

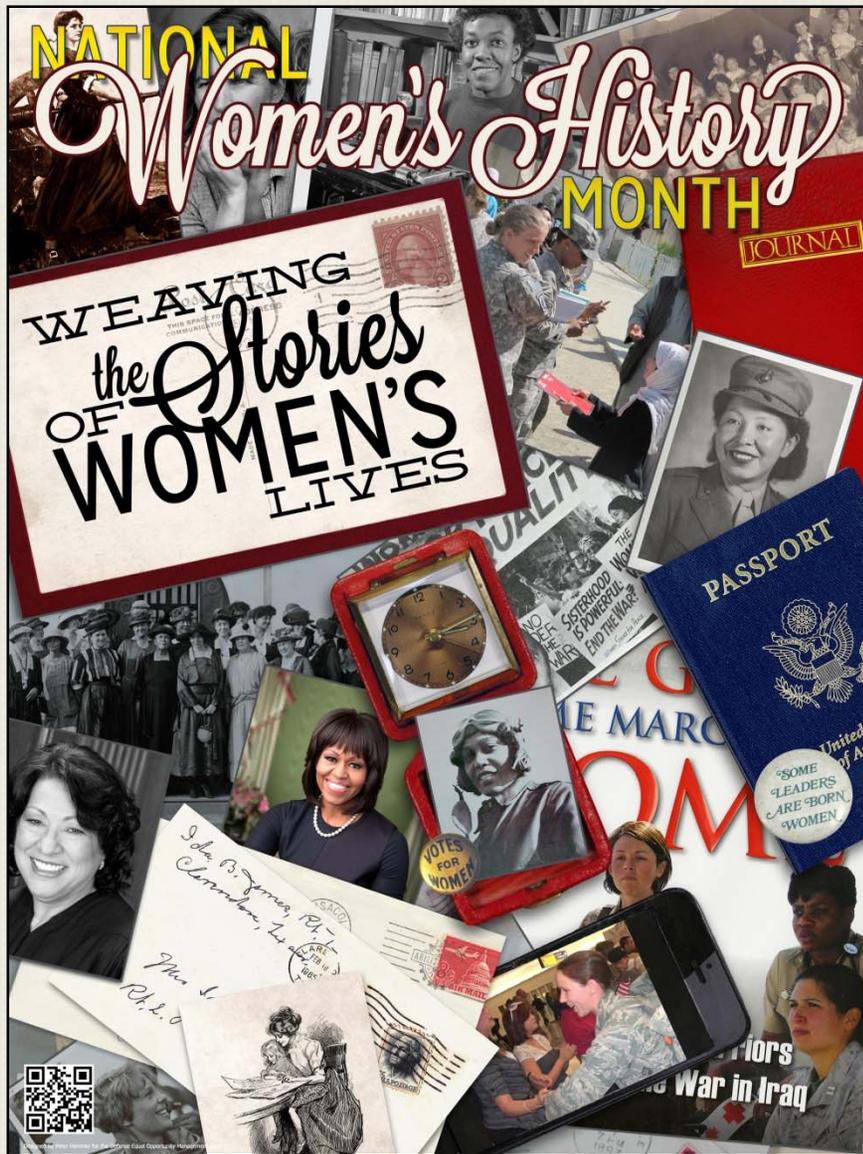
National Women's History Month

*Weaving the Stories Of
Women's Lives*

National Women's History Month

Each year, the National Women's History Project selects a theme that highlights the achievements of distinguished women.

The 2015 theme, *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*, presents the opportunity to weave women's stories—individually and collectively—into the essential fabric of our nation's history.



This presentation provides snapshots that briefly cover the integral role of women in shaping this nation.

During Women's History Month, we recognize the stories of struggles—and victories—of the women who have helped make our country what it is today.

National Women's History Month

Elizabeth Freeman becomes the first African-American woman to win her way out of slavery through the courts. When the state Supreme Court upholds her freedom, the ruling is considered to have informally ended slavery in the state of Massachusetts.



1700s

Anne Catherine Hoof Green takes over her late husband's printing and newspaper business, becoming the first American woman to run a print shop. The following year, she is named the official printer for the colony of Maryland.

National Women's History Month

Fifty-one women, led by Penelope Barker, sign the Edenton Proclamation vowing to give up tea and boycott other British products. The Edenton Tea Party is one of the first instances of political action by women.



1700s

Mary Katherine Goddard becomes the first woman postmaster in the country (in Baltimore) and becomes the first printer to offer copies of the Declaration of Independence that include the signers' names.

National Women's History Month



Deborah Sampson Gannett, disguised as a man, enlists in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment as Robert Shurtleff. She is one of many women who fight in the American Revolution.

Judith Sargent Murray publishes her essays "*On the Equality of the Sexes*" and "*On the Domestic Education of Children.*" Her essays focus on women's education and how men and women should have equal value.



1700s

National Women's History Month

Hannah Slater receives the first U.S. patent granted to a woman. Her invention, a type of cotton thread, helps her husband build a successful textile business.



Anne Parrish founds the House of Industry, which provides employment to poor women. It is the first American charitable organization operated by women for women.

1700s

National Women's History Month



American Indian Sacagawea, whose husband is a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, serves as a guide and interpreter for the group.

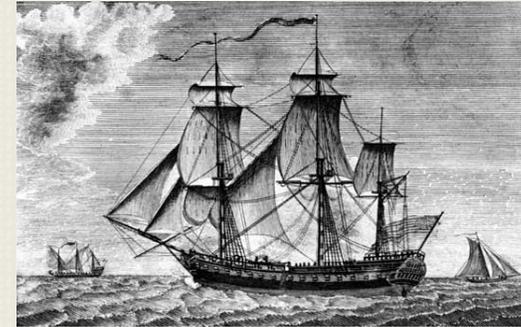


Mercy Otis Warren publishes her influential *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*. She draws on personal knowledge of the prominent figures of the time that included John and Abigail Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Samuel Adams.

1800s

National Women's History Month

During the War of 1812, Mary Marshall and Mary Allen serve as nurses for several months aboard the *USS United States* at the request of Commodore Stephen Decatur.



The Women's Rights Convention has its inaugural meeting in Seneca, N.Y. After two days of debate, 68 women and 32 men sign the Declaration of Sentiments. It outlines grievances and sets the agenda for the women's rights movement.

1800s

National Women's History Month



Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery. By the outbreak of the Civil War, she will return to the South some 19 times and rescue more than 300 slaves.

Elizabeth Blackwell receives her medical degree and becomes the first woman doctor of medicine in the United States.



Ellen Swallow Richards is admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She becomes the first female professional chemist in the United States.

1800s

National Women's History Month



Women serve as hospital administrators, nurses, and cooks in both Union and Confederate battlefield hospitals. Dr. Mary Walker becomes the only woman to be awarded the Medal of Honor.



Mary Elizabeth Bowser, a free African-American woman disguised as a slave, begins spying for the Union Army. She becomes the most critical espionage agent in the Civil War.

1800s

National Women's History Month



Anna Howard Shaw, a former National American Woman Suffrage Association president, heads the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense. This body coordinates women's patriotic activity in support of the war effort.

The U.S. government reports that 1.4 million women work in war industries. After World War I, these women are forced out of industrial work.

1900s



National Women's History Month



Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, traveling from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to Ireland in approximately 15 hours.



Anthropologist Margaret Mead publishes *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies*, challenging Western assumptions about gender relations.

Katherine Sui Fun Cheung becomes the first Asian-American woman to
1900s earn her pilot's license.



National Women's History Month



The military creates women's branches in each of the armed services. Close to 350,000 women serve in the WAVES (Navy), WACS (Army), SPARS (Coast Guard), MCWR (Marines), and WASP (Air Force).

More than 310,000 women take jobs in the aircraft industry. Government marketing urges women to join the labor force for the duration of World War II.

1900s



National Women's History Month



Mary G. Ross becomes the first female engineer at Lockheed's Missiles Systems Division and the first known American Indian woman to be an engineer. She later advocates for women and American Indians to study engineering and mathematics.

Jerrie Cobb is the first woman in the U.S. to undergo astronaut testing. NASA, however, cancels the women's program. It is not until 1983 that an American woman gets sent into space.



1900s

National Women's History Month

Oveta Culp Hobby becomes the first woman to serve as a Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. She is also the first director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and the first woman to receive the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal.



During the Vietnam War, over 7,000 women serve, mostly as nurses, in all five divisions of the military.



1900s

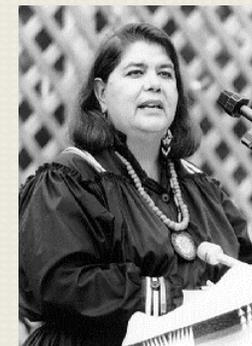
National Women's History Month

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy amends its admission requirements and becomes the first federal service academy to enroll women students, two years ahead of Army, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard.



Sandra Day O'Connor is sworn in as the first female Supreme Court justice.

Wilma Mankiller becomes the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation.



1900s

National Women's History Month

Astronaut and astrophysicist Sally Ride becomes the first American woman and youngest astronaut in space aboard the space shuttle Challenger.



Sheila Widnall becomes the first female secretary of a branch of the U.S. military when she is appointed to head the Air Force.

Nancy Ruth Mace is the first female cadet to graduate from the Citadel, a formerly all-male military school.

1900s



National Women's History Month

Dr. Peggy Whitson, an American astronaut, becomes the first woman to command the International Space Station.



Captain Kathleen McGrath becomes the first woman to command a U.S. Navy warship.

Colonel Linda McTague becomes the first woman commander of a fighter squadron in U.S. Air Force history.



2000s

National Women's History Month



Michelle Obama becomes the first African-American first lady. She is an advocate for poverty awareness, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle.

Sonia Sotomayor is the first Hispanic-American woman to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.



Vicki L. Ruiz becomes the first Latina historian inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

2000s

National Women's History Month



Navy Admiral Michelle Howard becomes the first African-American woman to attain four-star rank in U.S. military history.

She joins two other women who achieved four-star rank: Army General Ann Dunwoody, and Air Force General Janet Wolfenbarger.



2000s

National Women's History Month



Janet Louise Yellen is an American economist. She serves as the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the first woman to hold the position.

Six female soldiers pass the Army pre-Ranger course at Fort Benning, Ga., making them the first women who can attend the U.S. Army Ranger School.



2000s

National Women's History Month

These women—along with many others whose contributions remain unknown—wrote profoundly important chapters in American history.

Their impact on America continues in a myriad of areas, including history, education, entertainment, literature, science, sports, politics, culture, and the military.

National Women's History Month

There is power in hearing women's stories, both personally and in a larger context. Accounts of the lives of individual women are critical because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share an expansive vision of what women can do and have accomplished.

Moreover, their efforts have placed today's young women in a historically exceptional position, where they are better empowered to ensure the equal treatment of not only women, but all individuals.

National Women's History Month

“In the end all women and all men can only benefit from the more truthful and balanced image of women which will emerge from history where they are shown to have been actively involved in shaping their own destiny and that of the country.”

— Eleanor Flexner

*2015 National Women's
History Month Honoree*

Sources

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