

# NEWS RELEASE

from | **Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm**

DEMOCRAT, 12th DISTRICT, NEW YORK



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## CHISHOLM TO LEAVE CONGRESS

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, seven-term Democrat from Brooklyn, today issued the following statement about her plans for the future.

"I have decided not to seek reelection to the United States House of Representatives.

From the time I first became active in politics twenty-three years ago, I vowed that the remainder of my productive and creative life would not be consumed by politics. I promised myself that I would pursue other careers, that I would eventually return to a more private existence, and that my energy and spirit would not stay chained to the political millstone beyond the time that I still had the strength and wisdom to break those chains.

Today, in good health at age fifty-seven, my energy remains high and my spirit needs new outlets. It would be unfair to myself, and it would be wrong to the people I represent, if I were to remain at a job that for me has become tedious and frustrating.

It has become increasingly difficult to carry the tragic messages back from Washington to the jobless, homeless and hopeless Brooklynites. How can I, as a member of a political and racial minority in today's Congress, hope to put an end to poverty, unemployment and discrimination in Brooklyn and throughout this nation in the face of an administration that is cancelling the past fifty years of human progress in America. A stimulative compassionate role for the federal government is being replaced by a philosophy of individualistic selfishness which scorns or ignores the disadvantaged. The tree of hope, planted by Franklin Roosevelt and nourished over the years with investments in our people and in our future, is now withering from icy winds of callousness, militarism and despair.

My public service and leadership role for over twenty years in New York's 12th Congressional District and on the national level has been rewarding and difficult. I have been willing to stand on the cutting edge of public opinion at times. I have fought for blacks and whites, and in the process have met both white and black racists. Indeed it has been a thorny path, but at this point in my life, I can say that I am proud of my achievements. My efforts on behalf of black colleges, compensatory education, minimum wage for domestics, numerous amendments to bills affecting the Indians, the Haitians, and the poor have all been a part of my philosophy of equitability and opportunity for all people.

(over)

I am proud of my role as a leader and a symbol. I am proud of all my friends and supporters in the nation who have never stopped being my friends and supporters. And I am proud of my country, honored to have had the opportunity to serve, and still confident that the bright sun of full equality and justice will someday shine on everyone living under our flag.

It has been said that "One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils of this world can be cured by legislation." I agree, and I know that in most cases legislation merely reflects the state of mind of the citizenry. By writing, by teaching, by lecturing and by travelling around this land, I hope to help create a new national state of mind that demands change for the better.

This is not my funeral, nor is it my retirement. It is a transitory phase in my life. Out of the political stranglehold, and on my own terms, I will continue to fight the 'good fight'. Freed from the wheel-spinning confines of the Congressional cloisters, I will make even louder appeals to the good sense and conscience of the American people."

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SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM, Democrat, of Brooklyn, N Y , born in Brooklyn, N Y , November 30, 1924, attended public schools of Brooklyn, Brooklyn College (B A ), and Columbia University (M A ), diploma in administration and supervision, Columbia University, honorary degrees LL D, Talladega College, Talladega, Ala., LL D, Wilmington College, Wilmington-Ohio; L H D, North Carolina College, Durham, N C, L H D, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va, LL D, LaSalle College, Philadelphia, Pa, May 1971, LL D, Wilham Patterson College, Wayne, N J, May 1971, LL D, Capitol University, Columbus, Ohio, May 1971, LL D, University of Maine, Portland, Maine, June 1971, L H D, Coppin State College, Baltimore, Md, June 1971, LL D, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N Y, June 1972; L H D, Kenyon College, Gambrier, Ohio, June 1973, LL D, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Mich, May 1974; LL D, Reed College, Portland, Oreg, May 1974, LL D, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 1975; LL D, Smith College, North Hampton, Mass, May 1975, nursery school teacher and director, 1946-53, director, Hamilton Madison Child Care Center, New York City, 1954-59, educational consultant, Division of Day Care, New York City, 1959-64, assemblywoman, New York State Legislature, 4 years, community education and civic organizations. consultant, Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council, Bethune Memorial Committee, National Council of Negro Women, Advisory Council of the Institute for Studies in Education, University of Notre Dame, Advisory Committee, Black Enterprise Magazine, national board, Americans for Democratic Action, Advisory Council, New York Young Democrats, Advisory Board, Migrant Studies, State University College, Genesco, N Y, Advisory Board, Salvation Army, trustee, Southern Elections Fund, Advisory Board, Women's Equity Action League, Advisory Committee, Brooklyn Museum; Advisory Council, Adelphi University Octet Associates, trustee, Long Island University, fellow, School of Social Work, Adelphi University, Brooklyn College Alumni, League of Women Voters, Democratic Women's Workshop; Brooklyn Branch NAACP; Brooklyn Home for Aged People; National Association of College Women; Bedford-Stuyvesant Political League; Key Women, Inc, Jane's Methodist Church, Brooklyn, N Y, honors and awards: Honorary Citizen of Kansas City, Humanitarian Award of Y I A Community Corporation; Citizen of Year Award, Local 140, United Factory Workers, AFL-CIO; Spirit of Achievement Award, Women's Division, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, Deborah Gannett Award, Chicago Chapter, National Media Women; Twelfth Annual Achievement Award, Guardian Association, New York Police Department, Dr Martin Luther King Award, Bottle and Cork Sales Club; Golden Doughnut Award, Salvation Army; Woman of the Year, Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Government Award of Better Brooklyn Committees; Clairol's "Woman of the Year" award for outstanding achievement in public affairs, May 1973; author, "Unbought and Unbossed," Houghton-Mifflin, 1970; author, "The Good Fight," Harper & Row, 1973; married to Arthur Hardwick, Jr, 1977, special investigator; elected to 91st Congress, November 5, 1968; reelected to each succeeding Congress