



## SUSAN L. TAYLOR

**EDITOR EMIROTA OF ESSENCE MAGAZINE / FOUNDER, NATIONAL CARES MENTORING MOVEMENT**

Susan L. Taylor is synonymous with *Essence* magazine, the brand she built—as its fashion and beauty editor, as editor-in-chief and editorial director. For nearly three decades, as the driving force behind one of the most celebrated Black-owned businesses of our time, Taylor has become a legend in the magazine publishing world. And, for 27 years, she authored one of the magazine’s most popular columns, “In the Spirit.”

She was the first and only African American Woman to be recognized by the Magazine Publishers of America with the Henry Johnson Fisher Award—the industry’s highest honor—and the first to be inducted into the American Society of Magazine Editors Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of the NAACP President’s Award for visionary leadership and has honorary degrees from more than a dozen colleges and universities.

A fourth-generation entrepreneur, Taylor grew up in Harlem working with her father in his women’s clothing store. She founded her own cosmetics company, a first for Black women, which led to the beauty editor’s position at *Essence*. She is the author of four books: *In the Spirit: The Inspirational Writings of Susan L. Taylor*; *Lessons in Living*; *Confirmation: The Spiritual Wisdom That Has Shaped Our Lives*, which she coauthored with her husband, Khephra Burns; and her most recent, *All About Love, Favorite Selections from In the Spirit on Living Fearlessly*. A much sought-after speaker, Taylor inspires hope and encourages us to reclaim our lives and create sustainable communities.

She is an avid supporter of a host of organizations dedicated to moving the Black community forward, but her passion and focus today is the National Cares Mentoring Movement, a call to action, which she founded in 2006 as Essence Cares. The Cares Mentoring Movement is a massive campaign to recruit one million able adults to help secure our children who are in peril and losing ground. “Not on our watch!” Taylor says. “Our children are the mothers and fathers of our tomorrows, and their future is in our hands.” The goals of the Cares Movement are to increase high school graduation rates among African American students, end the violence in Black communities and the over-incarceration of our young. “Creating safe, top-tier schools in every underserved community in this nation is the mandate—and it’s doable,” notes Taylor.

Taylor is a cofounder of Future PAC, the first national political action committee devoted to providing a network of support and sources of funding for progressive African American women seeking federal and state-level political offices. She is co-chair with Danny Glover of Shared Interest, a capital



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campaign to raise money to build housing in the rural areas of South Africa, and serves on the boards of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. She has worked passionately to help restore the lives of people in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region who were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**TOPICS:**

- A Better Way of Living: Creating Balance, Meaning & Joy
- Bold, Visionary Leadership: From the Inside Out
- A Revolution of Values
- A New Vision for Women: Creating Health, Wealth & Happiness
- The Courage to Change in a Shifting World Order
- The Power & Purpose of Mentoring: A Call to Action
- Diversity: The Key to Success & Sustainability
- The National CARES Mentoring Movement: A Call to Commitment to Secure Vulnerable Children