

• **January 3, 1949** – Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973, became the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate as she previously served in the House (1940-49)

• **January 5, 1925** – Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the first woman Governor in U.S. history (Governor of Wyoming)

• **January 7, 1896** – Fanny Farmer's first cookbook is published in which she standardized cooking measurements

• **January 7, 1955** – Marian Anderson is the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera

• **January 8, 1977** – Pauli Murray is ordained as the first female African American Episcopal priest

• **January 11, 1935** – Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight from Hawaii to North America

• **January 12, 1932** – Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, becomes the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first to serve as the Senate's presiding officer

• **January 25, 1980** – Mary Decker became the first woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55

• **January 29, 1926** – Violette Neatly Anderson is the first black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court

JANUARY

Highlights in US Women's
History

- **February 1, 1978** – First postage stamp to honor a black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued in Washington, DC
- **February 4, 1987** – First “National Women in Sports Day” is celebrated by Presidential Proclamation
- **February 12, 1869** – The Utah Territorial Legislature passes a bill allowing women to vote
- **February 15, 1921** – The Suffrage Monument, depicting Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, sculpted by Adelaide Johnson, is dedicated at the U.S. Capitol
- **February 15, 1953** – Tenley Albright became the first American woman to win the World Figure Skating championship
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February 17, 1870 – Esther Hobart Morris in Wyoming became the first American woman Justice of the Peace

- **February 24, 1912** – Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah, the largest Jewish organization in American history, focusing on healthcare and education in the Israel and the U.S.
- **February 24, 1967** – Jocelyn Bell Burnell makes the first discovery of a pulsar, a rapidly rotating neutron star
- **February 27, 1922** – U.S. Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote

FEBUARY

**Highlights in US Women's
History**

- **March 1, 1978** – Women’s History Week is first observed in Sonoma County, California
- **March 1, 1987** – Congress passes a resolution designating March as Women’s History Month
- **March 4, 1917** – Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) took her seat as the first female member of Congress
- **March 8** – International Women’s Day, whose origins trace back to protests in the U.S. and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights for working women
- **March 11, 1993** – Janet Reno is confirmed as the first woman U.S. Attorney General
- **March 12, 1912** – Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah, Georgia, for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting
- **March 13, 1986** – Susan Butcher won the first of 3 straight and 4 total Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in Alaska

- **March 17, 1910** – Camp Fire Girls is established as the first interracial, non-sectarian American organization for girls
- **March 20, 1852** – Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19th century
- **March 21, 1986** – Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship
- **March 23, 1917** – Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf
- **March 31, 1888** – The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others, the oldest non-sectarian women’s organization in the U.S.
- **March 31, 1776** – Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence and cautions, “Remember the ladies...”

MARCH

Highlights in US Women’s History

- **April 2, 1931** – 17-year-old Jackie Mitchell, the second woman to play baseball in the all-male minor leagues, pitches an exhibition game against the N.Y. Yankees and strikes out both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. The next day, the Baseball Commissioner voided her contract, claiming baseball was too strenuous for women. The ban was not overturned until 1992
- **April 5, 1911** – 100,000 to 500,000 people march in New York City to attend the funeral of seven unidentified victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire in late March
- **April 7, 1805** - Sacagawea begins helping the Lewis and Clark Expedition as an interpreter
- **April 7, 1987** – Opening of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., the first museum devoted to women artists
- **April 9, 1939** – Marian Anderson sings an Easter Sunday concert for more than 75,000 at Lincoln Memorial

- **April 13, 1933** – Ruth Bryan Owen is the first woman to represent the U.S. as a foreign minister when she is appointed as envoy to Denmark
- **April 19, 1977** – Fifteen women in the House of Representatives form the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues
- **April 22** – Earth Day, honor Rachel Carson today, a woman who changed America and greatly influenced the environmental movement (her revolutionary book, *Silent Spring*, is available at www.nwhp.org)
- **April 26, 1777** – American Revolution heroine Sybil Ludington, 16 years old, rides 40 miles on horseback in the middle of the night to warn the American militia that the British were invading
- **April 28, 1993** – First “Take Our Daughters to Work” Day, sponsored by the Ms. Foundation, in 2003 it became “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work” Day

APRIL

**Highlights in US Women's
History**

- **May 1, 1950** – Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, named Library of Congress’s Consultant in Poetry (later called Poet Laureate) in 1985
- **May 5, 1938** – Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen presents results of her medical research identifying the disease cystic fibrosis at a meeting of the American Pediatric Association
- **May 6 – 12 Nurses Week**
- **May 8, 1914** – President Woodrow Wilson signs a Proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day
- **May 10, 1872** – Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for U.S. president for the Equal Rights Party

- **May 12, 1968** – A 12-block Mother’s Day march of “welfare mothers” is held in Washington, D.C., led by Coretta Scott King accompanied by Ethel Kennedy
- **May 21, 1932** – Amelia Earhart Putnam becomes the first woman to complete a solo-transatlantic flight by flying 2,026 miles from Newfoundland to Ireland in just under 15 hours
- **May 21, 1973** – Lynn Genesko, a swimmer, receives the first athletic scholarship awarded to a woman (University of Miami)
- **May 29, 1977** – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to qualify for and complete the Indy 500 car race
- **May 29, 1943** – “Rosie the Riveter” by Norman Rockwell appears on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post

MAY

**Highlights in US Women’s
History**

- **June 1, 1993** – Connie Chung becomes the second woman to co-anchor the evening news, 17 years after Barbara Walters became the first in 1976
- **June 9, 1949** – Georgia Neese Clark confirmed as the first woman treasurer of the United States
- **June 10, 1963** - Equal Pay Act enacted: “To prohibit discrimination on account of sex in the payment of wages by employers engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.” (PL 88-38)
- **June 11, 1913** – Women in Illinois celebrate passage of a state woman suffrage bill allowing women to vote in presidential elections
- **June 17, 1873** – Susan B. Anthony’s trial starts for illegally voting in Rochester, New York on November 5, 1872

- **June 20, 1921** – Alice Robertson ((R-Oklahoma) becomes the first woman to chair the House of Representatives
- **June 21, 1997** – The Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) plays its first game
- **June 23, 1972** – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is signed by President Nixon, one of the most important legislation initiatives passed for women and girls since women won the vote in 1920. This legislation guarantees equal access and equal opportunity for females and males in almost all aspects of our educational systems
- **June 25, 1903** – Madame Marie Curie announces her discovery of radium

JUNE

**Highlights in US Women’s
History**

- **July 2, 1979** – The Susan B. Anthony dollar is released
- **July 2, 1937** – Amelia Earhart's plane is lost in the Pacific Ocean near Howland Island
- **July 2, 1964** – President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act; Title VII prohibits sex discrimination in employment
- **July 4, 1876** – Suffragists crash the Centennial Celebration in Independence Hall to present the Vice President with the "Declaration of the Rights of Women" written by Matilda Joselyn Gage
- **July 6, 1957** – Althea Gibson is the first African American woman player to win a Wimbledon title in women's tennis singles
- **July 7, 1981** – President Reagan nominates Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman Supreme Court Justice?

- **July 12, 1984** – Representative Geraldine Ferraro (D-New York) is chosen as the first female to run for Vice President of the United States on the Democratic Party ticket with Walter Mondale (D-Minnesota)
- **July 14, 1917** – 16 women from the National Women's Party were arrested while picketing the White House demanding universal women's suffrage; they were charged with obstructing traffic
- **July 19-20, 1848** – The Seneca Falls Convention, the country's first women's rights convention, is held in Seneca Falls, New York [Women's Rights Movement](#)
- **July 20, 1942** – The first class of Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) begins at Fort Des Moines, IA

JULY

**Highlights in US Women's
History**

August 6, 1965 – The Voting Rights Act outlaws the discriminatory literacy tests that had been used to prevent African Americans from voting.

Suffrage is finally fully extended to African American women

August 8, 1969 - Executive order 11478 issued by President Nixon requires each federal department and agency to establish and maintain an affirmative action program of equal employment opportunity for civilian employees and applicants

August 9, 1995 - Roberta Cooper Ramo becomes the first woman to hold the office of president of the American Bar Association

August 10, 1993 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg is sworn in as the second woman and 107th Justice to serve on the US Supreme Court

August 12, 1972 - Wendy Rue founds the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE), the largest businesswomen's organization in the US

August 14, 1986 – Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper retires from active duty in the US Navy. A pioneering computer scientist and inventor of the computer language COBOL, she was the oldest officer still on active duty at the time of her retirement

August 23, 1902 - Fanny Farmer opens the “School of Cookery” in Boston, MA

August 26, 1920 – **The 19th Amendment of the US Constitution is ratified granting women the right to vote**

August 26, 1970 – Betty Friedan leads a nationwide protest called the Women's Strike for Equality in New York City on the fiftieth anniversary of women's suffrage

August 26, 1971 – The first “Women's Equality Day,” initiated by Representative Bella Abzug, is established by Presidential Proclamation and reaffirmed annually

August 28, 1963 – More than 250,000 gather for a march on Washington, DC, and listen to Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous “I Have a Dream” speech

August 30, 1984 – Judith A. Resnick is the second US woman in space, traveling on the first flight of the space shuttle Discovery

AUGUST

Highlights in US Women's History

- **September 12, 1910** - Alice Stebbins Wells, a former social worker, becomes the first woman police officer with arrest powers in the U.S. (Los Angeles, CA)
- **September 14, 1964** - Helen Keller receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with 4 other women: Dr. Lena Edwards, Lynn Fontaine, Dr. Helen Taussig, and Leontyne Price
- **September 14, 1975** – Elizabeth Ann Seton is canonized and becomes the first American-born saint, founded the first U.S. Order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph
- **September 20, 1973** – Billie Jean King defeats Bobby “No-Broad-Can-Beat-Me” Riggs in the battle of the sexes tennis match

- **September 25, 1981** – Sandra Day O’Connor is sworn in as the first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice
- **September 26, 1971** – Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-New York) announces she will enter the Democratic presidential primaries
- **September 26, 1973** - Capt. Lorraine Potter, an American Baptist minister, becomes the first woman U.S. Air Force chaplain
- **September 29, 1988** - Stacy Allison becomes first American woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest

SEPTEMBER

**Highlights in US Women’s
History**

- **October 3, 1904** – Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida
- **October 4, 1976** - Barbara Walters becomes the first woman co-anchor of the evening news (at ABC)
- **October 4, 1993** – Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman Justice
- **October 8, 1993** - Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature
- **October 10, 1983** – Dr. Barbara McClintock receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for her discovery in genetics about mobile genetic elements

- **October 11, 1984** – Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan is the first U.S. woman astronaut to “walk” in space during Challenger flight
- **October 15, 1948** – Dr. Frances L. Willoughby is the first woman doctor in the regular U.S. Navy
- **October 16, 1916** – Margaret Sanger opens the U.S.’s first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York
- **October 23, 1910** – Blanche Stuart Scott is the first American woman pilot to make a public flight
- **October 24, 1956** - Reverend Margaret Towner is the first woman ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church
- **October 28, 1958** – Mary Roebling is the first woman director of a stock exchange (American Stock Exchange)

OCTOBER

**Highlights in US Women's
History**

- **November 1, 1848** - First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens, in 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world's first co-ed medical schools
- **November 8, 1910** - The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage
- **November 8, 1984** – Dr. Anna L. Fisher, a physician on the shuttle Discovery, becomes the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space
- **November 11, 1979** - Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington D.C. as a center for African-American women's history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune
- **November 11, 1993** – The Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after being conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre to honor the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era

- **November 13, 1938** - Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini is beatified, the first American woman citizen to become a saint
- **November 14, 1889** – Journalist Elizabeth Cochran, aka Nellie Bly, sails around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds, beating the fictional record set by Phineas Fogg in Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days
- **November 14, 1903** - The U.S. Women's Trade Union League is established
- **November 14, 1946** – Emily Greene Balch, co-founder of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- **November 28, 1881** – The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

NOVEMBER

Highlights in US Women's History

- **December 1, 1955** - Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white person; her arrest sparks the modern civil rights movement in the US
- **December 5, 1935** – Mary McLeod Bethune creates the National Council of Negro Women
- **December 7, 1941** – Capt. Annie Fox receives the first Purple Heart awarded to a woman for her service while under attack at Pearl Harbor
- **December 10, 1869** – Wyoming is the first territory to give women the right to vote
- **December 10, 1938** - Pearl S. Buck receives the Nobel Prize for Literature for *The Good Earth*

- **December 13, 1993** - Susan A. Maxman becomes first woman president of the American Institute of Architects in its 135 year history
- **December 14, 1961** – President’s Commission on the Status of Women is established to examine discrimination against women and ways to eliminate it
- **December 14, 1985** – Wilma Mankiller is sworn in as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma – the first woman in modern history to lead a major Native American tribe
- **December 17, 1993** - Judith Rodin is named president of Univ. of Pennsylvania, the first woman to head an Ivy League institution
- **December 28, 1967** – Muriel Siebert becomes the first woman to own a seat on the N.Y. Stock Exchange

DECEMBER

**Highlights in US Women’s
History**