

CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

Women's History Month



Each March, the Department of Defense pays tribute to the women who, through their determination and contributions, have shaped America's history and whose efforts continue to pave the way forward.

Women's History Month originated in 1981 when Congress passed Public Law 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week."

After being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Public Law 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month."

This year's theme, chosen by the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) (formerly the National Women's History Project), is: *Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories*.

The NWHHA press release reflects, *"From the earliest storytellers through pioneering journalists, our experiences have been captured by a wide variety of artists and teachers. These include authors, songwriters, scholars, playwrights, performers, and grandmothers throughout time."*

Women have long been instrumental in passing on our heritage in word and in print to communicate the lessons of those who came before us. Women's stories, and the larger human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections to each other. Generations of women have broken-down barriers, shattered stereotypes, and changed our society.

During Women's History Month, we honor the women who continue to tell our stories.

***"The more you know of your history, the more liberated you are."
- Maya Angelou (memoirist, poet, and civil rights activist)***