Women’s Equality Day not only celebrates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also represents women’s continuing efforts toward full equality.

Kalpana Chawla (Kalpana means imagination in Hindi) was the first Indian woman to go in space.

At a very young age, she knew she was meant to be amidst the stars and planets. While others were playing with dolls, she would sketch and paint airplanes. She also made models of the universe and constellations. Her mother encouraged her passions.

As she continued her education, she navigated across the gender barrier fearlessly.

On February 1, 2003 the NASA space shuttle Columbia disintegrated during its re-entry in the earth’s atmosphere over Louisiana along with the entire team of astronauts including Chawla.

She stands as a true inspiration for all young women in India and worldwide, for she always believed in following her dreams.

“The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on to it, and the perseverance to follow it. Wishing you a great journey.”
“I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end.”

-Alice Paul (suffragist and women's rights activist)