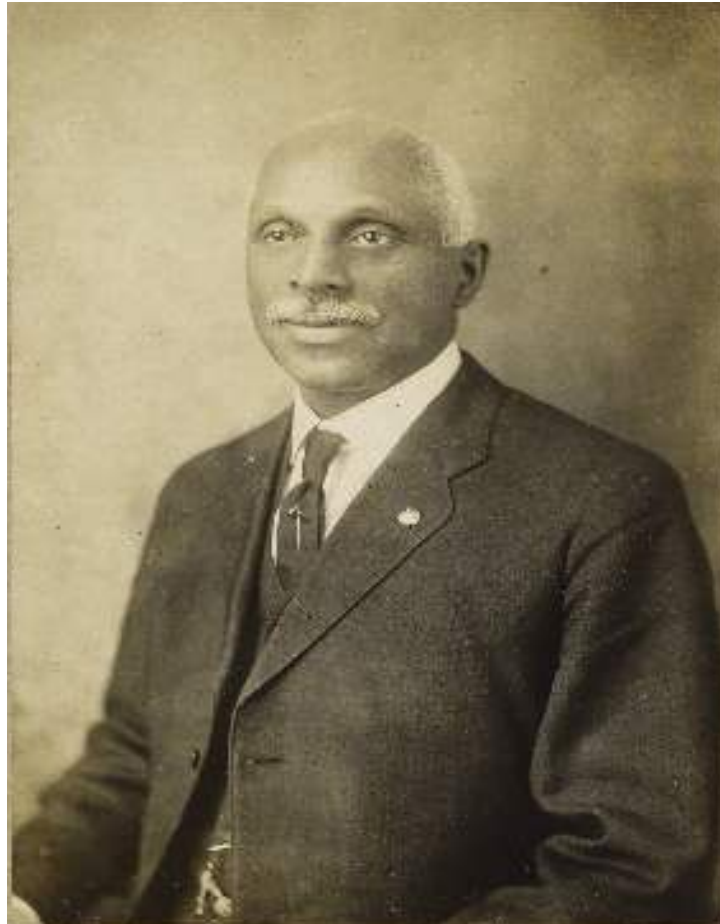


Part 4—Editor and Politician



By Darrell Ferguson
Edited by Maddie Gallo

One Sunday, the sunset was a hazy, yellowish orange. Pop, Mom, Porkchop, and I sat quietly on the porch.

“George,” said Pop. “Farm life was never meant for you. After harvest, Sarah and I are sending you to college.”

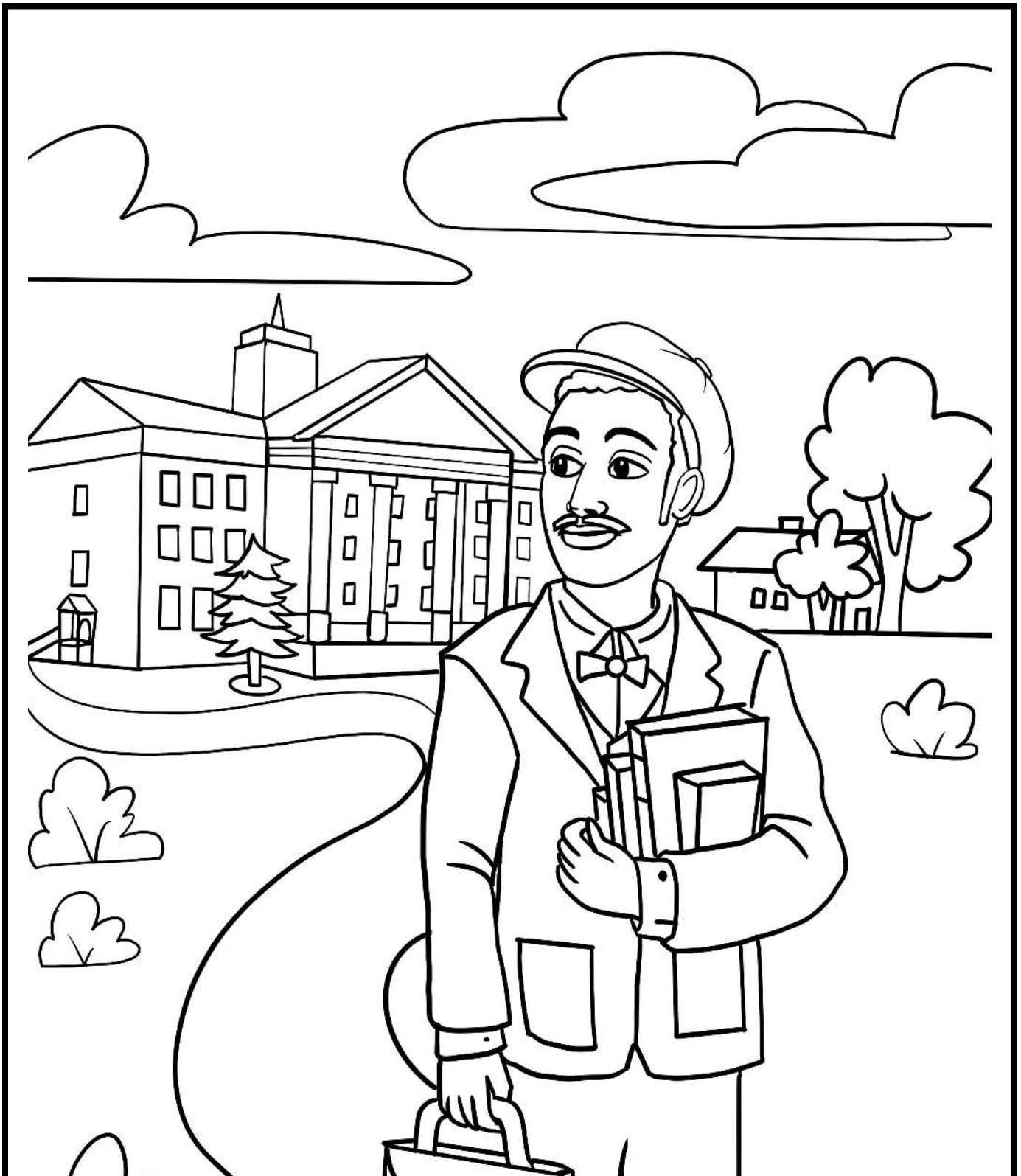
I was surprised. I said, “Pop, you know I can't leave here. There's too much work to do.” I petted Porkchop, who was older now.

“You and the older boys are going,” said Mom.
“You are grown and need to start your lives. We have taught you as much as we can. We want you to go to college.” She reached out and held my hand.

“Then can I have the bag of lemon drops you have in your pocket?” I said. “I know we can get our own, but yours always taste better.” Pop laughed.

Leaving for college felt like the day I first met Pop. I was nervous, and didn't know what to expect. However, this time was easier. I knew I would see him again.

I missed Porkchop, but I knew he would be a friend to all the new children who arrived on the farm. He had always been my best friend when I needed him the most.



In college, I thought about how helpless my mother must have felt when she was forced to leave Arkansas, traveling alone with a baby.

In the 1800s, people learned the news from newspapers. Most people read two to three newspapers a day, and each newspaper offered different opinions.

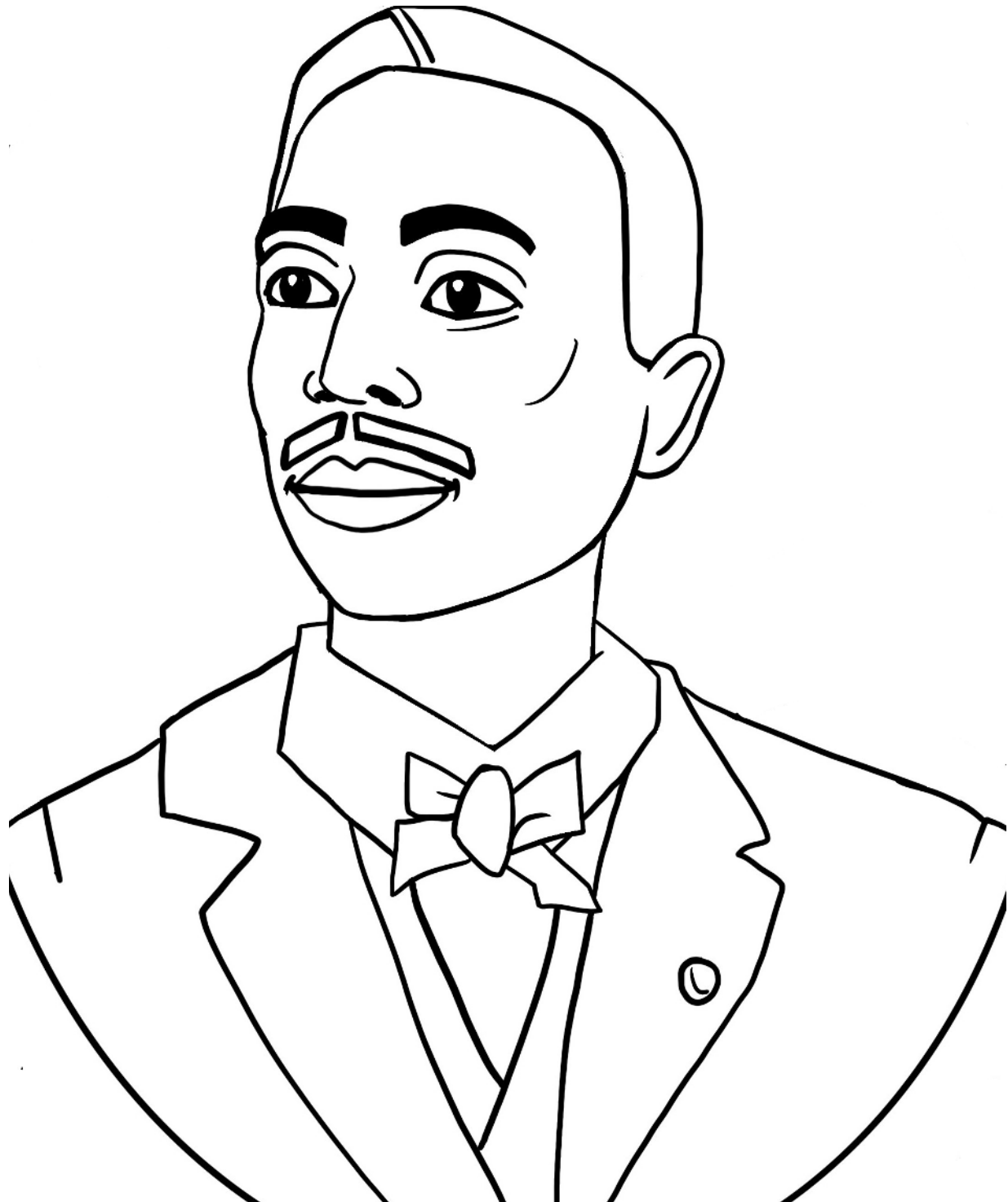


I decided to become a newspaperman. I was a good writer.

After college, I moved back to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and started my own newspaper—the La Crosse Labor Advocate.

I wanted to make things better for everyone. I knew my writings could help.

I talked to many people in small towns and big cities. I wanted them to know the labor class worked long, hard hours in factories with very little pay, and almost no time off.



One night, I was talking to people in a barbershop. “George, your ideas are important for everyone. Those freedoms and rights you talk about belong to the nation, not just a few states,” they said.

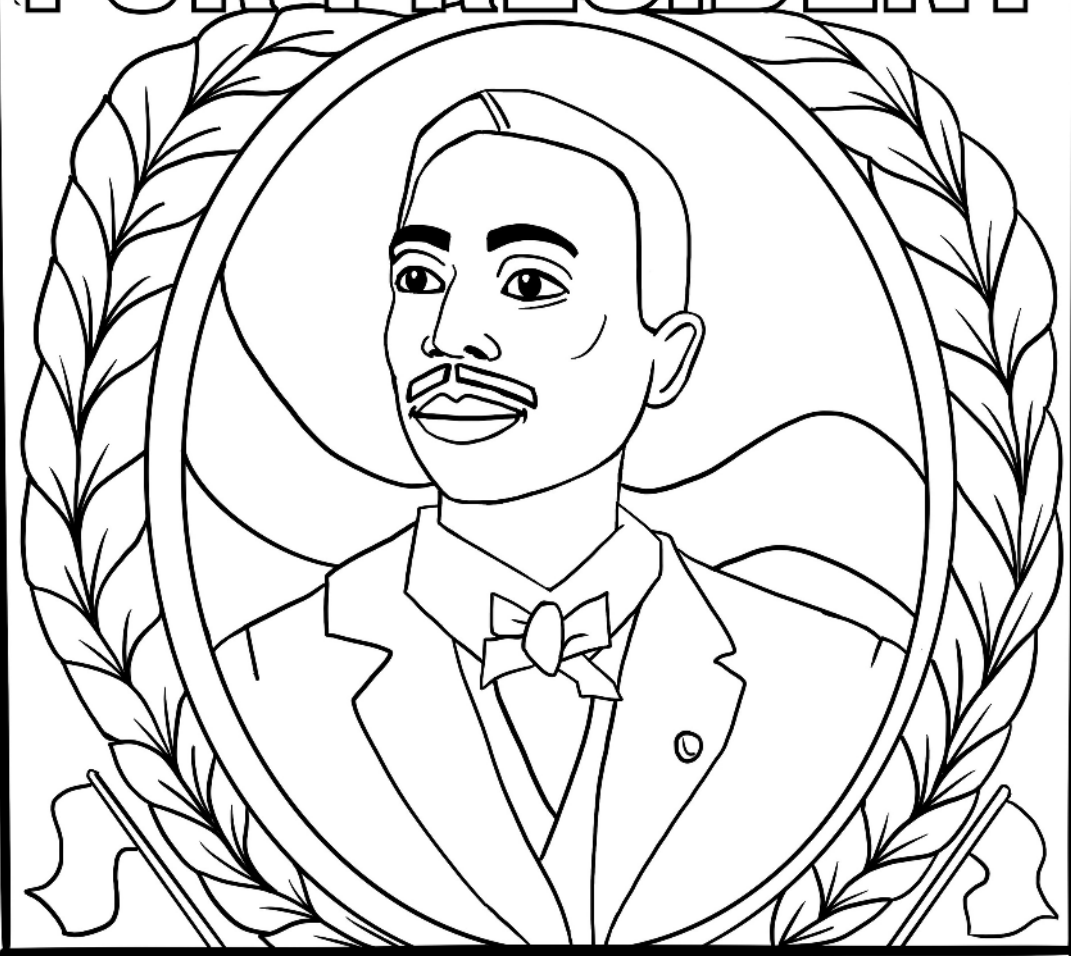
After the Civil War, over half of the American citizens did not have the right to vote because they were women.

Another proportion of new American citizens were not allowed to vote because their grandfathers had been enslaved, or they could not read and write.

The Constitution states that all citizens are equal, have the right to vote, and deserve equal protection under the law. It also states that the U.S. military should protect citizens if the state does not.

GEORGE

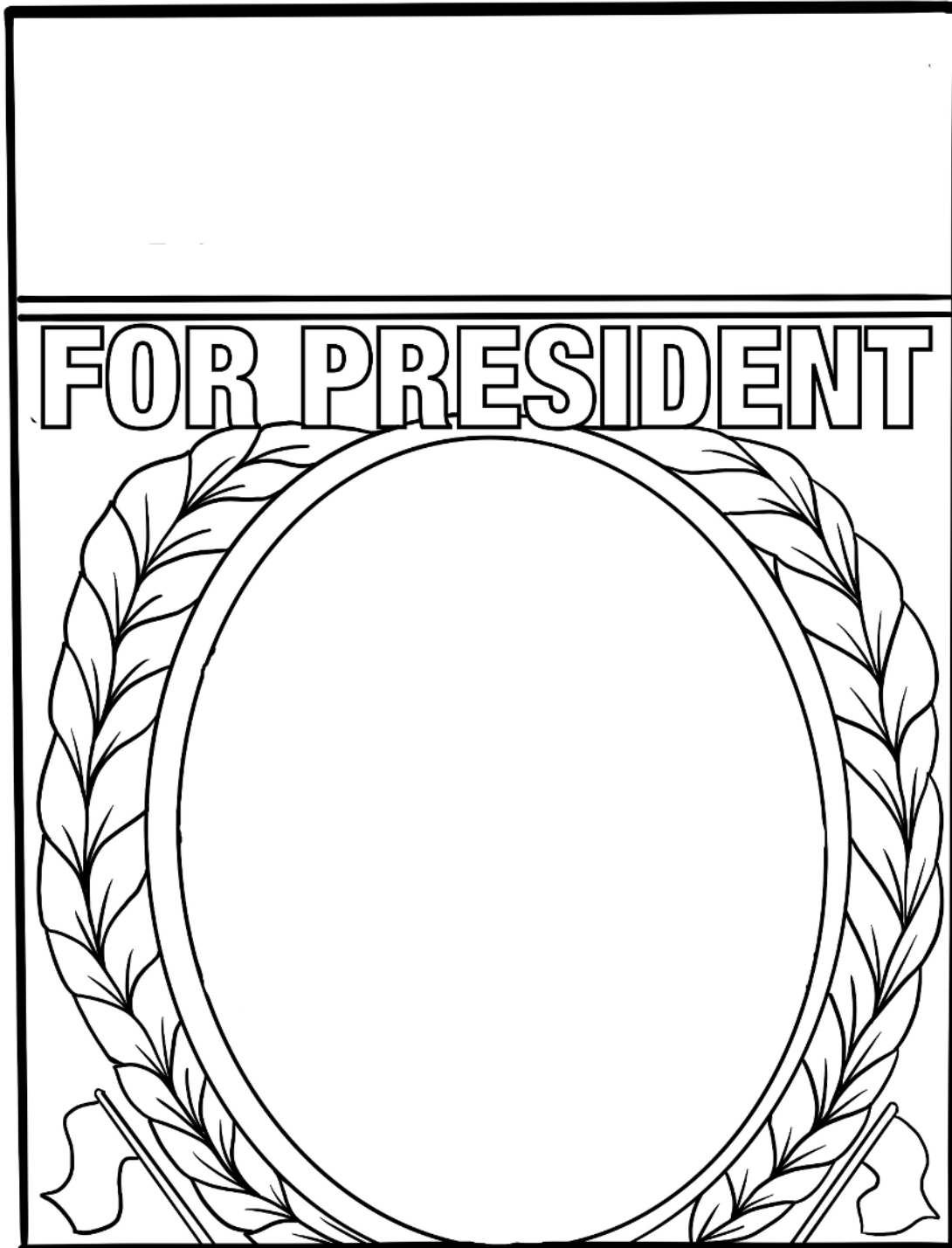
FOR PRESIDENT



The people wanted me to remind Washington, D. C. of these constitutional rights and freedoms by running for President of the United States!
That was exactly what I did.

Running for President was not easy. I talked about ideas no one wanted to listen to, like equal rights for everyone. But I knew if someone didn't talk about it, no one would.

I believe that someday, someone ordinary, like YOU, will run for President, and they will win!



You will remind everyone of the rights and freedoms in U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Everything is there—we just have to share them equally.