

CULTURAL  
AWARENESS



# OBSERVANCE

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY



## FACTS

In 1971, at the request of Representative Bella Abzug, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as “Women’s Equality Day.”

The date was selected to celebrate the Women’s Suffrage Movement’s GREATEST victory—women achieving full voting rights following the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

The amendment reads: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Before the 19th Amendment was passed, no woman had the right to vote.

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

In 1948, the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act was signed into law. The Act granted women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, as well as the newly created Air Force.

Today, women are a vital part of the Department of Defense’s strength. Today’s military represents the best talent regardless of gender or race. The Department continues to ensure the integration of diverse attributes, experiences and backgrounds to strengthen today’s Armed Forces.

Ninety-eight years after the 19th Amendment was signed, women excel as leaders at the forefront of progress—at every level of society. Today we honor these women.