, beyond simply clothing, serves as a dynamic form of self-expression. It reflects cultural shifts, personal identity, and societal trends, allowing individuals to project their image and values through the clothes they choose to wear and is a constantly evolving landscape where trends emerge, styles merge, and the line between practicality and aesthetics blur. This impacts not only how we dress but also how we perceive ourselves and others.

Lilly Pulitzer was a Florida woman who changed the world of fashion with her bright and colorful designs. She was born in New York but moved to Palm Beach, Florida, where she started her famous clothing brand. Lilly's journey began in the 1950s when she opened a small juice stand. To hide juice stains on her dress, she created a new style of clothing with fun, bold patterns. Soon, people loved her designs so much that she started her own fashion company.

Mrs. Pulitzer's clothes became very popular, especially in warm and sunny places. Her dresses, with their bright pinks, greens, and blues, became a symbol of fun and happiness. Even famous people, like Former First Lady Jackie Kennedy, wore her designs. Today, her brand is still loved by many people around the world.

Lilly's work made a big impact on fashion and Florida's culture. She changed the entire scheme of fashion. Her contributions are undeniable. She showed that clothing could be both stylish and comfortable. Her brand also helped Florida become known for its fun and colorful fashion. Many people still wear Lilly Pulitzer designs to celebrate a cheerful and beachy lifestyle.

Fashion is not necessarily about labels. It's not about brands. It's about something else that comes from within you. Simply having an innovative idea, however, is insufficient in creating an atmosphere that encourages and breeds this kind of growth.

Lilly Pulitzer's story matters to me because she showed that creativity can lead to success. She started with a small idea and turned it into something huge. Her bright colors remind me that fashion can be fun and that following your passion can lead to great things. She proved that you don't need to follow a traditional path to achieve your dreams. She showed that with creativity, determination, and hard work, anyone can make a difference. Her story inspires me to think outside the box and believe in my own ideas, no matter how impossible they may seem at first.

Inducted in 2022 to Florida's Women's Hall of fame, Lily Pulitzer is a whole movement. Now her brand offers more than just clothes. It offers accessories, home décor, and more. She even offers matching clothing sets called "Mommy & Me". You see Lilly P everywhere, as my friends and I call it. This brand is now in households across the world. State Representative Persons-Mulika and Agriculture Commissioner English, I'm sure own a print or two. With persistence, creativity, courage, and entrepreneurship, she now has given people inspiration to follow their dreams and create their own sunshine!

ENTRY

Student Name: Zuri Jackson			
Title of Entry: The Florida Woman Who Brought Color to Fashion			Grade: 6 th
Home Mailing Address: 3302 38 th St W			Age: 12
City: Lehigh Acres	State: Florida	Zip Code: 33971	
Home Phone Number: (including area code)			
Parent/Legal Guardian Name: Carlancia Hogan			
Parent/Legal Guardian Cell Phone Number: (including area code) 813-244-8007		Parent/Legal Guardian E-Mail Address: zinzosma@gmail.com	
School Name: Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle			County: Lee
School Mailing Address: 4750 Winkler Ave			
City: Ft Myers	State: Florida	Zip Code: 33966	
School Phone Number: (including area code) 239-334-1357			
Teacher Name: Alejandro Baez		Teacher E-Mail Address: alejandrogb1@leeschools.net	

Release Statement

As parent/legal guardian, I acknowledge that my child created the submitted essay and has followed all contest guidelines and rules. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the submitted essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child's essay is not original or fails to comply with all contest rules and submission guidelines, the essay will be subject to automatic disqualification.

I, Carlton CIA Hogan (print name), am the parent/legal guardian of the individual named above and having read this release and approve of its terms, hereby certify the following:

1. I am the parent/legal guardian of Zuri Jackson
2. My child is a legal resident of Florida and is currently enrolled in grades 6 - 8.
3. I give permission for my child to enter his/her essay in the 2025 Women's History Essay Contest.
4. I have read the official rules of this contest, and I further certify my child has followed these rules and is eligible to participate in this contest.
5. I give the Florida Commission on the Status of Women permission to use, reproduce, reprint, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, alter, edit, and/or display the submitted essay.
6. I give the Florida Commission on the Status of Women permission to use my child's submission and/or my child's name, photograph, voice, video image, biographical information, and his/her essay for promotional purposes including but not limited to, print, radio, television, and Internet promotion, without compensation or prior notice.

I hereby release the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, as well as their employees, commissioners, officers, successors, assigns, licensees, and legal representatives, from any and all liability associated with my and my child's participation in this activity, and I agree not to assert any claim of any nature whatsoever against anyone relating to this activity.

Carlton CIA Hogan
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

3/11/25
Date



FLORIDA COMMISSION
on the STATUS of WOMEN

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