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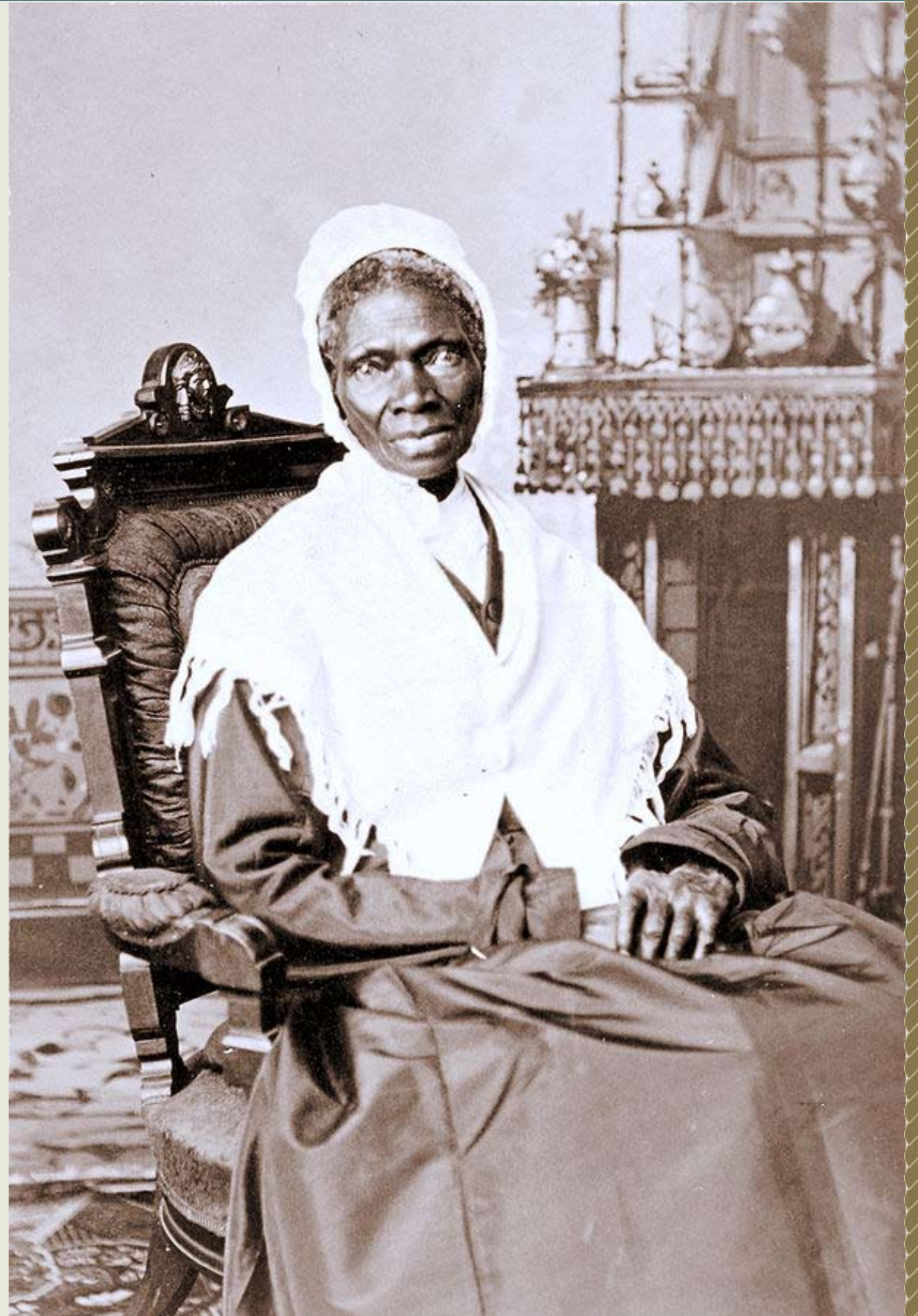
USNS Sojourner Truth

Honoring A Human Rights Pioneer

T-AO 210

A Voice for Equal Rights

- Originally named Isabella Baumfree, Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in 1797 to James and Elizabeth Baumfree. They lived in Swartekill, N.Y., until she escaped in 1826.
- Shortly after her escape, Truth's 5-year-old son Peter was sold illegally. She took the issue to court and eventually secured his return. The case was one of the first in which a black woman successfully challenged a white man in a United States court.
- On June 1, 1843, Isabella Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth, devoting her life to Methodism and the abolition of slavery. Although Truth could neither read nor write, her strong spoken words became a cornerstone of today's equal rights.
- In 1850, Truth published her dictated memoirs, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*.
- In 1851, she delivered an extemporaneous speech during the National Woman's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, which has become famously known as the "Ain't I a Woman?" speech.
- Truth passed away Nov. 26, 1883, in Battle Creek, Mich., having dedicated most of her life to abolition, women's rights, and other civil reforms.



T-AO Quick Facts:

Name: USNS Sojourner Truth (T-AO 210)

Class: John Lewis

Mission: Fleet replenishment oiler

Length: 676 feet

Speed: 20 knots

Crew: 91 total



In 1864, Truth was called to Washington, D.C., to contribute to the National Freedman's Relief Association. She met and spoke with President Abraham Lincoln about her beliefs and her experience, influencing Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which called for the abolition of slavery. Congress passed the amendment Jan. 31, 1865, and it was ratified Dec. 6, 1865.

*"You need not be afraid
to give us our rights for fear
we will take too much...
Why children, if you have
woman's rights, give it to her
and you will feel better."*

*- Sojourner Truth
from her speech, "Ain't I a Woman?"*