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I didn't have to think very hard to select a woman who should be on the monument. Mayor Treney Tweedy has earned that honor. She is the first African American woman to be selected mayor in Lynchburg, Virginia. There is pressure to succeed when you are the first to accomplish something. I am grateful to Mayor Tweedy for paving the path for me, as well as future generations of women. When asked, "What advice would you give your younger self?" her response was simple. "Work harder. Just work harder." I plan to take her advice and work harder to achieve my goals. As a Lynchburg native, she was active in the community well-before serving on city council. She joined the school board to assure the schools were adequately and equally funded. Having lived in several different neighborhoods in the city, she has a unique perspective that allows her to understand multiple viewpoints. My favorite characteristic is her determination. Despite the difficulties she has faced, she never gave up. The Mayor played an important role in Lynchburg's citywide initiative "Poverty to Progress." This program has brought the poverty rate to the city's attention. She believes that Lynchburg should be a place where we can all thrive, and she is doing the work to make it happen. Under her leadership, the neighborhood centers have been renovated, making sure that children have a safe place to learn and play. She voted to increase pay for city workers. When I question what type of person inspires her, she replies, "People who stand up for what they believe in and work to fix issues when they see them." Ironically, that is the type of person she is. Despite her busy schedule, she made time for me to interview her. At the end of the interview, I asked one last question: Is there anything else you'd like me to know? "I'm enjoying being mayor and serving the people of Lynchburg city. Thank you." She actually thanked me. Even at the end of the interview she was still just as modest and humble as the young woman who began her career as a cashier. That is why Mayor Treney Tweedy inspires me. While I believe she does deserve to be featured on the monument, I know that her legacy of improving our community will last just as long as, if not longer than, any one physical structure.