

Kirt Jacobs: Welcome to MoxieTalk with Kirt Jacobs. This is an archived edition when our program was called Leadership Landscape TV.

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Kirt Jacobs: Welcome to a new partnership between Metro T.V. and Y-PAL, the Young Professionals Association of Louisville called Leadership Landscape where we go inside the minds of local community leaders and allow them a chance to offer some keen insights into how they see themselves and most importantly explored just what makes them tick. I'm Kirt Jacobs a Y-PAL board member and host of Leadership Landscape. Today our guest is Rebecca Jackson.

For those of you who do not know our guest allow me to read some of her bio. Rebecca Jackson is the current CEO. of the WHAS TV 11 Crusade for Children. And she is no stranger to Louisville's political history. Rebecca was the first woman elected to either the county clerk or county judge positions. Prior to serving as the Jefferson County Judge Executive and as Jefferson County Clerk, she taught special education in the public school systems and founded an employment agency for persons with handicaps. Rebecca began her political career serving two terms as Jefferson County clerk from 1990 to 1998 and in 1998 she claimed Jefferson County's highest ranking elected post as Jefferson County judge executive making her the last county judge executive in Louisville's history. Prior to merger in 2003, as Jefferson County judge executive Jackson had the Patriots Peace Memorial off River Road built to help families honor loved ones who died protecting our freedom during times of peace. While it has received national awards the most meaningful come from the notes and comments of families and friends of those honored.

She led the successful and final campaign to merge the City of Louisville in Jefferson County governments in 2003 and after a merger which basically eradicated the county judge executive post Jackson

became CEO. of R.J. Consulting. She was a motivational speaker and conducted a leadership and management training. She has spoken in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and to the Dubai Business Women's Council on using the talents of women in achieving leadership goals in 2003 she made a valiant attempt to become the first female governor of Kentucky since Martha Lane Collins in the 1980s.

In 1999 something near and dear to our hearts, she facilitated the founding of the Young Professionals Association of Louisville better known as Y-PAL. A group to organize to retain and attract young professionals in the Louisville community. She graduated from Southern High School in Louisville and earned both Bachelor of Science and Master's of Education degrees from the University of Louisville. She is an active member of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. Rebecca married her husband Ralph in 1969. They have three children. Wesley, Garrett, and Derrick Jackson. Welcome Rebecca.

Rebecca Jackson: As well as two grandchildren.

Kirt Jacobs: Two grandchildren, forgive me, that must be on the record. Their names.

Rebecca Jackson: Mackenzie and Elle.

Kirt Jacobs: Great. Welcome today on Leadership Landscape. First question we start off with our guests is what drives you to do all of this? It's pretty impressive record.

Rebecca Jackson: Well I've always tried to find the will of Christ in my life and to to do that

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Kirt Jacobs: That's great

Rebecca Jackson: That's what drives.

Kirt Jacobs: Whom do you in this may be the answer to the second question Who do you credit most influential in your life?

Rebecca Jackson: On this earth, my parents. my my parents worked very hard to teach me right from wrong. To teach me how to follow the will of Christ but also to be kind to others to treat other people with respect and to value every person, every job, and every opportunity.

Kirt Jacobs: That's great and very. What was the most defining moment of your life?

Rebecca Jackson: You know there were several and you gave me these questions in advance and I thank you for doing that.

Kirt Jacobs: It's the only fair way to do.

Rebecca Jackson: But as I look at my life I think probably the most important a funny moment was when I became a Christian and next after that was when I married my husband. And then when I had children and grandchildren. And then realizing that finding a job that incorporated my passion and my talents was achievable and that not everybody would like me all the decisions I made. Those were defining moments.

Kirt Jacobs: Yes Yes The higher the air the less friends I tend to have if there is one. What is your biggest professional regret? In other words, is there something you would have done differently looking back, armchair quarterback in your life?

Rebecca Jackson: Do you know I would not do anything differently because then I would be in a different place today. But I am sorry that I have caused pain in people's lives with the decisions I've made and some of those were not very good decisions. But a lot of them are very good decisions. I made the right decision. It still caused pain in people's lives and I'm always sorry to cause pain.

Kirt Jacobs: Its understandable. It is a very good answer. on the flip-side of that Rebecca, what is your biggest professional triumph?

Rebecca Jackson: Ridding this county of fiscal court.

Kirt Jacobs: I'm not touching that.

Rebecca Jackson: Well we met in this very room and so it's kind of a nice way to come back and say and it's no longer here. We didn't need dual government. We didn't need competing governments and that's really what we had. And so that was a huge professional triumph but along those lines also becoming the CEO of the Crusade for Children which as you read my bio you realize it has brought me back to my passion and the passion of my youth and allows me to use those talents. And and so so that has been very very good and certainly Y-PAL, the Patriots peace and well that you spoke about and really proving that one person can make a difference. And that's why I got into politics to see if one person can still make a difference and one person can.

Kirt Jacobs: You definitely have. You're a good role model. What do you find exciting?

Rebecca Jackson: A job well done. You know Dr Martin Luther King talked about sweeping. streets, the way. Michelangelo painted, the way. Beethoven wrote music, the way. Shakespeare wrote poetry. So that the heavens and earth would pause and say: Here is a good is exciting to me. To value every job out there and to value it when it is exciting to me to value every job out there and to value it when it is especially when it is well done. That's exciting

Kirt Jacobs: What is your favorite word?

Rebecca Jackson: My favorite word is vision and this was the toughest question because it's like what is my favorite word -- vision. And I came to vision because it is vision to me is not only seeing the reality but but seeing what could be. And so I look to Queen Elizabeth I who saw the reality. As she took over 25-years-old. A Y-PAL. And her country was bankrupt. It was in civil war over religion. She was queen at a time when everybody around her said her only job was to marry and produce a male heir and that was her reality and she saw that her vision was very good. But she had another vision for England, and that was that it could become

a world power -- a Great Britain and by the end of her term it did and it continues to be a world power today. And so vision is a favorite word of mine. It really takes what is and sees what can be and then you add to terminations a commitment in goal setting and all of that and and it happens.

Kirt Jacobs: That's a beautiful answer. Can you define leadership in one word?

Rebecca Jackson: Character

Kirt Jacobs: OK

Rebecca Jackson: Character because you know the test for me when I am employing somebody is can I trust you with the small things. Because if I can trust you with the small things then I can trust you with the larger things and that is a test of your character what will you do and what will you refuse to do in your life is tells me what your character is and and that's what leadership is about. I want to follow somebody who is a character bud who has the kind of character that I believe in and that I can trust and that's leadership.

Kirt Jacobs: This is a question that we get some interesting responses to sometimes and somewhat of an uncomfortable question to ask some of our guests sometimes but I think it's fair. When the great day comes Rebecca, how do you want to be remembered?

Rebecca Jackson: You know when I was the county clerk. I actually ask every employee this question. And so it is not a new question to me. And I was glad to see it because I have thought about it long and have answered it many times. When the great day comes, I want people to stand over my coffin and say she was a Christian. She loved her family. She was a woman of integrity. She cared. And that would be the best eulogy anyone could give for me.

Kirt Jacobs: I think that's a great note to end on Rebecca. Thank you Rebecca Jackson for being on Y-PAL's Leadership Landscape.

And thank you for joining us today on Leadership Landscape. Until next time, I'm Kirt Jacobs. Thank you Rebecca. Thank you so much really enjoyed it. Thank you.

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Kirt Jacobs: Thank you for listening to MoxieTalk with Kirt Jacobs. This episode was archival audio from when we were known as Leadership Landscape TV. If you have any feedback, general comments, or a recommendation for a suitable guest feel free to email me at kirt@moxietalk.com or catch us on Facebook under MoxieTalk with Kirt Jacobs, or on Twitter under [@kirtjacobs](https://twitter.com/kirtjacobs) or our extensive website at www.moxietalk.com