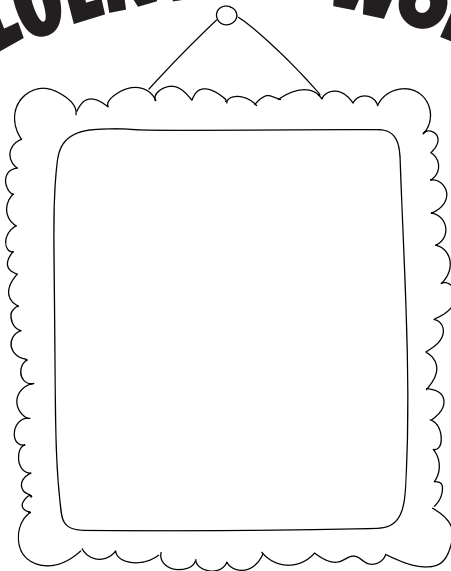


CELEBRATING INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

THREE IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



LIFE INFORMATION

Birth date: _____

Where she was born: _____

Age (or date of death): _____

Family Members

Education:

Name: _____ Portrait by: _____

FAMOUS QUOTE OR SAYING

WE CELEBRATE HER BECAUSE...

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT(S)

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HER?

CULTURAL AWARENESS

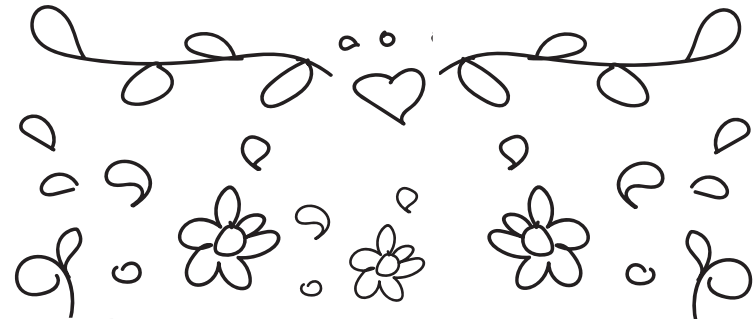
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

OBSERVANCE

MARCH

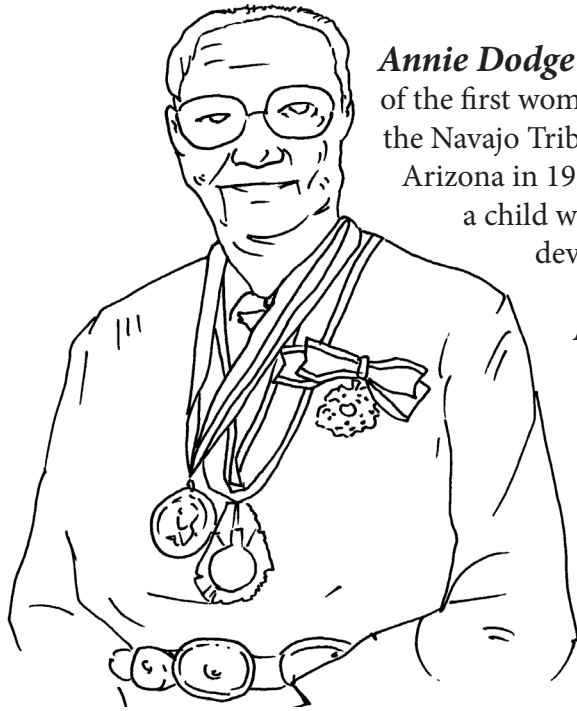
WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE GREAT

ACHIEVEMENTS



Each year, the Department of Defense honors the women who have shaped U.S. history and made contributions to pave the way forward.

Women's History Month has taken place each March since 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, which authorizes the President to proclaim the observation every year. Before this, the event began as "Women's History Week" in 1981.



Annie Dodge Wauneka was one of the first women ever elected to the Navajo Tribal Council. Born in Arizona in 1910, Wauneka was just a child when Spanish influenza devastated her community.

After surviving the pandemic, she went on to dedicate herself to improving the health care and welfare of her people. She studied public health at the University of Arizona.

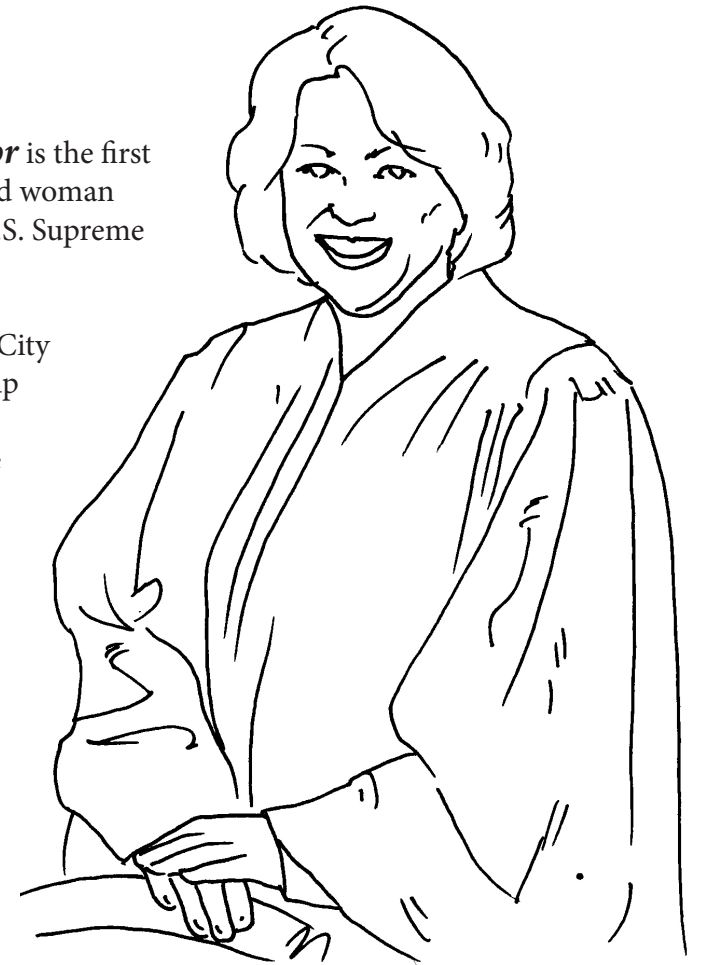
Wauneka successfully ran for office to the Tribal Council.

Her initiatives included establishing an English-Navajo medical dictionary, educating people on diseases, and improving housing and sanitation conditions.

She even served on advisory boards to the U.S. Surgeon General and U.S. Public Health Service, balancing modern medicine with traditional cultural values.

In 1963, for her life of service, Wauneka was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, becoming the first Native American to earn the honor.

Until her death in 1997, she aided her community as the “legendary mother of the Navajo Nation,” making massive improvements to the health and education of all Navajo people.



Sonia Sotomayor is the first Latina and the third woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Born in New York City in 1954, she grew up in a Bronx housing project with a large ethnically mixed, working-class community.

As valedictorian of her school, she received a full scholarship to Princeton University, where she pursued a career in law.

Sotomayor was often the only woman and only Hispanic person throughout her schooling, and she often advocated for greater representation. After Princeton, she went to Yale, eventually becoming an assistant district attorney.



Mabel Ping-Hau Lee was a feminist activist who fought for voting rights in the United States and China. She was also the first Chinese woman to earn a doctoral degree in the United States.

Born in 1896 in Canton, China, Lee moved to New York City with her family, who worked for the Baptist Church, at a time when anti-Chinese immigration laws were the norm.

Lee and her family were supporters of the women's suffrage movement, hoping to change negative perceptions of Chinese people. As a teenager, Lee was invited to ride with the honor guard leading a huge suffrage parade in New York, cementing her passion for advocacy.

She gave speeches about women's equality in China and the United States, promoting education and civic engagement.

In 1921, Lee went to Columbia University where she earned a Ph.D. in economics, but she found fewer opportunities for Asian women in the United States compared to China. Still, she stayed to support her local Chinese community. Her contributions to the suffrage movement are often overlooked but serve as an inspiration to intersectional, global feminism and equality.

Nine months before Rosa Parks made her famous stand for civil rights, there was **Claudette Colvin**, a 15-year-old Black girl who challenged segregationist bus policies.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1939, Colvin was keenly aware of the racism, inequity, and abuse that surrounded her. Inspired by her school's month-long Black history celebration, she decided to resist the oppression in her town.

In 1955, Colvin refused to give up her seat for a White woman after the "Whites only" section was full. When asked why she would not give her seat up for the woman, she replied, "*because it is my constitutional right.*"

The bus driver alerted the police, who forced her off and jailed her. She was the first person arrested for challenging Montgomery's bus segregation laws. After being mistreated by the officers, she was charged with disobeying segregation laws, resisting arrest, and assaulting an officer, which stayed on her record into adulthood.

Despite breaking this segregation barrier, she did not go on to lead the Civil Rights Movement as Rosa Parks did, instead moving to New York City where she started a family. However, she did still testify in court to challenge segregation for Montgomery buses.

In 2021, Colvin, then 82 years old, finally had her record expunged of the criminal charges.



SITTING DOWN TO STAND UP

