Growing out of a California small-town school event in 1978, Women’s History Month honors and celebrates the struggles and achievements of women throughout American history.

In 1980, the president issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women’s History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration.

In 1987, at the request of the National Women’s History Project (now called the National Women’s History Alliance), Congress expanded the week to a month. Congress has issued a resolution every year since.

During Women’s History Month the Department of Defense joins the nation in celebrating the vital role of women—not only in American history—but in our future.

The 2021 theme chosen by the National Women’s History Alliance is: Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced.

The theme reminds us that participating in elections is one of the key freedoms of American life.

Many people in countries around the world do not have the same freedom, nor did many Americans in centuries past.

No matter what you believe or whom you support, it is important to exercise your rights.

“There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.” - Susan B. Anthony