

FEARLESS

How a poor Virginia seamstress took on Jim Crow,
beat the poll tax and changed her city forever

FEARLESS: How a poor Virginia seamstress took on Jim Crow, beat the poll tax and changed her city forever is about Evelyn T. Butts. A poor seamstress who became a forceful and courageous voting rights champion and won a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that abolished the poll tax.

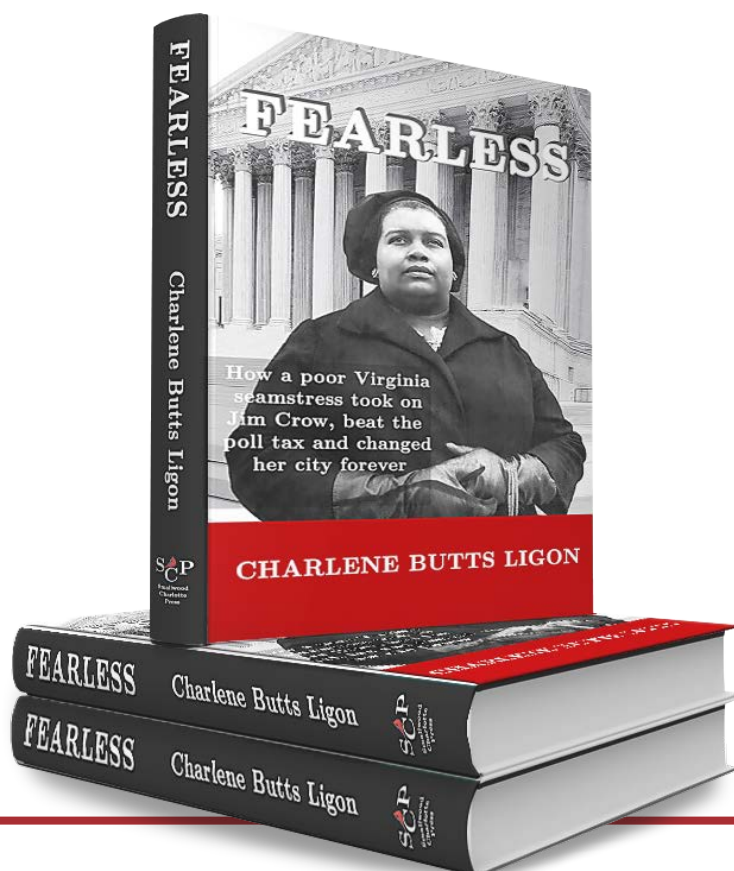
In *FEARLESS*, we see Mrs. Butts as a mother and active citizen who works tirelessly to improve the lives of family members and neighbors, while also joining or leading battles against discrimination in employment, public schools, neighborhood services and voter access. While Norfolk, Virginia, and its environs are the backdrop for the story of Evelyn Butts' life and activism, there are lessons that can apply to all communities and readers of all ages. There are always new obstacles, even in voting rights, the poll tax was an important part of American history that should not be forgotten because we must stay vigilant about continued attempts at voter suppression, which keeps coming back in new forms.

That's why we need to continue to learn and keep the message going from generation to generation.



“*FEARLESS* ought to be required reading for every high school student in Virginia. It is the inside story of the struggle for basic American rights, told from the perspective of those who lived through the oppression and fought for change. Any discussion of the impact of the poll tax or civil rights in Virginia, would be incomplete without an understanding of the life and accomplishments of Evelyn Butts.”

—**Chuck Robb**, former Virginia governor and former US senator



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PRAISES FOR *FEARLESS*

"Ligon's book also provides intimate detail about the actors and agendas that drove Norfolk's politics for the second half of the 20th century. For anyone interested in the history of local power, the book is indispensable."

—**The Virginian-Pilot Book Review**

"Once you read this thoughtful and information-filled book on her life, you will be grateful for her daughter's dedication to share not only her mother's legacy, but also, the love she devoted to her research in each sentence, page and chapter. I know I was!"

—**New Journal & Guide Book Review**

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—**CHUCK ROB, former Virginia governor and former US senator**

Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander, in his foreword for the book, said of Evelyn Butts, "What she accomplished as a voting rights champion truly spans the generations and deserves our continued recognition."

—**KENNETH COOPER ALEXANDER, Mayor, Norfolk, Virginia**

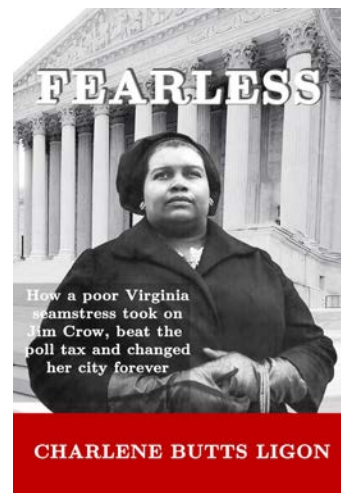
"Charlene Ligon inspires the reader to look for "Evelyn T. Butts" in the dictionary under *FEARLESS*. Too often the story of women especially black women is untold or under reported in the civil and human rights success movement. *FEARLESS* captures the essence of brilliance and sacrifice of Mrs. Butts and her drive to make the world better for her family, her community, her nation...Another volume on Evelyn Butts & The Women of Virginia's 3rd Force is in order. Read *FEARLESS* and have your faith restored in the power of one to make a positive difference for millions. No Evelyn Butts; no Governor Doug Wilder; no President BarackObama!"

—**RODNEY A. JORDAN, Chair, Norfolk School Board**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charlene Butts Ligon is the daughter of Evelyn Butts. She is a retired Air Force master sergeant and lives in Bellevue, Nebraska with her husband Robert. She is an entrepreneur, author and publisher. She is the Chair of the Sarpy County Democratic Party and Secretary of the Nebraska Democratic Party.



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