

Dr Regina Marcia Benjamin, AFROAMERICA NETWORK WOMAN OF YEAR 2009.

Black woman, born in the segregated Mobile Alabama, on October 26, 1956, her parents could not foresee how she could rise above to become the American Doctor, the Surgeon General of the United States of America. She attended Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) a private, coeducational, liberal arts historically Black Roman Catholic University, the only Roman Catholic historically Black University, and the Morehouse School of Medicine, in Atlanta. She then went on to earn her MD from the University of Alabama and a MBA from Tulane University.



In July 1987, Dr. Benjamin founded and administered the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama to provide Health Care with Dignity to the impoverished residents of Bayou La Batre, Alabama. Bayou La Batre is a small shrimping village along the Alabama gulf coast. In her clinic, Dr. Benjamin took care of the poor, the forsaken, both white and black, whose lives appeared not more worthy than those of the fish they feed on. The clinic emphasizes preventive health and patient responsibility, by delivering general medical services to all members of the family from the newborn to the grandparent. The clinic relies on donations. Dr.

Benjamin's clinic was destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina. She put all efforts to rebuild the clinic, earning a chronicle in Readers's digest. Then in 2006, the clinic was once again destroyed by a fire on New Year's Day, one day before the scheduled reopening. She made headlines when she rebuilt the clinic a second time. This, once again, raised her already impressive profile.

On July 13, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Dr. Benjamin for the position of Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Benjamin while accepting the nomination stressed her commitment to continue to work on improving the broken US health care system and making it acceptable and less expensive. She was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on October 29, 2009. To make a case for a preventive healthcare, she cited the examples of the preventable tragedies in her own family especially the her brother, who died of HIV-AIDS, as well as her mother who died from lung cancer and father, who died of high blood pressure



Dr. Regina Benjamin is a recipient of numerous awards, citations, seats of leadership and her record is so impressive that one page will not suffice to make her justice.

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For contact, please e-mail us: [mail@afroamerica.net](mailto:mail@afroamerica.net)

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