

**CULTURAL  
AWARENESS**

**OBSERVANCE**



**Women's History Month  
Information Base**

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MARCH

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*Women's History Month*  
People

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On March 3, 1887, six-year-old Helen Keller met her teacher Anne Sullivan. Keller had lost her hearing and sight as a result of an illness when she was 19 months old. Sullivan taught Keller to communicate using touch and spent the rest of her life as Keller's interpreter and friend. Keller graduated from college and became a famous speaker and author, advocating for race and gender equality and for people with disabilities.

*<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/helen-keller-meets-her-miracle-worker>*

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Dr. Mary Walker was an outspoken advocate for women's rights and the only woman ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Walker was born in upstate New York in 1832 and graduated with a doctor of medicine degree from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. During the Civil War, she volunteered for the Union and worked as a nurse and later as a surgeon. In the summer of 1864, she was a prisoner of war until she was exchanged for a Confederate soldier.

*[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography\\_325.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_325.html)*

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Bessie Coleman became the first African-American woman to earn her pilot's license in 1921. At the time, no American school would teach Black women to fly, so Coleman trained in France. After earning her license, she flew in airshows and was known for daring stunts. She refused to fly anywhere that did not admit African-American spectators and gave speeches encouraging Black students to become pilots. In 1926, Coleman died in an airplane crash during an air show rehearsal at age 34.

*<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/flygirls/peopleevents/pandeAMEX02.html>*

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In 2012, Janet C. Wolfenbarger became the first female four-star general in the U.S. Air Force. After receiving her fourth star, she became the commander of Air Force Materiel Command. She had previously served as the military deputy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition at the Pentagon, where she oversaw research and development, testing, production, and modernization of an annual \$40 billion in Air Force programs.

*<http://archive.airforcetimes.com/article/20120328/NEWS/203280312/Wolfenbarger-confirmed-1st-female-AF-4-star>*

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On March 7, 2010, Kathryn Bigelow became the first female director ever to win an Academy Award—also known as an Oscar—for best director. Her film, *The Hurt Locker*, about members of a U.S. military bomb squad working in Iraq in 2004, won a total of six Oscars at the 2010 Academy Awards. Bigelow was only the fourth woman ever to receive a nomination for the best director Oscar.

*<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/kathryn-bigelow-becomes-the-first-female-director-to-win-an-oscar>*

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Clara Louise Maass volunteered to serve as a contract nurse during the Spanish American War in 1898. After the end of the war, she participated in an experimental program in Cuba to determine the cause of yellow fever. During her time researching and caring for the sick, she became infected and died.

*<http://www.nursingworld.org/ClaraLouiseMaass>*

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Grace Hopper joined the Naval Reserve during World War I and continued to work for the Navy as a reservist. In 1952, the computer-programming pioneer developed a program that translated programming language into machine-readable code –the first step in the creation of the universal programming language, COBOL. She served for 30 years and was later honored posthumously with the christening of the USS Hopper in 1996.

*<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/ghopper.htm>*

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Tulsi Gabbard was born in American Samoa in 1981 and moved to Hawaii at age two. When she was sworn in as a congresswoman in 2013, Gabbard became one of the first two female combat veterans, the first Hindu, and the first woman of Samoan ancestry to serve as a member of the U.S. Congress. In 2003, she joined the Hawaii National Guard and volunteered to deploy to Iraq. Gabbard continues to serve in the Hawaii National Guard's 29th Brigade Combat Team.

*<http://www.nwpc.org/tulsigabbard>*

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Maria Mestre de los Dolores Andreu became the first Hispanic-American woman to serve in the Coast Guard and the first to command a federal shore installation in 1859. Andreu took over as the lighthouse keeper at the St. Augustine Lighthouse in Florida after the death of her husband, Juan, the previous lighthouse keeper. She served as the lighthouse keeper until 1862, when the light was extinguished so that it would not help the Union Army during the Civil War.

*<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2013/03/15/lighthouse-keeper-blazes-trail-for-cg-women.html>*

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In 1921, Edith Wharton became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, which she won for her novel *The Age of Innocence*. Then in 1923, Wharton became the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate of letters degree from Yale University. The Mount, her home in Lenox, Massachusetts, is now a museum and a National Historic Landmark. Wharton designed the house herself in 1902.

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/pwwmh/ma34.htm>

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Janet Guthrie was the first woman to race in the NASCAR Winston Cup stock car race in 1976. In 1977, she became the first female driver to compete in the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500. She was inducted into the Women's Sports Hall of fame in 1980 and into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2006. Before driving race cars, Guthrie was a pilot and aerospace engineer.

<http://www.biography.com/people/janet-guthrie-9323913#early-life-and-career>

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In 1933, Frances Perkins was appointed secretary of labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, making her the first female cabinet member in the United States. She held the position for 12 years, longer than anyone had before her. After serving as secretary of labor, Perkins served on the U.S. Civil Service Commission under President Truman until 1952. After leaving her government service career, she spent the rest of her life teaching and lecturing. She died in 1965.

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/fperkins.html>

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At that time, 305 women joined the Marines to perform jobs vacated by male Marines who left to fight in World War I.

In 1918, Opha Mae Johnson became the first woman to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. At that time, about 305 women joined the Marines to perform jobs vacated by male Marines who left to fight in World War I. Female Marines could not be promoted above the rank of sergeant and performed jobs within the United States.

<http://marines.dodlive.mil/2014/04/08/the-evolving-role-of-women-in-the-corps/>

Former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright was nominated for the position by President Clinton and was sworn in on January 23, 1997. At that time, she became the first female secretary of state and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. Albright had previously served as a representative to the United Nations and as a member of President Clinton's Cabinet and National Security Council.

<http://secretary.state.gov/www/albright/albright.html>

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Dr. Tsai-Fan Yu was born in Shanghai, China, in 1911. In 1939, she graduated with highest honors from Peking Union Medical College and became the college's chief resident of internal medicine. She moved to New York City in 1947 and became a U.S. citizen in the 1950s. In 1957, she became a faculty member at Mount Sinai Medical Center, and in 1973, she was the first woman ever to become a full professor there. She retired in 1992 with Professor Emeritus status.

<https://www.nwhm.org/educationresources/biography/biographies/tsai-fan-yu/>

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Indra Nooyi was born in 1955 in India, where she earned an MBA. She moved to the U.S. in 1978 and later graduated from Yale University with her second master's degree. Nooyi became a senior vice president at PepsiCo in 1994. She was promoted multiple times and became PepsiCo's first female CEO and president in 2006. *Fortune* magazine labeled her the most powerful woman in business, and *Forbes* rated her as the fourth most powerful woman in the world in 2006.

<https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/indra-krishnamurthy-nooyi/>

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Deborah Sampson was born in 1760. At 21 years old, she became the first American woman to serve in combat by enlisting in the Continental Army under the name Robert Shurtleff during the Revolutionary War. She kept her gender hidden by tending to her own battle wounds, but she was discovered when she was hospitalized for a fever. In 1783, she was discharged from the Army. She later received a pension when a court found that she had performed a soldier's duties.

*<http://www.holloman.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123197316>*

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Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820 into a Quaker family who considered women and men equal. Anthony spent her life working for equality and promoted temperance and the abolition of slavery. She is best known as a leader in the women's suffrage movement. Anthony was a member of the Equal Rights Association and a founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association. In 1872, she was arrested and convicted for voting. She fought for women's equality until she died in 1906.

*<https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/susan-brownell-anthony/>*

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Delilah L. Beasley was the first African-American woman who regularly wrote for a major metropolitan newspaper. She was also the first person to write about the history of African Americans in early California. In 1915, she began writing a weekly column in the Oakland Tribune. Her goal was to present a positive image of the Black community and showcase African Americans' capabilities.

*<http://www.nwhp.org/2015-national-womens-history-month-honorees/>*

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In 1990, Dr. Antonia Novello was appointed surgeon general, making her the first woman—and the first Hispanic person—to hold the position. She had previously worked for almost two decades at the National Institutes of Health, where she took part in drafting legislation concerning organ transplantation. Novello earned her MD from the University of Puerto Rico and completed her training at the University of Michigan, where she was the first woman named Intern of the Year.

*[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography\\_239.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_239.html)*

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Retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Old Horn-Purdy grew up on the Crow Agency reservation in Montana learning stories of her ancestors from her family while attending school off the reservation. Her desire to learn was her main reason for joining the Navy. In 1985, she was one of the first women on her deployed ship, and in 1999, she was among the first women on a combatant ship. She was in engineering but couldn't be called a machinist for three years until the field opened to women.

*<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=123730>*

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In 2014, 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize recipient. In 2008, Yousafzai gave a speech denouncing Taliban attacks on girls' schools. Despite a death threat from the Taliban, she continued to advocate for women's right to education. When she was 15, a gunman boarded her school bus and shot her in the head. After multiple surgeries and being taken to England for further treatment, she recovered and continued to promote education.

*<http://www.biography.com/people/malala-yousafzai-21362253#synopsis>*

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Sally Ride became the first American woman in space on June 18, 1983, aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*. Ride attended Stanford University, where she earned a Ph.D. in Physics in 1978. She went to space twice and later worked at the University of California, San Diego, as the director of the California Space Institute and as a physics professor. In 2001, she started Sally Ride Science to encourage girls and women to pursue science and math through educational programs and materials.

<http://www.biography.com/people/sally-ride-9458284#nasa>

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Nellie Tayloe Ross became the 14th governor of Wyoming—and the first female governor in the United States—in 1925. Ross was elected to replace her husband, who died while he was the governor. In 1869, Wyoming had been the first state to grant women the right to vote, and many in Wyoming wanted their state to be the first governed by a woman. In 1933, Ross was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the first female director of the U.S. Mint, a position she held until 1953.

<http://www.uwyo.edu/lawlib/libraryinfo/displaycase/nellietayloero ss.html>

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Born in 1904, Margaret Bourke-White was an innovator in photojournalism and became *Fortune* magazine's first staff photographer. *Life* magazine used one of her photos for the cover of its first issue in 1936. As a war correspondent in World War II, she survived a torpedo attack and later covered the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp. During her career, she photographed world leaders as well as oppressed people worldwide, determined to bring attention to their plight.

[http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Margaret\\_Bourke-White.aspx](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Margaret_Bourke-White.aspx)

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In 2011, Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho became the Army's 43rd surgeon general. She was the first woman and the first nurse appointed as the Army's top medical officer. In this position, she is the commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command and directs the third-largest healthcare system in the U.S. Before being appointed as surgeon general of the Army, Horoho was the commander of the Army Nurse Corps.

<http://www.army.mil/article/70556>

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Gladys Tantaquidgeon was born in 1899 and was a member of the Mohegan community in Connecticut. She began studying anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania when she was 20. She conducted extensive field research on east coast Indian tribal cultures and herbal medicines and published multiple books. In 1931, she co-founded Tantaquidgeon Museum with her brother and father; it is the oldest American Indian-owned museum in the U.S.

<http://www.nwhp.org/2015-national-womens-history-month-honorees/>

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Now in her second term as leader of the World Health Organization, Margaret Chan is the most powerful person in global public health and the only one with the authority to call a worldwide pandemic. In addition to battling viruses, she champions improvements in maternal care. "What matters most to me is people. And two specific groups of people in particular. I want us to be judged by the impact we have on the health of the people of Africa and the health of women."

<http://www.forbes.com/profile/margaret-chan/>

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"I want us to be judged by the impact we have on the health of the people of Africa and the health of women."

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In 1861, Dorothea Dix volunteered for appointment as Superintendent of Women Nurses. During the Civil War, she recruited and trained over 6,000 nurses to serve in the war.

*Holm, J. (1992). Women in the Military. An Unfinished Revolution (Revised Edition) Novato, California: Presidio Press.*

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During the outbreak of the Civil War, Clara Barton learned that most of the suffering on the front lines was due to lack of supplies. She single-handedly organized supply depots for medical equipment and care kits and was nicknamed the “angel of the battlefield.” Her ideas and determination created an organization that came to be known as the American Red Cross.

<http://www.redcross-laporte.org/clara.htm>

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On June 23, 2008, President George W. Bush nominated Ann Dunwoody as a four-star general in the US Army. Dunwoody was the first woman to ever achieve the rank in the history of the U.S. military.

*Dunwoody, A.E., & Collins, T. (2015). A Higher Standard: Leadership Strategies from America's First Female Four-Star General. Boston, MA: Da Capo Press.*

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Anna Lee Fisher became the first mother in space when she embarked on mission STS-51A on the space shuttle Discovery in 1984.

<http://www.ucla.edu/optimists/biographies/fisher>

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In March of 1999, following several deployments and service in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Admiral Michelle Howard became the first African American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Rushmore. In July of 2014, Howard became the 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/navybio.asp?bioID=394>

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Vice Admiral Sandra L. Stosz is a highly respected leader in the U.S. Coast Guard, and as the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, handles a diverse set of responsibilities to support a 17,000-person organization. Since her appointment in June of 2015, she is responsible for any and all facets of support relating to the Coast Guard's mission.

<https://www.uscg.mil/flag/biography/SandraStosz.pdf>

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Cultural Support Teams, or CSTs, were created by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command in 2010. Their purpose is to integrate female soldiers onto the battlefield alongside Rangers, Green Berets, SEALs, and other special operations teams in Afghanistan. CSTs are all-women, enabling them to form relationships with other women and children in the area—things exclusively male units were not capable of in the conservative country.

*Lemmon, Gayle Tzemach (2015). Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.*

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In 1974, the people of Connecticut elected Ella Tambussi Grasso as their governor. In doing so, Grasso became the first woman to be elected to the position of governor in the United States. She chose to run for the position after a long career in public service and won the election based on her life-long dedication to effective government and the democratic process.

<http://www.cwhf.org/inductees/politics-government-law/ella-tambussi-grasso/#.VpZurzbUjxg>

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Dr. Nancy Grace Roman is one of the greatest American astronomers of this century. She set an example for women everywhere when she broke into a career field that was largely dominated by men at the time. Often called the “Mother of the Hubble,” Dr. Roman was instrumental in developing innovative concepts in the ongoing expansion of the space program.

*<http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/student-programs/nancy-grace-roman-technology-fellowships-astrophysics-early-career-researchers/roman-fellowship-bio/>*

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Sandra Day O’Connor was only 22 years old when she graduated at the top of her class at Stanford Law School. As a woman, it was difficult to get a job as a lawyer and she was only offered positions as a legal secretary. After working abroad for several years and starting a family, she was able to get a job as an assistant to the Arizona Attorney General and later appointed to replace the state senator. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed O’Connor to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the first female justice in the Court’s 191-year history.

*<http://www.oconnorhouse.org/oconnor/biography.php>*

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Betty Mae Tiger Jumper is known among Native American women as the first of her Tribe to graduate from high school, read and write English, and learn modern medicine as a nurse. Jumper was later elected to be Chief of the Seminole Tribe, thus becoming the first female Chief of a federally recognized Tribe in America.

*<http://www.semtribe.com/bettymae/accomplishments.shtml>*

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Commonly seen as the embodiment of the Suffragist Movement, Inez Millholland had beauty and social standing that brought influential attention to the plight of women. She became known as the “Suffrage Herald” after riding a horse at the head of two sprawling marches for the movement.

*<https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/inez-milholland-boissevain/>*

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Having lost her parents at a young age, Eleanor Roosevelt was able to understand social conditions better than most of her predecessors when she and FDR moved into the White House in 1933. She was known to greet everyone with grace and friendliness and frequently organized her own press conferences, lectures, and radio broadcasts. After the death of FDR, she continued her career and became the American spokesperson in the United Nations.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/first-ladies/eleanorroosevelt>

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In 1961, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) contracted with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to develop the Apollo program's guidance software. Margaret Hamilton was the leader of the MIT team responsible for the development of the code for the on-board flight software. On November 22, 2016, President Barack Obama awarded Hamilton the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her key contributions that led to Apollo 11's successful landing on the moon. Recently, Hamilton commented on the endeavor of the MIT team, saying, *"we were the luckiest people in the world; there was no choice but to be pioneers."*

<http://news.mit.edu/2016/apollo-code-developer-margaret-hamilton-receives-presidential-medal-of-freedom-1117>

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On May 7, 2015, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Christine Mau strapped into the single-seat F-35 A Lightning II and took it airborne, becoming the first woman in the Air Force's premier fighter aircraft. *"Flying is a great equalizer,"* Mau said. *"The plane doesn't know or care about your gender as a pilot, nor do the ground troops who need your support,"* she explained. *"You just have to perform. That's all anyone cares about when you're up there -- that you can do your job, and that you do it exceptionally well."*

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/604590>



Dr. Cynthia Breazeal is recognized as a prominent global innovator for her work on the topics of Autonomous Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Human Robot Interaction, and Robot Learning. Her recent work investigates the impact of social robots on helping people of all ages to achieve personal goals that contribute to the quality of life in domains such as physical performance, learning and education, health, and family communication.

<http://cynthiabreazeal.media.mit.edu/bio/>

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Rear Admiral June Ryan assumed duty as the Ninth Coast Guard District Commander in June 2015. She is the senior Coast Guard Commander for the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway, an area that encompasses eight states, a 1,500-mile international border, and a workforce of over 6,000 Coast Guard active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary men and women.

<https://www.uscg.mil/flag/biography/JuneRyan.pdf>

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While U.S. Marine Corps Captain Katie Higgins credits the many women before her who paved the path and allowed for her to have the opportunity to be the first female pilot of the Blue Angels. In 2014, Higgins was chosen to join the five-person crew aboard the *Fat Albert*—the team’s Lockheed C-130 Hercules that carries personnel and equipment.

<https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2016/september/pilot/capt-katie-higgins>

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Barbara Hackman Franklin began her career in public service in 1971 when she became a staff assistant to President Nixon. In this position, she led the first White House effort to recruit women for high-level government jobs, nearly quadrupling the number of women in those positions. Later she served as the 29<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Commerce for President George H.W. Bush, increasing American exports with initiatives in China, Russia, Japan, and Mexico.

<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2017-honoree-nominations/>

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In 1903, Maggie Lena Walker established the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank and served as its first president. The bank thrived as the oldest continuously African American-operated bank in the U.S. until 2009.

*<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2017-honoree-nominations/>*

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At the age of 29, Alexis Herman was appointed Director of the Women’s Bureau in the Labor Department by President Jimmy Carter, making her the youngest person ever appointed to the position. Several years later on May 1, 1997, she was sworn in as America’s 23rd Secretary of Labor and the first African American ever to lead the United States Department of Labor. Under her tenure, unemployment reached a thirty-year low and the nation witnessed the safest workplace record in the history of the Department of Labor.

*<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2017-honoree-nominations/>*

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In 1995, after finishing her career as a Marine, Yvonne Walker took a job as a legal secretary for the California Department of Justice. After getting involved in her union and organizing her colleagues, Walker rose in leadership until she became President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000 in 2008—the first African-American woman to serve in the role. As the President of SEIU Local 1000, she represents more than 95,000 public and private sector employees in California.

*<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2017-honoree-nominations/>*

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In 1947 in Merriam, Kansas, the local school board opened a well-equipped new school for white students, while black students had to attend class in a dilapidated building in another town. Esther Brown, a white resident, was disturbed by the injustice and decided to take action. She traveled around the state, rallying supporters wherever she could. Because of her advocacy, she was threatened, crosses were burned in her yard, and her husband was fired from his job. Brown helped to organize a local NAACP chapter and collected a team of experienced professionals to take on the school district in court. This case would become known as *Webb vs. School District No. 90*—a precursor to *Brown vs. Board of Education*, both of which focused on the rights of black children to get an education. Years after the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision, Lucinda Todd, the Secretary of the Topeka school district, said of Esther Brown’s involvement: “*I don’t know if we could have done it without her.*”

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/brownvboard/meetthebrowns.html>

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***Photo***

Helen Keller graduating from Radcliffe College in 1904.

"Helen Keller's Graduation Photo, 1904." *MCT Photos*. 2010. *Diversity Studies Collection*. Web. 14 Jan. 2016.

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***Photo***

Anna Lee Fisher.

## MARCH

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### *Women's History Month* Events

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In 1981, Congress passed legislation authorizing and requesting the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as Women's History Week. Congress continued to pass joint resolutions declaring a Women's History Week every March until 1987, when it passed a law designating March 1987 as Women's History Month after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project to do so. Since that time, every president has issued proclamations for Women's History Month.

*<http://womenshistorymonth.gov/about.html>*

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Prior to the women's liberation movement, hurricanes were only named for women. By the 1960s, feminists began taking issue with the gendered naming convention. Most vocal among them was Roxcy Bolton. Bolton chided the National Weather Service for their hurricane naming system, declaring, "Women are not disasters, destroying life and communities." In 1979, the National Weather Service and the World Meteorological Association switched to an alternating inventory of both men's and women's names.

*<http://www.womenspagehistory.com/2013/06/roxcy-bolton->*

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*gender-naming-hurricanes.html*

Every year since 1911, the eighth March has been celebrated as International Women's Day. Events held on this day honor women's economic, political, and social achievements.

*<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/theme.asp>*

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The five leading occupations for employed women in 2012, according to the United States Department of Labor, were secretaries and administrative assistants; registered nurses; cashiers; elementary and middle school teachers; and nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides.

*[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/lists/women.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/women.html)*

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According to the 2012 U.S. Department of Labor civilian labor force report, of the 154,975 employed individuals, 82,327 (53 percent) were males and 72,648 (47 percent) were females.

*[http://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/facts\\_over\\_time.htm](http://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/facts_over_time.htm)*

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In 2014, women held 99 (18.5 percent) of the 535 seats in the 113th U.S. Congress. Women held 20 (20 percent) of the 100 seats in the Senate and 79 (18.2) percent of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives.

*[http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast\\_facts/levels\\_of\\_office/Current\\_Numbers.php](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Current_Numbers.php)*

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When the Equal Pay Act was signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. Today, women earn about 81 cents on the dollar compared to men—a gap that results in hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages. For African-American women and Latinas, the pay gap is even greater.

*<http://www.dol.gov/equalpay/>*

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***Photo***

Malala Yousafzai heading to a meeting with the U.S. House and Senate in Washington, D.C.

"Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai Meet With Members Of The US Congress." *UPI Photo Collection*. 2015. *Diversity Studies Collection*. Web. 14 Jan. 2016.

MARCH

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*Women's History Month*  
Milestones

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The Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery opened to the public on October 20, 1997. It is the only major national memorial that was built to honor all the women of the United States' military who served in the past, are currently serving, or will serve in the future. At the memorial, visitors can view photographs, military histories, and individual stories to learn about women who served in the armed forces from the American Revolution to the present.

*<http://www.womensmemorial.org/About/history.html>*

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Janet Yellen made one small but symbolic change when she took over the leadership of the Federal Reserve Board on February 1, 2014—her title. Yellen decided to use the gender-neutral title of chair—rather than chairman or chairwoman—when she became the first woman to lead the Federal Reserve in its 100-year history. Her preference is Federal Reserve Board Chair Janet Yellen.

*<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/yellen-favors-gender-neutral-title-fed-chair-21613506>*

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In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand Women's History Week to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

*<http://nwHP.org/whm/index.php>*

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Michelle Howard has become the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Navy. Senators confirmed Vice Admiral Michelle Howard for the service's No. 2 post in December 2013, making her the first female four-star admiral in the Navy's 238-year history. Her promotion to vice chief of naval operations will also make her the first Black woman to attain four-star rank in Pentagon history.

*<http://www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/leadership/Pages/Major-General-Marcia-M--Anderson.aspx>*

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On Thursday, December 3, 2015, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter ordered the U.S. military to open all combat positions to women – amounting to around 220,000 jobs that had previously been closed to females.

*<http://www.bpnews.net/45978/women-in-combat-dod-change-spurs-debate>*

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Women hold a total of 21 or 4.2% of CEO positions in S&P Fortune 500 companies.

As of October 2014, women hold a total of 21 or 4.2% of CEO positions in S&P Fortune 500 companies such as IBM, Lockheed Martin, and General Motors. Women also hold 19.2% of seats on Fortune 500 company boards as well as 25.1% of senior-level official and executive positions.

*<http://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-ceos-sp-500>*

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The first commemorative stamps were issued in Chicago for the 400-year anniversary celebration of Columbus's discovery of the New World. The Columbian set features the first woman ever to be commemorated on United States Postage--Queen Isabella of Spain. *Lidman, D., & Apfelbaum, J. D. The world of stamps and stamp collecting. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981.*

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***Photo***

International Business Machines (IBM) Chair, President and CEO Ginni Rometty speaks at the U.S.-Africa Business Forum in 2014.

"Blackstone Executive Schwarzman And IBM CEO Rometty Attend US-Africa Business Forum In Washington." *UPI Photo Collection*. 2014. *Diversity Studies Collection*. Web. 14 Jan. 2016

MARCH

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*Women's History Month*  
Quotes

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“When the whole world is silent, even one voice is powerful.”

-Malala Yousafzai

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“Studying whether there’s life on Mars or studying how the universe began, there’s something magical about pushing back the frontiers of knowledge. That’s something that is almost a part of being human, and I’m certain that will continue.”

-Sally Ride

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“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

-Helen Keller

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“If anyone is worried about the next generation of warriors, fear not. The bench is filled with talented Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, and while I may be the first woman to receive this honor, I know with certainty I won't be the last.”

-Ann Dunwoody

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“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”

-Edith Wharton

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“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt

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***Photo***

An oceanographic research vessel named after Sally Ride is christened in a shipyard in Washington.

"The Research Vessel Sally Ride Is Christened In Washington." *UPI Photo Collection*. 2014. *Diversity Studies Collection*. Web. 14 Jan. 2016.

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