Edith Munro was 48 years old when she joined the U. S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve. She volunteered for military service after her son, who had been serving as a signalman with the Coast Guard, was killed in action in 1942.

In May 1943, Munro was presented with her son’s Medal of Honor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a White House ceremony. She was the sponsor of two of the three warships named after her son, the destroyer USS Douglas A. Munro and the cutter USCGC Douglas Munro.

“Chippers” performed some of the toughest work on the American Home Front during the Second World War.

Edith Munro
100 YEARS!

August 26, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote. This courageous, 72-year-long political movement was carried out by tens of thousands of women and men working to form a more perfect union.

With little financial, legal or political power of their own, women fought state by state for their rights as citizens. To win the right to vote, women circulated countless petitions, gave speeches, published newspapers, and travelled the country to win support. They were frequently ridiculed, harassed, and sometimes attacked by mobs and police.

Still they persevered. Finally, on August 26, 1920 their goal was achieved with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Women had won the right to vote!

Women in public service and government have long served us as a nation by working to clear barriers, enforce laws, implement new ideas, and change people’s attitudes.

Navigating the Skies

World War II offered women greater access to technical positions that had once been closed to them in peacetime. The U.S. Navy’s WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) began taking over the responsibility for operation of the Celestial Navigation Trainer (CNT) on naval installations in 1943.

The WAVES performed a critical wartime function that enabled higher quality training and reduced resource requirements to produce competent aircrews. Without the WAVES and the CNT, the training of nearly 100,000 air navigators would have been slower, more expensive, and come at the cost of badly needed resources, including aircraft and fuel.
1. Women’s Equality Day is a national holiday True/False
2. The term suffragist is derived from “one who suffers” True/False
3. Male allies were vital to the success of the women’s suffrage movement True/False
4. The first woman to run for U.S. President was Victoria Woodhull in 1872 True/False
5. Over 3,000 women ran for office before they could vote True/False
6. Mississippi was the last state to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1984 True/False
7. All women supported the suffrage movement True/False
8. Women’s Equality Day was first recognized by Congress in 1971 True/False
9. After the 19th Amendment was ratified all women were allowed to vote True/False
10. The United States was the first country that granted women the right to vote True/False
11. The suffrage movement inspired its own fashion craze True/False
12. Some men believed that if women were allowed to vote, they would overexert their inferior brains and their health would suffer True/False
13. Suffragettes were arrested for breaking the law and many went to jail True/False
14. The U.S. women’s movement had its roots in the abolition movement True/False
15. Susan B. Anthony (and 15 other women) voted illegally in the presidential election of 1872 True/False

Decorate your cake with what equality looks like to you.
In 1941, psychologist and inventor Dr. William Moulton Marston was hired by the creators of DC Comics to create a feminine superhero.

Wonder Woman encouraged girls to believe that with hard work and determination, a woman could be as successful as a man. She also brought a new vision of femininity that combined strength, intelligence, and patriotism.

Young women identified with her patriotism and aspired to emulate her strength and bold 1940s style.

She was an immediate success with an eventual readership of 10 million and appearances in four comic books and a daily newspaper strip.