



2022 History Essay Contest School 4th Grade Winner

The Biography of Julia Greeley

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Julia Greeley made sure that all lives mattered, because she gave to the poor, the sick, and many children of Denver. Greeley is an essential and inspiring person in Colorado's history because although she had a hard life, she tried to improve the lives of others who were less fortunate or could not do for themselves. Although Julia Greeley's birthdate is unknown, she was born into slavery sometime between 1833-1848. She was born in Woodland, Missouri, in Marion County. Greeley did not know who her parents were or if she had brothers and sisters. As Greeley grew older, she took care of children that were not hers. Julia Greeley risked her safety to help poor Denver families, black and white people, after being freed from slavery. She spent all her money to help the poor. People have said praying to Greeley has resulted in modern-day miracles.

In 1870, Julian Greeley moved to Denver with William Gilpin, the former first governor of Colorado, to care for his family. Gilpin's wife, a Catholic woman, helped Julia Greeley become Catholic. In Denver, she also took care of the sick and gave food to low-income families, for example, sacks of potatoes. Julia Greeley joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901, and she became known, through her

good deeds, as the Servant of God. Presently, a woman prayed to Greeley for another woman and her unborn baby to be healed from cancer, and the tumor disappeared. Other people prayed to her for a relative to be healed from a cancerous tumor, and it disappeared.

Julia Greeley placed the Lord first in her way of life and wanted to be like Christ. She did things for others that still inspire people to pray to her and be like her. She was a caring, loving, and holy woman of faith. Greeley was known for providing wood, coal, and other supplies for people in need, white and black. She was also known to love and care for children and the sick. Julia Greeley is holy because there are 12,000 pages of documents describing how Catholics still pray to her for help, and 25 witnesses, including some who said they were healed after praying to Greeley. Currently, Julia is being considered for sainthood in Rome.

Julia Greeley died on June 7, 1918. She died of old age on her way to Mass. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, and the Archdiocese of Denver moved her remains to the Cathedral Basilica in Denver. Julia made a difference in the world. She taught children to give to the poor, and their children would learn too. She has helped women who have had problems bearing children or raising them. If she did not achieve her goals, we would have cold hearts full of greed. There would be more poor people everywhere, and it would be a sad world. Greeley should be remembered in Colorado's history because she taught us to be poor in spirit by being kind and taking care of others.

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