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# AN OFFICER AND GENTLEWOMAN, LLC

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"Trailblazing Success: An Exclusive Interview with Raquel Riley Thomas on Leadership, Legacy, and Making a Difference"

by L. Nelson

Raquel Riley Thomas is a trailblazing entrepreneur, military veteran, and pageant Queen, has carved a remarkable path in the media industry. As the founder of An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC, she brings a wealth of experience and commitment to excellence. Raquel, a Library of Congress inductee, gives an exclusive interview, sharing insights into her inspiring journey. She highlights the intersection of leadership, perseverance, and a dedication to honor and dignity.

What inspired you to found An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC in 2011?

I founded An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC in 2011 to embody the principles of leadership and honor instilled during my nine years of military service. The company reflects our commitment to excellence in media and entertainment. We have 4 divisions: Public Relations, Talent and Brand management and Production Services.

How has your military background, with nine years of service, been instrumental in shaping the success of An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC in the competitive media industry?

I believe my military background has been instrumental in shaping the success of An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC. The discipline, resilience, and strategic thinking acquired during my service are invaluable assets in the competitive media industry.

Can you share a defining moment that highlights your perseverance and dignity?

A defining moment that displays my perseverance and dignity is winning the title of Mrs. America 2011 (1st RU). It not only broke a barrier for black girls but displayed the strength of character that has guided my entire career.

You are the first black woman to achieve the title of Mrs. America 2011 (1st RU) in the Mrs. America pageant system. It was a historic achievement. How did this experience reinforce your role as a leader in the successful company you own now?

I was told once that me winning Mrs. America 2011 (1st RU) cracked a ceiling so that other black women could break through. I will forever be grateful for this statement because it shows my perseverance. I do not quit. For my clients, I will push doors open, I will break them down or I will climb over them. One way or another we are getting through the door.

Your performance-based makeup brand, RRT Beauty, aligns with your commitment to excellence. How does this brand reflect the dedication to quality and longevity that defines An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC?

You are correct. RRT Beauty aligns with my commitment to excellence. It reflects the same dedication to quality and longevity that also defines the philosophy of An Officer and Gentlewoman, LLC. The support we have had for this brand is undeniable. Women from all over the world are using our products. It's a beautiful site to see.



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