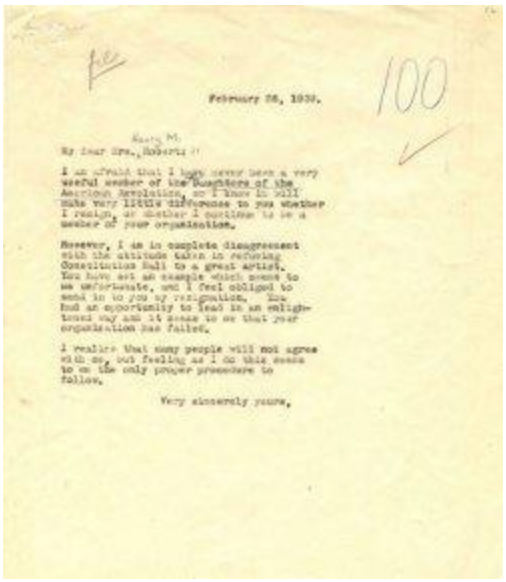
Marian Anderson, Opera Singer, Performing at the Lincoln Memorial



In 1939, Marian Anderson, a world-renowned opera singer was barred from performing at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) due to her race.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR via this letter to the president of the organization, for barring Anderson. Roosevelt then coordinated the effort to have Anderson perform at the Lincoln Memorial where she sang to an integrated crowd of 75,000.



February 26, 1939.

My dear Mrs. Roberts:

I am afraid that I have never been a very useful member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, so I know it will make very little difference to you whether I resign, or whether I continue to be a member of your organization.

However, I am in complete disagreement with the attitude taken in refusing Constitution Hall to a great artist. You have set an example which seems to me unfortunate, and I feel obliged to send in to you my resignation. You had an opportunity to lead in an enlightened way and it seems to me that your organization has failed.

I realize that many people will not agree with me, but feeling as I do this seems to me the only proper procedure to follow.

Very sincerely yours,