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Humble Roots: Rebelling against expectations

Video Transcript:

Marge Magner, Lead Director, Accenture Board of Directors

I grew up in Brooklyn. My mom was a teacher; my dad was a policeman. No one in the family was in business, so the expectation was that you should do what you need to do and you should do what your parents tell you to do. There was very much that focus. And that was something that I guess, at the end of the day, I rebelled against.

The challenge was I didn't have a lot of confidence that I could achieve it or that I was capable of achieving it. I would think, "When are they going to find out I don't know what I'm doing?" And you feel that way and you go, "Well, apparently they're not finding it out so I guess I'll just keep doing it until I get to a place where I can't do it."

I never really found that I got to a place where I could not do it.

I spent most of my career in financial services. I ultimately became the CEO and Chairman of the Global Consumer Group at Citi. It was the best job in the world, in my opinion. I loved it and it was just exciting and interesting and it was wonderful. We had 200,000 people around the world and we had a great business that gave me an awful lot of visibility. That was a big deal.

I was very close to my father in particular. He had a scrapbook of any article, any picture of me that was ever published.

He used to call me Mashala, that was my family name. He'd say, "Mashala, you're a big deal!" I couldn't stop crying. It was just the most amazing thing. It was amazing.

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