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As a senior member of the State Department, I had the oversight for the Global Women's Issues group. I filled in as the appointee, until the Ambassador (Kelley Currie) was confirmed. During the three years before Ms. Currie arrived, I was in charge of the Women of Courage Award at the State Department. The reason, I am starting with his personal experience is that from that vantage point, I was able to see all of the outstanding nominees and none have left an indelible mark on my soul as has "Mama Maggie."

I had known of the great work of Mama Maggie through my work with faith-based and community-based organizations. I also remember that many of her "boys" were executed in Libya and they all died for their faith – a faith they learned at Mama's knee.

But the striking thing about this ministry and the woman who left riches and high society to lead it, is best summed up in our Women of Courage celebrations. She was named by Secretary Pompeo and nominated to be part of an august group of women who were movers and shakers. So she stood among the best of the best. Here's the interesting thing: these other women would weep in her presence. They were drawn to her innocence, her generosity, her loving spirit. She would pray for them, she would counsel them, she would listen. She was lifted up and the other women awardees wanted her to be pushed to the forefront.

That award is just one stop among the many stops this dear woman has made in her life. Through her Stephen's Children and the art of "Loving the Unloved", Mama Maggie has created an atmosphere where the forgotten, the least of these, have found hope in Egypt and the other countries where she's had impact.

She knows that education is the key to getting out of poverty and spends much time and treasure on educating these special children. In fact since 2016, she opened her Second Farah (which means joy) II school. Previous to these schools, these young people would have had no hope of education. She provides this.

The list of activities goes on and on – home visits, camps, leadership training and from a nascent team of 5, her team has grown to 2,000 reaching 32,000 children and their families yearly. She has received numerous awards and yet the Zayed award would be a capstone. She can stretch money and use it for such good purposes and this award would enable her to do even more.

It is with the highest recommendation and yet a humble heart, as Mama Maggie practices and preaches, that I nominate her and her organization for this prestigious award.

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