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FINAL

Toledo native a U.S. feminist icon

Women's activist Steinem dies at 92

By LILLIAN KING

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Gloria Steinem, the Toledo native who became one of the most recognizable leaders of the American women's movement and spent more than six decades advocating for equality as a journalist, author, organizer, and political activist, has died. She was 92.

Ms. Steinem died Wednesday at her home in New York City. She had been in declining health.

Even as her work took her around the world, Ms. Steinem maintained ties to Toledo and frequently drew connections between the causes she championed and the family and experiences that shaped her here.

When she spoke with The Blade shortly after her 90th birthday in 2024, Ms. Steinem described the world she still hoped her lifetime of activism might help bring about.

"The generalized adjectives of race or ethnicity or class or gender might have to be there for certain medical and other reasons," Ms. Steinem said. "But in general, I hope that we will be regarded, each of us, as a unique individual."

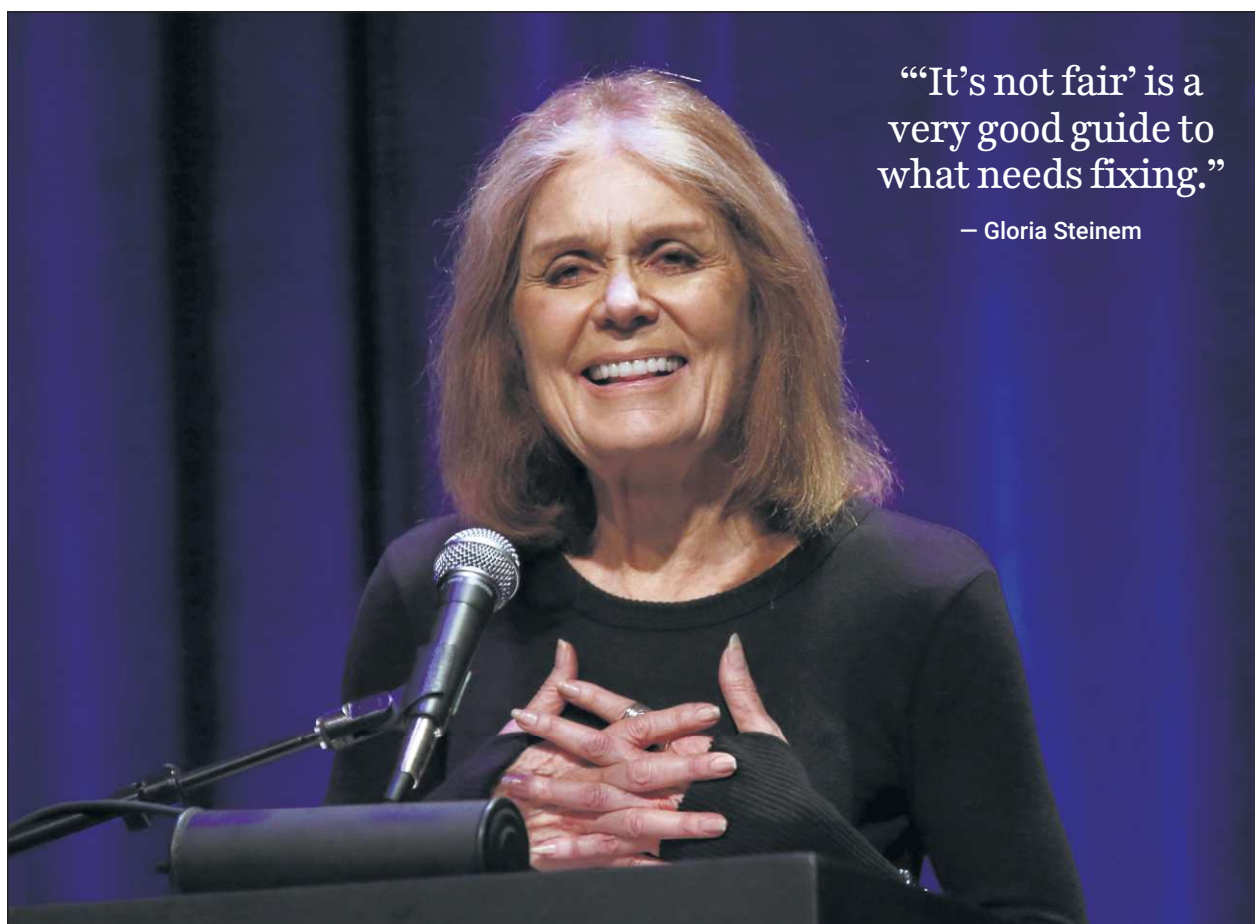
She called it "a world without adjectives."

Born March 25, 1934, in Toledo, Gloria Marie Steinem came from a family with deep roots in both journalism and the fight for women's rights.

Her paternal grandmother, Pauline Steinem, was a prominent Ohio suffragist whose election to the Toledo Board of Education in 1904 made her the city's first female elected official.

Her mother, Ruth Steinem, was a journalist who worked for The Blade as its club editor, writing society and feature stories before leaving journalism to raise her family. Ruth Steinem also had been the first woman editor of the University of Toledo student newspaper, then called the Universalteaser.

Ms. Steinem spent her early childhood traveling



"‘It's not fair' is a very good guide to what needs fixing."

— Gloria Steinem

THE BLADE

Born March 25, 1934, in Toledo, Gloria Marie Steinem came from a family with deep roots in both journalism and the fight for women's rights to become the widely known activist and author.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ms. magazine editor Gloria Steinem presents Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter a copy of the magazine with his mother Lillian on the cover in 1976.



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Books by and about Gloria Steinem are on display at the Main Library in Toledo.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama awards Gloria Steinem the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gloria Steinem attends an Equal Rights Amendment rally outside the White House in 1981.

Hometown reflects on legacy of journalist

By VINCENT LUCARELLI

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Gloria Steinem's influence in her hometown extends beyond her legacy as a Toledo-born feminist icon, remaining embedded in local classrooms, library collections, and community conversations about women and equality.

"I think the field of women's studies still relies on a lot of foundational principles that Gloria Steinem was a part of," said Sharon Barnes, associate professor in the University of Toledo department of women's and gender studies. "In terms of her writings ... there are a few iconic pieces that are anthologized in our introductory textbooks."

Ms. Barnes gave the famous 1978 essay "If Men Could Menstruate," published in the monumental Ms. magazine that Ms. Steinem co-founded seven years earlier, as an example of a piece that comes up a lot.

The essay imagined how differently society would view menstruation if men, rather than women, experienced it.

"It is still in contemporary anthologies because of the astuteness of the analysis around justifications of the powerful in terms of how structures are inequitable," Ms. Barnes said.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library's Main branch has kept the Steinem Sisters Collection, a lending library of feminist literature, since its original owner People Called Women bookstore closed in 2018. Officials say it is the only public library collection focused on feminist literature in the United States.

Gina Mercurio, retired owner of People Called Women, got to know Ms. Steinem through hosting several book signings that the activist attended over the years. The idea for the collection started after Ms. Mercurio and a group of

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Debate denied

Gubernatorial candidate Amy Acton is not willing to hold a debate with Vivek Ramaswamy.

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Tycoon trouble

South Korean police are seeking the indictment of a K-pop mogul over investor fraud.

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COMING SUNDAY

Marking 25 years since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and reflecting on their lasting impact.

AND



Toledo-area providers are taking different approaches — from old-school molds to 3D scanning — to create custom orthotics.

ALSO

Take a step inside a day of practice and rich tradition among local high school bands.

Residents worried after fire at facility

Council listens to frustrations

By ALICE MOMANY

BLADE POLITICS WRITER

Residents and members of Toledo City Council are frustrated with what they feel was a lack of communication following a pair of explosions and fire at Brent Industries in South Toledo.

"We've heard nothing from anybody," said Cindy Krauzer, who lives near Brent Industries. "There has not been a door



THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

Smoke rises after an explosion at Brent Industries on Aug. 18.

hanger, a piece of mail to tell us this is what we are doing."

"This is late in the game as far as I'm concerned," Councilman Cerssandra McPherson said. "I

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2026 ELECTIONS High court overruling asked on mail ballots

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The Trump Administration on Thursday asked the Supreme Court to reject an order by a federal judge that halts it from implementing a new rule regulating mail ballots, hours after being unable to tell that judge whether the system that would govern the entire project was operational yet.

The administration filed its appeal the afternoon before mail ballots were scheduled to be

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