INTRODUCTION OF GLORIA STEINEM BY EDNA SAFFY, Ph.D.

I am honored that our President of the Jacksonville Women’s Network, Afesa Adams, has asked me to introduce Gloria Steinem.

Gloria Steinem is a woman who for over thirty years has led us into history...

It has been said that we can never wade a second time into the same river for the waters of time flow too rapidly.

Yet at different moments in our lives many of us in this room have walked into that river of history, holding fast to the hand of the woman who is seated before us, Gloria Steinem.

When did our world intersect with hers?

Perhaps when she was the founding editor of the New York Magazine.

Or perhaps it was when she and Dorothy Pitman Hughes an African American woman joined hands to walk into that river of history, for in January of 1972 these two women published the first issue of their own magazine—a magazine run by women, for women.

That magazine was Ms. Magazine. With its publication they marched into that river—calling for legalized abortion, equal pay for equal work and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Through its pages, Gloria Steinem moved towards her goal of uniting all women—young and old, women of color, crossing racial and class barriers. She defined feminism as simply “the belief that women are full human beings.”
She became the voice of the revolution: The founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Her recognitions are legion:
   She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame
   in Seneca Falls, New York.
   She was named Woman of the Year by McCall's Magazine.

Her books are our handbooks: *Outrageous Acts and Every day Rebellion, Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem.* And every issue of *Ms Magazine*, especially since she recently bought it back...

Many of us remember watching her on TV when she was fifty. She was told by interviewers for the ten thousandth time how beautiful she was for someone in her fifties. She graciously did not say “get over it”. Gloria Steinem said very gently, “This is what fifty looks like.”

The river became a mighty torrent. We gained strength through the words written in her magazine, read in her books.

We marched with her down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. Rebecca Berg who sits with you tonight marched that day.

We spoke with her at the National Women's Political Caucus in Cincinnati. Sharon Laird who sits with you tonight spoke with her that evening.

We listened to her words at the National Abortion Rights Action League in D. C.

We walked with her in Gainesville and worried over how little she ate.
Time has been gentle to our warrior, yet the days have not.

Still, she is a survivor.

She has survived cancer as have many here tonight.

She is attempting to survive the recent death of her husband—as are many in this room tonight.

She has survived the pain of an illness that went too many months misdiagnosed by her doctors, an illness finally correctly diagnosed as trigeminal neuralgia.

We followed as she led us, as she held out her hand.

We joined her as she linked us together.

We too have survived and we have become what we are today for her words carried both the world and us forward.

She safely guided us into the torrent of time, into the river of history, into the revolution.

May I present to you MS. GLORIA STEINEM.

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