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Introduction to the Dignity Memorial Issue on Kate Millett

Donna M. Hughes
University of Rhode Island, donnahughes@uri.edu

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Keywords

Kate Millett, feminist, memorial, Sexual Politics, Veteran Feminists of America

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**INTRODUCTION:
KATE MILLETT MEMORIAL ISSUE OF *DIGNITY***

Donna M Hughes
Editor-in-Chief, Dignity

KEYWORDS

Kate Millett, feminist, memorial, *Sexual Politics*, Veteran Feminists of America

WELCOME TO THE KATE MILLETT MEMORIAL ISSUE of *Dignity*.

I was a latecomer to the second-wave of the feminist movement, mostly because I am about 20 to 25 years younger than the women who were the vanguard. I grew up in rural Pennsylvania, a long way from the cities that enabled the frequent meetings and intense exchange of ideas. However, once I heard the analyses—the explanations of the frequent experiences women and girls had—and the vision of possibilities, I became a life-long convert.

As I read feminist books and listened to conference presentations, I heard the name Kate Millett over and over again as the source of so much of the burgeoning feminist thinking—and activism. I only had the opportunity to meet Kate Millett one time at a small gathering in New York City. I heard her lecture in person one time at my college campus.

When I heard about her death in the fall of 2017 and learned there was going to be a memorial service, I immediately decided to attend. I had recently founded *Dignity: A Journal of Sexual Exploitation and Violence*. As I sat in the audience, I decided to publish a special issue to memorialize her life and feminist thinking.

This special issue is dedicated to the original feminist thinker and writer Kate Millett (September 14, 1934-September 2017).

The issue is comprised of two sections. The first section is a lecture on the feminist ideas of Kate Millett presented in a lecture by Sheila Jeffreys in 2009. The second section is the videos and texts (where available) from the memorial for Kate Millett, which was hosted by Veteran Feminists of America. The event was held at the Fourth Universalist Society Unitarian Church in New York City on November 9, 2017.

I thank Sophie Keir, Kate Millett's partner, for her permission to use the videos of the memorial event. I thank Eleanor Pam, president of the Veteran Feminists of America, for her assistance in contacting speakers to obtain the texts of their reflections. And I thank Phyllis Chesler for assisting with speaker contacts. I also thank Sheila Jeffreys for permission to include the video of her 2009 lecture at the University of Melbourne.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Donna M Hughes is the editor-in-chief of *Dignity: A Journal of Sexual Exploitation and Violence*. <https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/> She is a professor and holds the Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair in Women's Studies, in the Gender and Women's Studies Department, at the University of Rhode Island.

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