

Title: Women of True Grit
Authors: Edie Hand and Tina Savas
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About the Book

Finally... the stories and secrets from the women who did it: work, succeed, pave the way for others to triumph. What did it take? What did they conquer? And where would you be if it weren't for them? Many of these women were the first in their fields and are now retired, ready to share their past, their secrets, and their personal stories. They have decided it is *time to speak out...* to candidly share what happened to them because they were women. It is important not to forget. But most people have.

What makes this book unique? They tell it like it really was and is today, stunning real-life stories. Pillars of their communities...with various ethnic backgrounds...from all across America...with careers ranging from airline operator to advertising executive to horse jockey to brigadier general. They are extraordinary women of vision and determination: *Women of True Grit* are the "WOW" women for the history books. They are the infamous and the famous who have touched our lives for the better.

At last, a book that offers readers the shocking truth of what life was like for the women who battled new ground and broke through old ceilings. A book that will surely be remembered for generations to come.

It is original and long overdue!

Poem: Phenomenal Woman Contributed by Dr. Maya Angelou

Foreword by Barbara Mandrell

Women of True Grit will feature a variety of women from very diverse backgrounds. They range from unknown to well known. But all of them, in the face of adversity and seemingly unattainable goals, exhibit a special kind of determination. Their stories remind us of the hope that lies within each of us.

Contributors:

- **Anne Abernathy** "Grandma Luge" – world-record-holding Olympic athlete
- **Terre Thomas** –daughter of actor Danny Thomas and founder of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and sister of Marlo Thomas
- **June Morris** – the first woman to own an airline

- **Ninon de Vere de Rosa** – a successful model and International Award winning TV Host for “Kids Talk”
- **Meredith Vieira** – *Today Show* co-host and game show host
- **Diane Crump** - the first woman horse jockey to ride in the Kentucky Derby
- **Roxcy O’Neal Bolton** – Florida human rights advocate
- **Patsy Riley** – Alabama’s First Lady
- **Phyllis Diller** – one of America’s favorite (and oldest) comedienne
- **Delores Kesler** – the first woman to take a company public on Wall Street
- **Leatrice McKissack** – retired owner of the largest African-American architectural and engineering firm in the United States
- **Joanne Carson** – former wife of Johnny Carson and lifelong friend of Truman Capote
- **Laraine Heck** – Cleveland, Ohio’s first woman of construction
- **Justice Janie L. Shores** – first woman elected to a United States Appellate Court
- **Esther Paik Goodhart** – Oriental self-described “beauty” comedian
- **Anne Tolstoi Wallach** – first woman to break the “glass ceiling” in the advertising industry
- **Nancy Giles** – Radio and TV Correspondent for CBS Sunday Morning NEWS
- **Angelina (Angie) C. Torres** –actress, starring with Glenn Close, Tommy Lee Jones, Salma Hayek
- **Jeanne Harrison** – producer of the first coast to coast television show; first woman in the Friars Club
- **Jane M. Philo** – spearheaded a woman’s nonviolence center in Mississippi
- **Loretta Kaminsky** – the first person to make chocolates in unusual forms, appearing in *USA Today*, the *Today Show* and *Regis & Kathy Lee*
- **Dr. Judy Kuriansky** – world-renowned psychologist, sex therapist and best-selling author of 12 books
- **Nann Miller** – dubbed the “Queen of Special Events” by the *Los Angeles Times*, she planned the first Special Olympics program with the Shriver family
- **Joan Hull** – famous women’s rights advocate and the first to challenge Wall Street’s corporate America
- **Dr. Betty L. Siegel** – a coal miner’s daughter; set firsts for women in the field of higher education
- **Lorraine Miller** – founder of a multi million dollar plant nursery and champion of women in business
- **The Honorable Marilyn Logsdon Mennello** – best known as the “First Lady of Tupperware”
- **Shirley R. Martz** – first female Certified Public Accountant in North Dakota
- **Marjorie J. Weber** – an early pioneer in investment banking in New York
- **Margaret “Margo” Custer Ford** – one of the 50 most influential people in the past 50 years in her industry
- **Faye Heller** – hauling and construction firm owner and nationally recognized business advocate
- **Louise Harrison** – the only Beatles sister & producer of *Liverpool Legends*

- **P. S. Terri Carr** – one of the first “ladies” at IBM
- **Pota Vurnakes Vallas** – the American dream came true for this Greek immigrant
- **Mary Eisenhower** – granddaughter of the late President Dwight Eisenhower and CEO of People to People that assist people in need around the world.
- **Wilma L. Vaught** – Brigadier General, USAF Retired; President of Women’s Memorial Foundation D.C.
- **Martha Bolton** – first woman staff writer for the legendary Bob Hope
- **Barbara Dury**- former producer for *60 Minutes*

Target Market: Women of all ages. Readers of self-help, inspirational memoir, and biographies.

Comparable Books: Life Lessons for Women by Jack Canfield (no real comparables), Profiles of Courage by John F. Kennedy, and Extraordinary Women with Real Hopes produced by Ilene Leventhal and Francine Levinson.

About the Authors:

Edie Hand’s philosophy for living life with gusto can be seen in everything she does from her work as an acclaimed celebrity chef, author, philanthropist, speaker and business woman.

Edie learned about the simple joys of family, life and helping others from her modest childhood growing up in the rural south. She is a cousin to the late Elvis Presley and recently co-authored *The Genuine Elvis*. Edie understands tragedy with the loss of her three young brothers. She is also a three-time cancer survivor. Her gift to rise from tragedies to triumphs is evident in her life’s work. She has authored, co-authored, and helped to develop over twenty books. Her other books include inspirational cookbooks, novellas and, stories of the heart with humor. They are all written from a strong woman’s perspective.

Edie has starred in national commercials and daytime television soaps. She has hosted numerous national radio and television shows in her broadcasting career. She has been the CEO of Hand ‘N Hand Advertising, Inc. since 1976.

Edie is actively involved with American Women in Radio and Television and the National Speakers Association. The Edie Hand Foundation works to benefit the Children’s Hospital of Alabama, Children’s Miracle Network, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and the Country Music Hall of Fame Museum.

Edie is an alumna of the University of North Alabama. She currently lives near Birmingham, Alabama with her husband Mark Aldridge. Her only son, Linc Hand, lives in Los Angeles, California.

For more information go to these websites:

www.ediehand.com

www.ediehandfoundation.org

Tina Savas is among the first wave of women entrepreneurs in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1983, she founded the *Birmingham Business Journal* newspaper, followed by *Alabama Health*

News, *Alabama Construction News*, and *Birmingham Weekly*, the area's only weekly alternative newspaper and continual winner of national editorial awards.

The *Birmingham Business Journal* was instrumental in changing the business landscape in Birmingham with in-depth business news never seen before. It was an uphill battle for a single woman in her twenties with little money in a tough industry, but Savas' determination won the day.

Her newspaper legacies include "The Fifty Richest" series, naming the area's 50 richest people and their net worth; "The Birmingham 100," listing the top private companies and their revenues; the "Top 40 Under 40" series, naming the up and coming stars all under the age of 40 (now copied in all U.S. major markets); the "Fast Track 25," ranking the fastest growing companies in the area; and the "Best in Business" awards.

She also created the "Top Birmingham Women" award, naming ten women each year who personify the highest echelons in the community. As a tribute to her, the *Birmingham Business Journal* presented Savas this award after she sold that publication.

She has served on local boards for community development, advised numerous foundations, colleges and hospitals and won many awards during her career. She hosted a weekly radio show, appeared on local television shows and is featured in the book, *Italians in the Deep South*, as one of the "newer generation" of Italians making "waves."

Savas continues her entrepreneurial spirit through real estate investment and other business ventures. Her passion for business has recently extended to volunteer and community work for those ages 50 and older. She lives in Birmingham, Alabama with her husband, Paul, and son, Alex.

Endorsements:

"When I think about Women in broad brush strokes, a certain picture starts to emerge, one of wisdom and one of worth. How fitting to pay tribute to the inspiring women who advance our world ever single day. Bravo to Edie and Tina for putting these valuable perspectives inside one central source." **Chickie Bucco**, President of Katz Direct New York and Former National President of American Women in Radio and Television

"Perseverance: No matter how tough the job, you don't give up. True Grit is perseverance."
Wilma L Vaught, Brigadier General USAF Retired, President of Women's Memorial Foundation, Washington D.C.

"Living by example has been the greatest teacher in my life. *Women of True Grit* sets the tone for all women to never be frightened of the unknown. Nothing stops the tenacious spirit of my friend Edie Hand, co-author of this book. She is a woman of true grit – this book is a MUST READ." **Judy Nelson**, Music Publisher and first woman President of SGMG, A Nashville, Tennessee based Music Organization

"I want to thank Edie and Tina for highlighting the great contributions of these women to our nation and culture. Through these examples in their book – we see from a unique perspective the qualities of strength, determination, and yet grace, which have marked the success of these great

Americans. I believe everyone, no doubt, will enjoy reading about the figures that they have included who have such a myriad of qualities and experiences." **U.S. Congressman Robert B. Aderholt**, *Alabama's Fourth Congressional District*

"At a public lecture, I heard poet and author Maya Angelou say that we all face adversity in our lives. She said that we will not move forward without the presence of a key ingredient, and that is courage. I have found her words resonate... in tough times I summon up resolve and courage. *Women of True Grit* exemplify that trait. **Judith Murray**, *Producer – Director, Terra Images Inc., Montreal/Toronto*

"From board rooms to sports fields, from sex therapists to the army, education to banking, Tina Savas and Edie Hand honor brilliant achieving "Second Wave" feminists in their inspiring book. Some of their heroes were political activists who forged the way for all women to achieve. Others, professionals whose success was accomplished because of the work of the activists (as well as to their own smarts, drive and determination), advanced the possibilities for all women. They are products of a great generation of American women who continued the fight for complete equality and opportunity for all women." **Jacqui Ceballos**, *Founder/President Veteran Feminists of America*

"*Women of True Grit* is history that finally found a voice. These women set firsts in their fields and serve as role models for us all." **Prill Boyle**, *Author of Defying Gravity: A Celebration of Late-Blooming Women*

"I have always been encouraged and inspired by true life stories; especially success stories. However, success stories don't just happen, they are made through hard work, perseverance, courage and a lot of faith. The interviews in *Women of True Grit* give us an insight into the lives of many women who had the courage and tenacity to make a difference. I trust reading this book will cause all of us to be inspired with God's help, to do what we can, however small it might be, to also make a difference." **Gigi Graham**, *Author and Daughter of Evangelist Billy Graham*