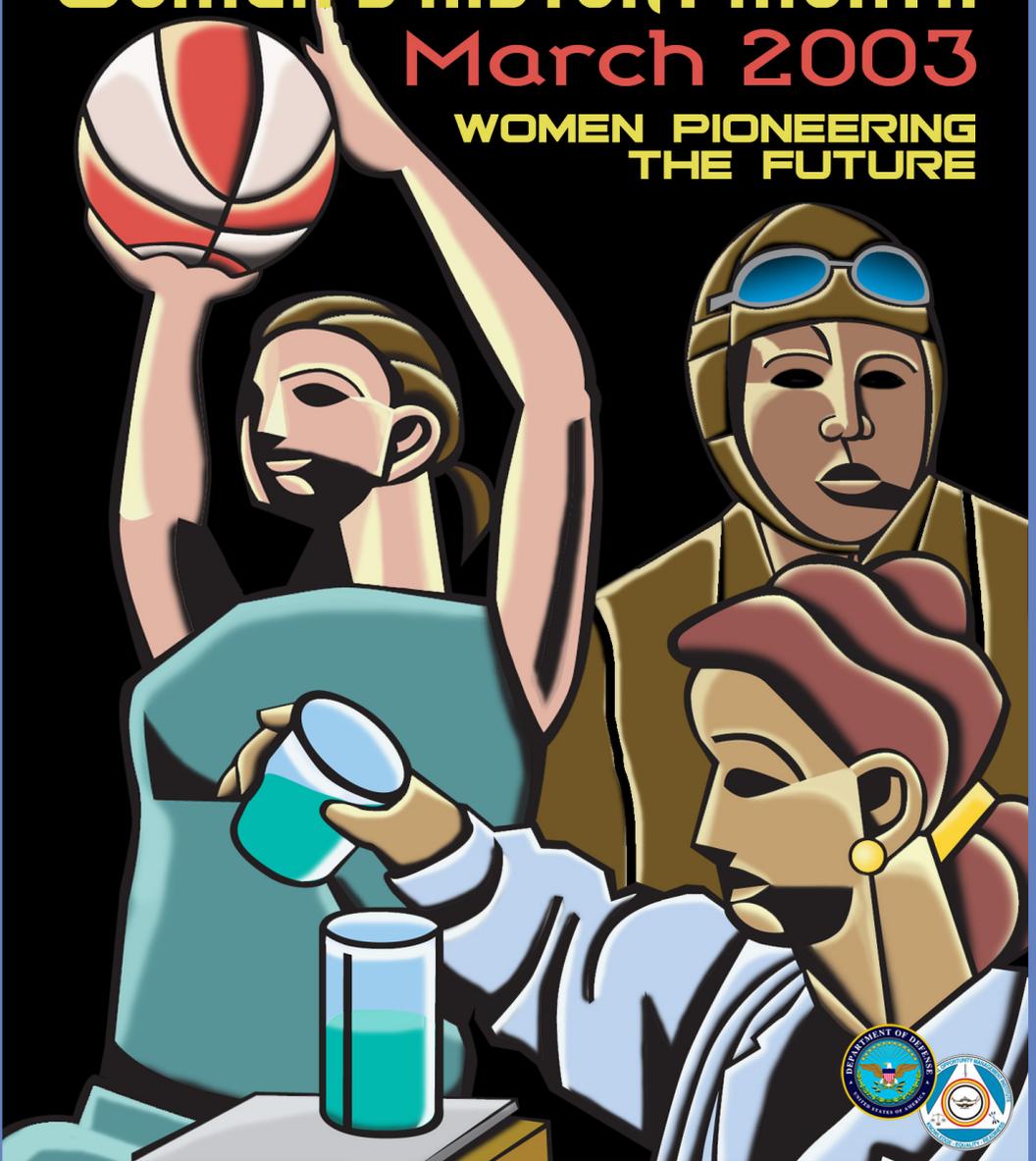


WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 2003

WOMEN PIONEERING
THE FUTURE



Preface

Navy Lieutenant Younzetta O. Paulk, USS CAMDEN (AOE 2), Bremerton, Washington, served as a participant in the Topical Research Intern Program at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) from July 8 to August 2, 2002. She conducted the necessary research to prepare this report. The Institute thanks Lieutenant Paulk for her contributions to the research efforts of DEOMI.

Scope

The Topical Research Intern Program provides the opportunity for Service members and Departments of Defense (DoD) and Transportation (DoT) civilian employees to work on a diversity/equal opportunity project while on a 30-day tour of duty at the Institute. During their tour, the interns use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to compile research pertaining to an issue of importance to equal opportunity (EO) and equal employment opportunity (EEO) personnel, supervisors, and other leaders throughout the Services. The resulting publications (such as this one) are intended as resource and educational materials and do not represent official policy statements or endorsements by the DoD, DoT, or any of their agencies. The publications are distributed to EO/EEO personnel and senior officials to aid them in their duties. Additionally, the publications are posted on the Internet at: <https://www.patrick.af.mil/deomi/deomi.htm>

Women's History Month – March 2003

Women's History Month grew from a grassroots educational initiative. The first was a local weeklong celebration in 1978 by an educational task force in Sonoma County, California. The following year, the success of that initiative was shared with the Women's History Institute at Sara Lawrence College in New York, and a groundswell of similar educational initiatives grew around the country. Consequently, in 1981 Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Representative Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution to support a national observance of the week. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned the Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. For more information on Women's History Month, refer to: <http://www/nwhp.org/month.html#congress>.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, DoD, or the DoT.

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Introduction

“We have a tremendous responsibility to future generations to leave an accurate record of our history, one which lays bare not only the facts, but the process of change.”

Esther Peterson, Activist

In alignment with this year's Women's History Month theme, *Women Pioneering the Future*, this publication provides a broad and diverse overview of the accomplishments of women whose unprecedented success in untried areas opened the way for those who are still making strides in their fields. It provides snapshots of various advances that were achieved despite challenges of the prevailing times to include injustices, inequities, and other obstacles. It serves to pay, in some cases, long overdue tribute to some of the distinguished women whose endeavors have powerfully made a difference in the way people are treated and respected by others.

Undeniably, many of the tremendous contributions made by women in the development and growth of society have not been well documented or prominently portrayed throughout the years, but they are well worth treasuring and defending. (5:190) Widening the scope of coverage through a historical and multicultural perspective of events that are often overlooked will serve to enlighten some and lead others to greater understanding of the struggles endured by women to make such an extraordinary range of possibilities available. (1:149)

Leaders who initiated efforts on behalf of women strengthened the need to identify discriminatory practices and develop tactics to combat them. (1:150) They are steadily breaking barriers and increasing the potential for others to make even further advances even though the true depth of the impact of their actions may not be totally realized for years to come. The challenges of the future are great enough to absorb the talents, creativity, and energies of all—women and men. (5:189)

However American women choose to apply their talents, young women today are relatively unhampered by custom and restrictions and enjoy unparalleled opportunities in diverse career fields. Existing challenges are less formidable than those faced by earlier generations in that they can be overcome when women have a strong desire to do so. (5:187-189) Women may choose among any number of opportunities and can realistically expect to compete evenly with men for jobs their mothers never dreamed would be opened. (1:147) Today, a woman can become virtually anything that she sets her mind to be.

This pamphlet highlights some of the pioneering efforts of women throughout history who have played and are currently playing significant roles in the course of human events.

Note: Acronyms used in this publication that may be unfamiliar to the reader include:

BCE – Before the Common Era (replaces BC).

CE – Common Era (replaces AD).

Women Through History and Across the Globe

Queen Elizabeth, Catherine the Great, and Queen Victoria are a few of the women whose lengthy reigns were indicative of the respect and high regard in which they were held. Conversely, one may consider that even women who were ousted by their government and trusted officials were somewhat responsible for significant social and cultural reforms. Their achievements merit special recognition in their own right because of the impact made over their subjects, within their cultures, and throughout the world.

Having knowledge of women's accomplishments worldwide is of growing necessity because of America's own increasing diversity. The following women from all parts of the globe have made significant contributions to world history.

Hatshepsut (1503 -1480 BCE) is noted as the first woman in history to preside over a nation and by some Egyptologists as "the greatest female ruler of all time." She succeeded her father, Thothmes I, who had appointed her to co-rule his kingdom of Egypt. Promoting industry and agriculture in Egypt, she left a legacy that included the organization of the first expedition to the Land of Punt from which riches and plants were brought back and adapted to the Egyptian climate. She reigned for 35 years, repelling challenges of male rivals who adamantly sought to oust her from power based on her femininity. (16)

Irene of Athens (752 - 803 BCE) was crowned sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire in 797 BCE, breaking the male dominated dynasties. She became the first woman ever to hold the throne of the old Roman Empire founded by Constantine I in 330 BCE. Today, the Greek Church recognizes her as a saint because she fought to allow followers to regard sacred paintings and sculptures as holy during the time when Christianity was growing in popularity in the Roman Empire. (30)

Theodora (527 - 548 BCE) controlled the Byzantine Empire from the throne alongside her husband, Justinian I. She rallied generals to victory over the rebels in wars over religious beliefs, influenced the rebuilding of Constantinople, and provided the impetus for legal and spiritual reforms granting women more rights. (6:93; 37; 86:188)

Joan of Arc (1412 -1431), the French national heroine, is the most famous fighting woman in European history. Dressed as a male soldier, she courageously led and inspired her troops to stop England's advance onto French territory. In a later defeat, she was captured, sold to England as a prisoner, and burned at the stake in the city of Rouen after being brought to trial for witchcraft and challenging the authority of the Catholic Church. In 1920, the Church declared Joan of Arc a saint after finding her not guilty of those charges and condemning the verdict against her. (31; 85:174)

Catherine de Medici (1519 - 1589) brought aspects of Italian culture such as theatre and food into France throughout her reign as the Queen of France. (76) She was virtually excluded from politics initially, but became engrossed by the complex struggles

surrounding the throne and rival family groups, religious factions, and her sons' accessions. (6:24)

Elizabeth I (1533 - 1603), Queen of England, managed one of England's most fascinating eras (Elizabethan Age) by promoting government reforms, strengthening the economy, and transforming her court into a place of intellectual and cultural accomplishment. (76) Her success as monarch was largely due to her astute involvement with foreign affairs and direct leadership in time of war against Spain. (6:26)

Amina Sarauniya Zazzau (1560 - 1610) became known as the Nigerian Queen. Her military leadership and strategic skills led to defense of the city-states by a protective earthen wall, the expansion of her domain of Zazzau to its largest known size, and the development of trade routes to the south. (44) Her fierce military exploits and unyielding conquests leave her remembered as *Amina, Yar Bakwa ta san rana*, meaning "Amina, daughter of Nikatau, a woman as capable as a man." (17; 44)

Mbande Nzingha (1582 - 1663), the Angolan Queen, is most renowned for forming a powerful guerrilla army in resistance to Portuguese occupation for nearly 30 years and alliance of Angola with the Dutch, which marked the first African-European alliance against a European oppressor. (15)

Catherine the Great (1729 - 1796) proclaimed herself the Empress of Russia upon ousting her unpopular husband (Peter III) from power soon after his succession to the throne. During her reign, she founded medical schools and schools for young women; and reformed legal and governmental systems. Exercising superlative political and military leadership, she waged two successful wars with Turkey. These wars resulted in annexing large parts of Poland and gaining the Crimea and access to the Black Sea. (6:29; 85:165-166)

Victoria (1819 - 1901) maintained the longest reign in English history as the Queen of England for 63 years. Her direct involvement in the decisions of the government and British foreign policy expansion led to England's colonial power and its transformation from an agricultural to an industrial economy. (86:189)

Golda Meir (Goldie Mabovitch Myerson) (1898 - 1978), the Prime Minister of Israel, was completely involved in international work between Israel and Africa on cooperative agriculture and urban planning programs. She worked extensively with the labor movement to help ensure protection of European Jews and assisted with the proclamation that established the State of Israel in 1948. (6:45; 65)

Mother Teresa (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) (1910 - 1997) dedicated her life to helping the poor, sick, and dying around the world through the Missionary of Charity, a religious order of nuns that she founded in Calcutta, India in 1948. Initially, she focused efforts on teaching poor children to read and care for themselves, but soon reached out to dying people of Calcutta. Mother Theresa also managed a leper colony that was established on 34 acres of land donated to the Missionary of Charity by the Indian government. In 1965,

the papacy authorized expansion of the order beyond India to treat lepers, the blind, the disabled, the aged, and the dying in Russia, the United States, Albania, and China. (34; 86:188)

Indira Nehru Gandhi (1917 - 1984) was elected by large majorities as leader of the Congress Party and served four terms as Prime Minister of India. She sought to increase women's participation in politics as the leader of the world's largest democracy and the most powerful woman in the world. Under her rule, India made great strides in the areas of food production and development on an industrial base. Her military support ensured a successful attempt by East Bengal to secede from Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh. (6:44; 26)

Margaret Hilda Roberts Thatcher (1925 -) became the first woman in European history to be elected as Prime Minister, and the first in the 20th Century to win three consecutive terms making her the longest serving Prime Minister of the century. She helped Zimbabwe establish independence in 1980 and oversaw the successful British recapture of the Falkland Islands from Argentina in 1982. Bringing much needed change to the British government and society, she returned education, health care, and housing to private control and supported the campaign that kept Northern Ireland under the United Kingdom. (36; 86:188)

Aung San Suu Kyi (1945 -) became leader of Burma in 1988 and a national symbol of heroic and nonviolent resistance in the face of oppression. Although the previously defeated military regime refused to relinquish power and continued repression of her party that had won overwhelmingly in a national election, she organized rallies that called for peaceful democratic reforms and free elections. (11)

Benazir Bhutto (1953 -), Prime Minister of Pakistan, became the first woman to head the government of an Islamic state in 1988. She restored civil liberties and supported progressive nationwide programs for health, social welfare, and education with emphasis on reducing discrimination between men and women. (60; 85:163)

Women have also played important roles as leaders of social change. The next section identifies some of these women who have been instrumental in a variety of social causes and movements.

Women Activists

"It seems remarkable to those standing, as I do, one of a generation almost ended, that so many of these young people know nothing of the past; they are apt to think they have sprung up like somebody's gourd, and that nothing was ever done before they came. So I am always gratified to hear these reminiscences, that they may know how others have sown what they are reaping today."

Susan B. Anthony, Activist

Although farfetched to some, the views of women often fuel strength and momentum for further advances towards equality and civil rights. In times of social unrest and upheaval, women asserted their beliefs in human rights for all despite being imprisoned, exiled, and in some cases, killed. In light of struggles and sacrifices, women continue to maintain total devotion to championing ideas and initiatives that guarantee fair treatment of all people.

Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree) (1797 - 1883) spoke out publicly for women's rights and the abolition of slavery after she, herself, was freed in 1828 under the New York State Anti-Slavery Act. She successfully took daring steps in lawsuits where she sued for her son's freedom and for vindication from slander by a White man. (5:67-68)

Harriet Ross Tubman (1820 - 1913) is most readily known for her courageous efforts as the conductor of the Underground Railroad, a network of people who helped slaves escape to freedom. Worth \$40,000 in reward money to anyone who could capture her, she successfully rescued nearly 300 slaves during 19 trips between the North and South. Upon returning to New York, Tubman worked for women's right to vote and opened her home to sick and elderly African Americans. (5:66)

Margaret Sanger (1879 - 1966) is considered a great humanitarian and benefactor in countries where persistent poverty, crowded living conditions, and deprivation have made population control synonymous with economic progress. (5:157) She started her own personal crusade to educate the public, especially the poor, about birth control. Despite being indicted in 1914 for violating U.S. postal codes while trying to disseminate her magazine, *The Women Rebel*, she persisted. Public opinion began to take her side and she ultimately gained the right to mail contraceptive information through the U.S. postal system. Her lifetime struggle ultimately led to the founding of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in 1952. (2:36)

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962) emerged as the world's foremost spokesperson for human rights. Her endeavors led to her being lauded as "The First Lady of the World" because of her humanitarian achievements while working with the United Nations. Her efforts included: work for maximum hour rule and minimum wage laws for women in 1922; an experimental homestead project for West Virginia coal miners; initiation of the National Youth Administration; anti-lynching legislation; a child-refuge bill, recognition of Israel as a country, and inquiry into the attacks on civil rights workers. (2:74; 84)

Esther Peterson (1906 - 1997) was awarded the highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1981, for her efforts as a labor educator, lobbyist, government official, corporate executive, and advocate for working women and men. Her courageous efforts resulted in a Presidential appointment as the Assistant Secretary of Labor and Director of the Women's Bureau in 1961. She successfully campaigned on behalf of equal pay for equal work and truth in packaging legislation. She also directed the first President's Commission on the Status of Women. (56)

Dorothy Height (1912 -) was one of the major leaders in the Civil Rights Movement and President of the National Council for Negro Women for over 40 years. She organized meetings between Southern and Northern White and African American women to create dialogue about the movement. She worked towards full and equal employment and educational advancements for women, prevention of lynching, desegregating the Armed Forces, reforming the criminal justice system, and creating free access to public accommodations. She held several leadership positions within the National Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of the USA and developed strategies to ensure the YWCA provided equal opportunity and facilities for women of all cultures and nationalities. (48)

Fannie Lou Hamer (1917 - 1977) worked on the Freedom Vote, the first statewide voting rights effort which provided Mississippi's 80,000 unregistered African American citizens the opportunity to cast freedom ballots in 1963. Her single-handed efforts gave way to Congress passing the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and integration of Mississippi's convention delegation in 1968. (19)

Ginetta Sagan (1925 - 2000) unrelentingly led campaigns that resulted in the release of political prisoners in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Latin America, South Africa, and Vietnam. Having suffered unspeakable inhumanities when captured by the Nazis at age 20, she was personally responsible for the passing of legislation that abolished torture practices. (66)

Coretta Scott King (1927 -) led marches, spoke at rallies and organized fundraising events at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. In a steadfast effort to promote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s principles of nonviolent social protest, she continues to campaign worldwide for human rights and social justice. She also spearheads major demonstrations in support of striking workers and the poor. (2:135)

Barbara Harris (1930 -) was the first woman to be appointed bishop in the Anglican Communion upon her ordination to Assistant Bishop of the U.S. Episcopal Church in 1989. As her appointment was opposed by traditionalists who were vehemently against women becoming bishops, she continues to speak of the new surge in opposition to women in the clergy and the fight that lies ahead. (27)

Delores Huerta (1930 -) exhibits passion for justice and equal opportunity that makes her the most powerful and respected labor movement leader of the 20th Century. She organized a successful five-year boycott of California table grapes that resulted in a

three-year collective bargaining agreement between the industry and the United Farm Workers Union that she co-founded in 1962. She successfully lobbied for the Agriculture Labor Relations Act, the first law of its kind in the United States, which grants farm workers the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions. (49)

Annie Gutierrez(1939 -) became the first Executive Secretary to the Agricultural Labor Relations Board where she helped to bring about advances in civil and human rights of the Latin community in both the U.S. and abroad. She was one of the first 50 people to work for the Peace Corps and served a six-year term as the appointed Judicial Judge in Imperial County, California. She was made Associate Director for Justice and Civil Rights, Domestic Policy Staff during the Carter Administration and appointed District Director for Mexico and Central America, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services at the American Embassy in Mexico. (67)

Anna Mae Pictou Agash (1945 - 1976) became a powerful symbol of the movement for Native rights activism during the early 1970s. A Micmac Indian, she was an active American Indian Movement (AIM) member who worked towards ensuring the government fulfilled promises made in treaties. She participated in several attempts by national organizations of Indians from all over the country who protested to draw attention to issues that face Natives. Most noteworthy was her participation in the march on Washington, D.C. (The Trail of Broken Treaties) that resulted in the government's review of 20 civil rights demands. (23)

Mavis Nicholson Leno (1946 -) chaired the Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan since 1997, consistently urging presidential administrations and Congress to do more to restore women's rights in Afghanistan. Her involvement in the campaign was also instrumental in defeating an energy company's efforts to construct an oil pipeline across Afghanistan that would have supplied the Taliban with over \$100 million and dramatically increased their control of the region. (51)

Le Ly Hayslip (1950 -) founded the East Meets West Foundation in 1988 in an effort to rebuild the lives of survivors of the Vietnam conflict on both sides of the world. Through positive actions of this humanitarian relief organization, she strives to bring peace of mind to many grieving warriors. She encourages former fighters to embrace a chance for healing by providing opportunities for children in her homeland. (70)

Urvashi Vaid (1958 -), is an Asian American born in India. She is a lawyer and a former staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) where she worked on behalf of prisoners to improve conditions in the nation's prison system. In 1984, she spearheaded the National Prison Project that works with prisoners who have the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). (38)

The next section describes the pioneering accomplishments of women in aviation.

Pioneers In Aviation

“Women should do for themselves what men have already done - and occasionally what men have not done - thereby establishing themselves as persons, and perhaps encouraging other women toward greater independence of thought and action.”
Amelia Earhart

Since the invention of hot air balloons, women experimented with parachute drops, undertook scientific observations, and tested themselves against the hazards of high altitudes. They further explored the limits of mechanical and human endurance with the advent of powered aircraft in an effort to prove their rightful place in flight. Mostly restricted to recruiting tours and fundraising flights, these pilots found it rather difficult to obtain flight training, financial backing, and productive flying jobs comparable to that available to men. Even if they were from wealthy families, women fliers relied heavily on public interest to keep them in the sky. (7:9,33).

There are more than 600 women serving as pilots in all branches of the Armed Forces and hundreds more who are navigators. There are more than 4,000 female commercial airline pilots employed worldwide, most being in the United States. In 2000, 35 of 154 astronauts at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) were women. (8:85) Greater numbers of women in top positions at NASA such as chief engineer, program manager, chief scientist, builder and designer have led to direct research benefits for women, especially in health. (86:14)

In Flight

Harriet Quimby (1875 - 1912) was the first American woman to receive a license to pilot an airplane on August 1, 1911; only five years after the Wright brothers patented their *flying machine*. In April 1912, she became the first woman to pilot a plane across the English Channel. (86:284-285)

Bessie Coleman (1893 - 1926) was the first African American woman to ever fly an airplane and the first African American to earn an international pilot's license in 1922 and 1926, respectively. During her distinguished career as a performance flyer, she earned wide recognition for her aerial skill, dramatic flair, and tenacity. Her breaking into aviation as a stunt pilot set the stage for African Americans to enter the field of aviation. (4:6)

Amelia Earhart (1897 - 1937) was the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean by air (1928), the first to fly solo across the Atlantic, and the first person to fly across the Atlantic twice. Her speed, altitude and distance records, though numerous, were secondary to her goals of achieving recognition for aviation as a viable means of transportation and for women as professional pilots. Her best known record flights also include the first solo transcontinental crossing by a woman, the first solo flight by anyone from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland, and the first nonstop flight from Mexico City to Newark, New Jersey. (9:24)

Willa Brown (1906 - 1992) was the first African American commercial pilot and first African American woman officer in the Civil Air Patrol. She was the coordinator of war-training service for the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA), and more importantly, was the director of the Coffey School of Aeronautics which was selected by the Army and CAA to “conduct the experiments” that resulted in the admission of African-Americans into the Army Air Forces. (45)

Jackie Cochran (1910 - 1980) organized experienced civilian fliers into the Women’s Airforces Services Pilots (WASPS) in support of military efforts in World War II and became the first civilian to be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. She was the first woman to fly a warplane across the Atlantic in 1951 and the first woman to break the sound barrier in 1953. She set numerous world records for male and female pilots, including an altitude mark of over 55,000 feet in 1961. (85:86-87)

In Space

Shannon Lucid (1943 -) was as one of the first six American-born women selected for astronaut training by NASA. She has since become America’s most experienced astronaut, male or female. Her 188-day record of remaining in space aboard the space station *Mir* during the joint 1985 American-Russian venture provided crucial data on the effects of weightlessness on the human body. (33)

Sally Kristen Ride (1951 -) became the first American woman in space on the shuttle *Challenger* in 1983. She conducted investigations into the 1986 explosion of *Challenger* and assisted NASA with long-range planning. Ride continues to encourage young women to study science, math and technology through NASA-sponsored projects that allow middle-school classes to shoot and download photos of Earth from space and organizations such as *Imaginary Lines* and the *Sally Ride Club*. (2:225; 82)

Eileen Collins (1956 -), a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, was the first woman to pilot a space shuttle in 1995 and the first woman to command a spacecraft while aboard space shuttle *Columbia* in July 1999. In 1990, she was the first female pilot chosen as an astronaut by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). (8; 85:13)

Ellen Ochoa (1958 -) became the first Hispanic woman in space on a nine-day mission aboard the shuttle *Discovery* in 1993. Her doctoral work and research led to optical systems that can be used by manufacturers in quality control efforts, to guide robots to or around specific objects, and for automated space exploration. (55)

Women have excelled in leadership roles in politics, social change, and aviation. We now look at the accomplishments of a sample of women leaders in the world of business.

Notable Women in Business

A recent annual survey notes an emergence of women who came to power slowly by staying with the company, steadily building influence, and rising to power through determination and corporate knowledge. Although women are taking on bigger businesses than ever, only the following six Fortune 500 companies have female CEOs - fewer in the pipeline than anyone would have thought 30 years ago:

Avon Products – Andrea Jung	eBay – Meg Whitman
Hewlett-Packard – Carly Fiorina	Harpo Entertainment Group – Oprah Winfrey
Mirant – Marce Fuller	Xerox – Ann Mulchany (22)

The following list is only a partial representation of women who have competed successfully in the world of senior management and leadership.

Note: Birth dates are not available for this list.

Brenda Barnes served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Pepsi-Cola North America from 1996 - 1997. During her 22 plus years with Pepsi-Cola and its parenting company PepsiCo, she held a wide range of senior executive positions in general management, manufacturing, sales, marketing, and corporate operations. (41)

Susan J. Kropf, President and Chief Operating Officer of Avon Products, Inc., is responsible for Avon's worldwide business operations. She has held key positions in critical areas of the company's operations including marketing, research and development, global product development, customer service, and manufacturing that spans the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Under her leadership, Russia became the fastest-growing new market entry in Avon's history. (41)

Maria Elana Lagomasimo is the senior Managing Director in Charge of Chase Manhattan's Global Private Banking Group. She oversees the largest U.S. based private bank and one of the world's largest providers of private banking services. She manages over \$100 billion for wealthy individuals and families. (41)

Ann S. Moore, previously President of *People* magazine, is now the President of The People Magazine Group. She previously held management positions at *Sports Illustrated*, *Fortune*, *Money*, and *Discover*, and was the founding publisher of *Sports Illustrated for Kids*. (41)

Paula Stern is President of the Stern Group, an economic analysis and trade advisory firm in Washington, D.C., where she advises businesses on trade issues that affect their competitiveness in the international economy. During her tenure as Chair of the 500-person U.S. International Trade Commission from 1984 - 1986, she was the second highest-ranking woman in the U.S. government. (41)

Contributions to Culture

“I have met brave women who are exploring the outer edge of human possibility, with no history to guide them, and with a courage to make themselves vulnerable that I find moving beyond words.”
Gloria Steinem

Women's contributions in the areas of culture and education are infinite and phenomenal. Their creatively expressive images make political statements, portray ethnic pride, and convey experiences that powerfully impact the lives of others. To keep up with social trends, professional and political organizations are in the forefront of developing better exposure for experiences and concerns of women. The entertainment and educational worlds are also increasing coverage and featuring women's accomplishments in response to subscribers' demands.

The number of young women continuing education beyond high school and pursuing non-traditional career fields in the arts, architecture, public speaking, publishing, and writing is on the upswing. Recognition of their talents and significance of their legacies will become more universal as influence in decision policy increases for women. Notable accomplishments by women who faced incredible odds for success inspired creativity and brought about opportunities that were extremely limited for women in past centuries.

Helen Hunt Jackson (1830 - 1885) is a national cultural leader who is often regarded as the greatest woman poet. Having written over 30 books and hundreds of articles, she became a relentless crusader for the Ponca Indians who were being forcibly removed by the federal government from their homeland in Nebraska. In *A Century of Dishonor*, she exposed broken treaties, dishonest deals, unfulfilled promises, and maltreatment of American Indians and corruption. Although her struggle for atonement was not acted upon by the government while she served as Special Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1882, her 1884 publication, *Ramona*, is claimed to have been responsible for Congress' 1887 enactment of the first comprehensive reform legislation for American Indians. (29)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860 - 1935) was a leading theorist who is best known for advancing social awareness through influential ideas that presented fundamental principles of the early feminist movement in America. (2:25) In 1898, she published *Women In Economics* where she argued that women held secondary status in society. Her work continues to gain significance as it shows women how to change their lives by redesigning society as the role of women continues to evolve. (5:152)

Mary Jane McLeod Bethune (1875 - 1955) will always be known as one of the most gifted and influential African American woman of all time. In 1904, she founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls that merged with Cookman Institute in 1923 to become what's known today as Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune served as the school's president from 1904 to 1942 and from 1946 to 1947. In 1935, she founded the National Council of Negro Women, and was director of Negro Affairs of the

National Youth Administration from 1936 - 1944. She also served as a special advisor on minority affairs to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. (2:72)

Catherine Filene Shouse (1896 - 1994) was the first woman to receive a Masters Degree from Harvard University. She also became the first woman to be appointed Chairperson of a Federal Women's Prison for the Rehabilitation and Education of Women. Appointed to official commissions for women's rights by Presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, and Reagan, she received medals and accolades from leadership throughout the world for her humanitarian work for children. In 1968, she established the Wolf Trap Foundation, a world-renowned center and training ground for operatic talent. (63)

Pauline Frederick Robbins (1906 - 1990) was the *Voice of the United Nations* and correspondent for NBC for 21 years - one of the premiere individuals who made it possible for women to be taken serious in news broadcasting. She became the first woman to moderate a Presidential debate, be awarded the Paul White Award for her contributions to broadcast journalism, receive the Peabody and DuPont Awards for broadcasting, and be elected President of the U.N. Correspondents Association. (64)

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks (1917 -) earned recognition as the Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry in 1950 and the first African American to be honored as such for her second book, *Annie Allen*. She became most prominently identified with the Black Arts Movement for her work that primarily addressed issues of art, identity, race, gender, and the relation between literature and culture. She was named the Poetry Consultant at the Library of Congress in 1985, becoming the first African American woman and sixth woman to be honored with this premier appointment among poets in the United States. (2:96)

Gerda Lerner (1920 -) is acknowledged as one of the foremost pioneers in the field of women's history as evidenced in her becoming the first woman in 50 years to be elected President of the Organization of American Historians in 1981. Her teachings encourage the expansion of thought and perspective by reexamining old ideas of who women are and what they have accomplished. Her writings defined the significance of redesigning perspectives to include women's history as a major course within mainstream learning. (52)

Daisy Lee Gatson Bates (1922 -) coordinated the efforts to integrate Little Rock's public schools after the Supreme Court's *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision outlawed segregated public schools in 1954. She became the leading advocate for the nine African American students that were admitted to Little Rock's Central High School under Army paratrooper escort for the 1957 -1958 school year. In 1954, she co-founded the *Arkansas State Press*, a leading African American newspaper in the state and powerful voice of the Civil Rights Movement. (86:29-30)

Celia Cruz (1924 -), nicknamed the *Queen of Salsa*, is one of few successful females in a genre dominated by men. She has recorded more than 50 albums, collaborating with many of the leading figures in Latin popular music. She performed in

the concert production and musical recording of *Hommy, A Latin Opera* (1973), shared a Grammy Award in 1990, received the National Medal of the Arts from President Clinton in 1994, and has appeared in several motion pictures. (18)

Barbara Walters (1931 -) received national recognition for her work in major broadcasting. In 1963, she co-hosted the NBC-TV *Today Show* and joined ABC-TV in 1976 as the first woman to co-anchor the network news. Since 1984, she has co-hosted the ABC newsmagazine *20/20* and continues making her mark in journalism by routinely hosting primetime special broadcasts and interviewing the world's most famous people. (2:179)

Gloria Steinem(1934 -) became admired for her fight for feminist goals in America, key support of the Equal Rights Amendment, and promotion of reproductive freedom as a basic human right. Her most far-reaching and lasting accomplishment was launching *Ms.* magazine in 1972 with monthly circulation boosted to 500,000 by 1985. She has written extensively for many different national magazines, has been a scriptwriter, and has reported on presidential conventions. (2:153-154)

Connie (Constance Yu-hwa) Chung (1946 -) is among the first minority women to break into the media field and the only Chinese American regularly seen on national television. One of the leading female journalists on television, she has covered Watergate, Capitol Hill, Presidential campaigns and political conventions. (43)

Maya Ying Lin (1960 -) designed art and architectural projects that are located throughout the nation to include the Women's Table (Yale University), the Civil Rights Memorial (Montgomery, Alabama), the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (Washington, DC), and the Wave Field (University of Michigan). Her work continuously addresses the notion of landscape and topography from a highly contemporary perspective. (53)

Reba Brophy-King (birth date not available) is the recipient of the First Annual Courage in Action Award presented on March 11, 2000 by the Women's International Center. Well known in the San Diego, CA area as the society editor for the San Diego Magazine, she founded the San Diego Chapter of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Diagnosed in 1999 with ovarian cancer, she has made it her mission to educate other women about this disease. She also is active with many different non-profit organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Leukemia Society, and Rotary International. (72)

In addition to their cultural influences throughout history, women have made a positive impact on the United States military. The following section, while not meant to be an exhaustive listing of notable women in the Services, depicts the kinds of pioneering accomplishments women have provided to the defense of our country.

Military Women

“Every promotion or job assignment I get makes me more confident and draws upon my strengths and wisdom to do it correctly.”

Lillian E. Fishburne, Rear Admiral (Retired), U. S. Navy

Although women were prevented from enlisting in the Continental army and local militias during the American Revolution, they were employed as military nurses and hospital matrons. More than 600 nuns represented the only source of professionally trained nurses during the Civil War when nursing schools did not exist. Other women accompanied their soldier husbands to war and supported the American cause in a variety of ways including the untold numbers of those who entered disguised as men. As early as the Civil War, African American women served in the areas of nursing and domestic chores for soldiers as many were employed by their husband's units. (78)

The unanticipated loss of more than 4,600 men to disease during the Spanish American War led to forced hiring of civilian women, African American and White, to provide nursing in military hospitals. The Army Nurse Corps and Navy Nurse Corps were created in 1901 and 1908, respectively, due to the increasing inability of the medical departments to handle casualties and the outstanding professional services that contract nurses had provided.

The Navy and Marine Corps accepted more than 12,000 females during World War I to fill administrative jobs stateside so that men could be released for duty at sea and overseas. The Army recruited women to be assigned in France as bilingual telephone operators and in supply offices. At the end of the war, Congress reduced the size of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps to pre-war status and closed loopholes that allowed women to serve in the military otherwise. (81)

As World War II work force shortages demanded the use of womanpower, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard formed special women's components. (81) African American women were not allowed to enter the Navy or Coast Guard until 1944, but they were a part of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) from its establishment in 1942. (78) Over 200 Asian Pacific American women joined the U.S. Public Health Service Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, although the Navy refused entry to Japanese American women. Filipino American women worked with the underground resistance movement to help American forces in the Philippines during Japan's three-year occupation. They supplied POWs with supplies, clothing, food, and medicine. (77)

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) recruited 50 Japanese and Chinese American women for training as translators to help the U.S. Army interface with Chinese allies. (81) Only a small number of Hispanic women joined the Services when the military first started accepting women. The Army recruited bilingual Hispanic women in fields such as cryptology, communications, and interpretation. The Army Nurse Corps actively recruited Puerto Rican nurses to eliminate language barriers brought about by rising

numbers of Hispanic hospital patients. (79) Although thousands have served in the military and lost their lives in service, few records have been maintained in regard to the military service of American Indian women. (80)

On June 12, 1948, President Truman signed the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act into law to give women permanent status in regular and reserve components of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps in support of America's new position as a world power. However, the Act contained the following limitations: 1) the number of women who could serve in each Service was capped at 2%, 2) promotions to one full colonel or Navy captain as Chief of the Nurse Corps and/or Service Director, 3) the number of women who could serve at the pay grade of O5, and 4) the number of women allowed to fly combat aircraft and assigned to ships engaged in combat. The law also granted service Secretaries authority to discharge women without specified cause. (81)

Large numbers of women served abroad and stateside during the Korean War that began in June 1950. It was the first time for military women who were enlisted reservists to be involuntarily recalled. It was also a time when affirmative action and racial policy changes were starting to open doors for women of color. When the All-Volunteer Force was established during the 1970s, more women of every race began entering every branch of the military. Approximately 7,500 American uniformed women served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, mostly assigned to military hospitals, air evacuation units, hospital ships, and field units. By 1980, women on active duty made up 8.5% of the U.S. Armed Forces. (81)

With the onset of the All-Volunteer Force, the proportion of military jobs available to women slowly increased as women became eligible for ROTC programs and non-traditional positions. However, women were barred from positions with a high probability of direct combat in the event of war. Many jobs opened for women such as serving as aircraft pilots carrying troops and supplies, deploying on reconnaissance missions, and serving aboard hospital ships, in mobile medical units, and field hospitals. Additionally, women joined crews on planes and helicopters, gained the opportunity to direct artillery fire, drive trucks, run prisoner-of-war facilities, serve in port security units, military police units, and as perimeter guards. They also gained access to the fields of communications, intelligence, and supply, all which contributed to their military success. (81)

During the U.S. military's largest single deployment of women, 41,000 women made up seven percent of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf. Currently, women are serving throughout the Armed Forces, breaking traditional barriers, and inspiring those around them to pursue a military career. (81)

In 1999, the first women graduated from the two civilian military academies, Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel. A year later, women graduated second and fifth in the graduating class at the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1995, the top graduate at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point was a woman. (85:15)

As of March 2002, active duty forces including the U.S. Coast Guard numbered 1,407,711 with women comprising 208,142 or 14.8%. Of the women within the active duty forces, the Army had the highest population with 72,021 (5.1% of total force), followed by the Air Force 68,815 (4.9% of total force), Navy 53,920 (3.8% of total force), Marines 9,742 (.7% of total force), and Coast Guard 3,644 (.3% of total force). (83)

Women comprised 148,825 or 17.1% of the total Reserve force of 872,621. The Army Reserve had the highest number of women with 51,085 (5.9% of total Reserve force), followed by the Army National Guard 42,487 (4.9% of total Reserve force), Air National Guard 18,683 (2.2% of total Reserve force), Navy Reserve 17,393 (2% of total Reserve force), Air Force Reserve 16,412 (1.9% of total Reserve force), Marine Corps Reserve 1,915 (.21% of total Reserve force), and Coast Guard Reserve 850 (.03% of total Reserve force). (83)

The Department of the Defense civilians totaled 653,842 including 245,249 women who are 37.5% of the civilian force. (83) Over time, their jobs have become more diverse and their opportunities for advancement more equitable than in the past. (3:143)

Dr. Mary E. Walker (1832 - 1919) was the first and only woman to receive the Medal of Honor for her participation in the Civil War. She received the award for her service as a contract surgeon during the war. When her medal was rescinded along with over 900 others in 1917, she refused to return it and wore the medal until her death in 1919. Posthumously, the medal was reinstated in 1977. (14:1)

Sheila E. Widnall (1938 -) is the former Secretary of the Air Force, and the only woman ever to head a military Service. From 1993 through 1997, she was responsible for readiness of the Air Force to conduct its mission. She oversaw the recruiting, training, and equipping of the approximately 380,000 men and women on active duty, 251,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Reserve, and 184,000 civilians. She was further responsible for planning, justifying, and allocating the Service's annual budget of approximately \$62 billion as well as logistical support, maintenance, research, and development and welfare of personnel. (73)

In Action

- **Tyonajanegen**, an Oneida woman, fought alongside her husband during the American Revolution. (80)
- **Margaret Corbin** (July 6, 1779) was granted the first federal pension given to a woman in battle by the Continental Congress. Corbin was wounded and taken prisoner by the British during the Battle of Fort Washington. (12)

- **Sacajawea**, a Shoshone, served as a guide and interpreter for Lewis and Clark during their expedition in the 19th Century. (80)
- **Sally Tompkins** (1861) became the only woman ever to be commissioned in the Confederate Army when the government consolidated private hospitals into larger military hospitals. With this special military commission as captain, Tompkins was allowed to continue supervision of a hospital where soldiers had one of the highest recovery rates. (12)
- **Opha M. Johnson** (August 1918) enlisted as the first woman in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. (12)
- **Olive Hoskins** (1926) was the first woman promoted to warrant officer in the Army. (12)
- **Colonel Ruby Bradley** is America's most decorated military woman, earning 34 medals and citation to include two Bronze Stars for her service during WW II. (13)
- **First Lieutenant Cordelia Cook**, who served in the Army Nurse Corps during WW II in Italy, was the first woman to receive the Bronze Star. She also received the Purple Heart, becoming the first woman to receive two awards. (13)
- **Joisefina V. Guerrero**, a civilian, was award the Medal of Freedom after WW II for her efforts in enabling Americans to avoid land mines that had been laid by the Japanese in Manila. (13)
- **First Lieutenant Mary Roberts Wilson**, an Army nurse, was the first woman to receive the Silver Star for gallant actions in combat during World War II. She and three other Army nurses evacuated 42 patients by flashlight and without incident from a field hospital that was under German fire in Anzio. (13)
- **First Lieutenant Annie G. Fox**, (December 7, 1941) Army Nurse Corps, served at Hickham Field, Hawaii, during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and was the first woman to receive the Purple Heart. (13)
- **Lieutenant Colonel Florence Blanchard** (1943 – 1947) became the first woman to hold a permanent commission in the U.S. Army upon her commission as a Lieutenant Colonel. As Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, she was responsible for the largest group of nurses ever to be on active duty. (12)
- **Lieutenant Edith Greenwood** (1943) was the first woman to receive the Soldier's Medal for heroism during a fire at a military hospital in Yuma, Arizona. (13)

- **Lieutenant Elsie S. Ott**, (1943) an air evacuation nurse, was the first woman to be awarded the Air Medal. (13)
- **Hazel Nakashima** and **Jit Wong** (1943) (ranks not available) were the first Chinese American women to enlist to serve in the Army Air Forces as Air WACs. (12)
- **Major Margaret D. Craighill** (April 16, 1943) became the first woman commissioned into the Army Medical Corps. (12)
- **Private Minnie Spotted Wolf** (July 1943) became the first American Indian to enlist in the Marine Corps. (12)
- **Lenah S. Higbee** (1945) The USS HIGBEE (DD 806) became the first warship named for a woman by the U.S. Navy and the first Navy ship so named to take part in combat operations. It served in the Fast Carrier Force. Higbee served as Superintendent (rank not available, however known as Chief Nurse) of the Navy Nurse Corps from 1911 - 1922. (14)
- **Sergeant Esther M. Blake** (July 8, 1948) became the first woman in the Air Force by enlisting in the first minute of the first hour of the first day the regular Air Force was authorized. (12)
- **Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky**, (1967) the first woman ordered to combat duty, reported to the Military Assistance Command in Saigon. (12)
- **Colonel Margaret E. Bailey** (1970) became the first African American nurse promoted to colonel in the Army Nurse Corps. She had also been the first African American nurse to be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on July 15, 1964. (81)
- **Brigadier General Hazel W. Johnson** (September 1, 1979) became the first African American woman general officer and assumed position as the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps. (12)
- **Commander Darlene Iskra** (1990) became the first woman to command a U.S. Navy ship - USS OPPORTUNE (ARS 41). (12)
- **Lieutenant Kara Hultgreen** (1993) became the Navy's first fully qualified female fleet fighter pilot and the first woman combat pilot to die in service when her aircraft crashed into the Pacific Ocean in 1994. (12)
- **Second Lieutenant Sarah Deal**, (April 21, 1995) the first woman Marine selected for aviation training, received her wings and assignment as a CH-53E pilot. (12)

- **Admiral Grace Hopper** (1996) The USS HOPPER (DDG 70) became the only ship since World War II and the second warship in the Navy's history to be named for a woman who served in the Navy. (14) Hopper became internationally known for her revolutionary efforts in the computer field to include publication of software and programming.
- **Vice Admiral A. Patricia Tracey** (July 17, 1996) became the senior most ranking woman in the U.S. military service and the first woman in the U.S. Navy to achieve such rank. (71)
- **Rear Lieutenant General Carol A. Mutter** (September 1, 1996) became the first woman to receive the rank of lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps. (62)
- **Lieutenant General Claudia J. Kennedy** (June 17, 1997) was the first woman to attain the rank of lieutenant general in the U.S. Army. (12)
- **Rear Admiral Lillian E. Fishburne** (February 1, 1998) was promoted to rear admiral, thereby becoming the highest-ranking African American female in the Navy. (20)
- **Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields** (1999) became the first woman and the first African American to serve as Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where she commanded 400 officers, all of whom were scientists or engineers. (86:15)
- **Rear Admiral Vivian S. Crea** (2002) became the highest-ranking woman in the Coast Guard's history upon her selection as the Northeast District Commander. She was also the Coast Guard's first female aircraft commander and first female Commanding Officer of a Coast Guard Air Station. (74)

From the military battlefield to the field of politics, women have been present and accounted for. The next section reviews some notable female pioneers who have made significant political contributions.

Political Impacts

“Women are human beings as much as men, by nature; and as women, are even more sympathetic with human processes. To develop human life in its true powers we need fully equal citizenship for women.” Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Writer

With each passing year, women are becoming more confident in their abilities to have an impact on the political process - to vote their minds and values, and to assume positions of public leadership in our local communities, in the state, nationally, and on a global scale. (1:143) Although we acknowledge strides forward, the momentum must be maintained in order to continue to make progress. Visions of the future must include expansion of opportunities through education, leadership, new technology, and recognition of changes that were brought by others. (1:145)

In truly landmark events and initiatives, women have developed and produced major legislative changes. These visionaries have taken charge in shifting ideas and shaping the public agenda by demanding and gaining rights for women to make basic decisions that would shape their lives. (5:157) They have generated a climate of action through their individual passion, vision, and sense of societal priorities. They have evolved into leaders, uniquely supported by colleagues and networks of women with like concerns, to become a powerful symbol of the changing roles and status of women in society. (1:139)

Nancy Ward (Nan'yehi) (1738 - 1824) remains honored as Ghighua (Beloved Women), the highest role that a Cherokee woman could aspire. At the age of 18, she led the Cherokees to a decisive victory against the Creeks at the Battle of Taliwa in 1755. Under her leadership, Cherokees learned European-based ways of life and negotiated peace talks with the United States. (39)

Victoria Claflin Woodhull (1838 - 1927) was the first woman to run for President of the United States before women had the right to vote in any state, and the first woman to open a bank on Wall Street in 1870. (21)

Nellie Tayloe Ross (1876 - 1977) became the first woman governor of a state in the United States upon her inauguration as the thirteenth governor of Wyoming on January 5, 1925. While in office, she championed protective legislation for miners, women, and children. Upon defeat for reelection, she became one of the first women to head a federal agency when she was appointed Director of the U.S. Mint. (35; 86:301)

Hattie Wyatt Caraway (1878 - 1950) of Arkansas is distinguished as the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate in 1932. She served in the Senate until 1945, was the first woman to chair a standing committee (Committee on Enrolled Bills), and became the first woman to preside over the Senate on October 19, 1943. (58)

Jeannette Pickering Rankin (1880 - 1973) was the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress and one of the first women in the world to be elected to a major legislative body during a time when women could not vote in most of the states in the United States. Her efforts as Field Secretary of the National American Suffrage Association resulted in women winning the right to vote in Montana in 1914 and in all states by 1920. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 1940, and in 1968 led over 5,000 women to Capitol Hill to oppose U.S. involvement in Vietnam. (2:80)

Shirley Anita Chisholm (1924 -) became the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress in 1968. She was also the first woman and first African American woman to serve on the House Rules Committee. She campaigned unsuccessfully for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination, but served in the U.S. House of Representatives for seven consecutive terms from 1969 - 1983. She has been an advocate for women's rights, abortion reforms, day care, environmental protection, job training, and the end to the Vietnam War. (2:155)

Patsy Mink (1928 - 2002) is the first woman of color and the first of Asian descent elected to the U.S. Congress. She began the first of six consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives upon election in 1965. She introduced the first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act and authored the Women's Educational Equity Act. She also played key roles in enacting federal policies that promote higher education and prohibit gender discrimination. (54)

Sandra Day O'Connor (1930 -) was the first woman to assume the role as a Supreme Court Justice since her 1981 appointment by President Reagan and unanimous Senate approval. She has held the deciding vote for many controversial decisions. While serving as an Arizona state senator in 1972, she became the first woman elected majority leader in any state senate. (2:210)

LaDonna Harris (1931 -) founded Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a national multi-tribal organization devoted to developing the economic opportunities and resources of American Indians throughout the United States. Embodying her Comanche heritage and role as AIO's President since 1980, she continues to work to improve a wide range of political and educational rights for American Indians. (47)

Geraldine Anne Ferraro (1935 -) became the first female vice-presidential nominee of a major party in 1984. She had previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in New York and three consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. (2:235)

Barbara Charline Jordan (1936 - 1996) became the first African American since 1883 and the first woman ever elected to the Texas Senate. In 1972, she was elected to the House of Representatives. She prominently worked on legislation dealing with the environment, establishing minimum wage standards, and eliminating discriminatory practices in business contracts. (32; 86:191)

Janet Reno (1938 -) was the first woman Attorney General of the United States. One of her key priorities was to increase diversity in the Department of Justice, making integrity, excellence, and professionalism hallmarks of the Department. Her key priorities included “reducing crime and violence by incarcerating serious, repeat offenders and finding alternative forms of punishment for first time, non-violent offenders.” (69)

Hillary Rodham Clinton (1947 -) became the first First Lady elected to the U.S. Senate and the first woman elected statewide in New York during the 2000 senatorial election. She headed the special commission on healthcare reform that was the most significant public policy initiative of her husband’s presidency. (10)

Elaine Chao (1953 -) became the first Asian American woman appointed to a President’s cabinet in U.S. history when she was sworn in as the nation’s 24th Secretary of Labor on January 31, 2001. Her earlier appointment as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation also made her the highest-ranking Asian American woman in the executive branch in U.S. history. She had previously headed the Peace Corps, United Way of America, and Federal Maritime Commission. (25)

Society has advanced through the application of science and technology. The women described in the next section have made significant contributions through their scientific achievements.

Scientific Achievements

“Our future lies with today’s kids and tomorrow’s space exploration.”

Dr. Sally Ride

In addition to the huge underrepresentation of women in fields of science, their groundbreaking discoveries were often exploited and unrecognized. Current scientific practices are eliminating society's undue influence on men that hinders women's progress in their areas of interest. Historically, women faced limited positions, education, and recognition for contributions they made.

Marie Sklodowska Curie (1867 - 1934) is the most admired female scientist of the 20th Century and the only woman to ever win two Nobel Prizes. In 1903, she and her husband were mutually recognized for their pioneering knowledge of physics and work with radium. She received her second Nobel Prize in 1911 for chemistry. (86:168)

Mary Steichen Calderone (1904 -) was internationally known as a pioneer in the field of human sexuality and one of the most influential people in the world. She co-founded the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States in 1954, and was Executive Director and President until 1982. She was the Medical Director for Planned Parenthood Federation from 1954 - 1964. Her vast contributions through authored books include: *Questions and Answers About Sex and Love, Sexuality and Human Values, Manual of Family Planning and Contraceptive Practices, The Family Book About Sexuality, and Talking With Your Child About Sex.* (61)

Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell (1943 -) discovered the first four pulsars or pulsating radio stars (stars that release regular bursts of radio waves) in 1967. Her repeated survey of a large area of the sky, with the extremely sensitive radio telescope she constructed, was unprecedented in radio astronomy. Her professional contributions include results of her mid-latitude electron density trough studies, galactic infrared observations, and rocket flight data analysis. (24)

Bernadine Healy (1943 -), cardiologist and health administrator, was the first woman to head the National Institutes of Health. From 1991 to 1993, she shaped research policy through her many appointments to advisory panels, editorial boards of scientific journals, and other decision-making bodies. As President of the American Heart Association from 1988 - 1989, she initiated pioneering research into women’s heart disease. (28)

Antonia Novello (1944 -) became the first woman and the first Hispanic to become the Surgeon General of the United States (1990 - 1993). She was among the first to recognize the need to focus on women with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and on neonatal transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). (42)

Shirley Amy Jackson (1946 -), a theoretical physicist, has spent most of her career researching and teaching about particle physics, using theories and mathematics to predict the existence of subatomic particles and the forces that bind them together. She

became the first African American woman to receive a doctoral degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. President Clinton named her Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1995. She spearheaded the formation of International Nuclear Regulators Association, which examines issues and offers assistance to other nations on matters of nuclear safety. In 1999, she became President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, one of the nation's oldest science and engineering research universities. (50)

Flossie Wong-Staal (1947 -) is one of the world's foremost authorities in the field of virology and one of America's pioneering AIDS researchers. Her work in identifying the HIV that causes AIDS provided the groundbreaking development of HIV tests that are used to screen donated blood and test people for the virus. (40)

Elaine Harris (birth date not available) was diagnosed in 1982 with Sjogren's Syndrome, a malfunction of the immune system, a health problem in which very little information is available. In her endeavor to discover more about the disease, she ultimately formed the Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation whose purpose is to educate patients and professionals on this disease that there is no cure. Presently, the foundation is an international organization with 6,000 patients and health care professionals as members. (68)

Krisztina Holly (birth date not available), an engineering graduate of Massachusetts Institute Technology, along with a co-worker, invented and patented "The Stylus," a system that operates as a consumer's personal interpreter and mediator in the languages of bar code and touch-tone. The Stylus enables users to order things by scanning a bar code with a stylus that feeds the information to the seller via a touch-tone phone. Among her many contributions to science, she developed a robotic weld-seam-tracking program for the space shuttle engine. (27)

From the history books, to politics and social change, from popular culture to the military services and scientific advancement, women have played major roles. The next section looks at the triumphs of the human spirit on the field of play: women in sports and athletics.

Legendary Sports Figures

“Self-awareness is the most important thing to being a champion.”

Billy Jean King

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 mandated equality of resources allocated to women’s and men’s athletic programs in schools. In addition, the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 requires nondiscriminatory operation by the U.S. Olympic Committee. Even so, only about one-third of school and Olympic athletes are women. (82:41) Based on the growth rate of women’s participation after years of increases, it would take about 40 years to achieve equality on the high school athletics level. Operating and recruiting budgets hamper women sports participation at colleges. The pace at which women’s professional sports is gaining fan support and media attention is steady, but slow. For example, the Women’s National Basketball Association was launched in 1996 after three failed attempts and the Women’s Professional Football League debuted in 1999. The dramatic win by the U.S. Women’s Soccer Team during the 1999 World Cup was a major boost to women’s pro sports. As others whose spectacular accomplishments in sports are remembered, the successes of the athletes are expected to contribute greatly to increased participation by girls and women in amateur sports. (86:42)

Babe Didrikson Zaharias (1911 - 1956) is recognized as the greatest woman athlete of the first half of the 20th Century as evidenced by her being voted Woman Athlete of the Year on six separate occasions by the Associated Press. Between 1930 and 1932, she held national, Olympic, or world records in five different track and field events. She toured the country with her own professional women’s basketball team in 1933 and appeared in major league exhibition baseball games nationwide in 1934. From 1946 – 1947, she won 17 consecutive golf tournaments to include the British Women’s Amateur. She won the U.S. Women’s Open title for the third time in 1954. (2:86)

Barbara Buttrick (1930 -) became the first women's world boxing champion by unanimous decision in 1957 in San Antonio, Texas. By then, she had already fought more than 1,000 exhibitions with men and 18 professional women's fights, only one of which she lost. She was elected to the International Boxing and Wrestling Hall of Fame and founded the Women's International Boxing Federation in 1990 and 1993, respectively. (75)

Wilma Rudolph (1940 - 1994) became the first American woman to win three Olympic gold medals in track and field at a single year’s game. In 1960, she was named Female Athlete of the Year and Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press and United Press International, respectively. Throughout 1961, she continued to set and break her own world records that remained unbroken through the 1964 Olympic Games. (2:118)

Kathy Jaeger (1943 -), at age 56, shattered records by completing the 100-meter dash in 13.5 seconds at the World Veteran Athletic Games in the United Kingdom in July 1999. (86:17)

Billy Jean Moffitt King (1943 -) became the greatest American woman tennis player by the early 1970s and the driving force behind the establishment of women's professional tennis. Having won her first women's singles title at Wimbledon in 1966, she captured the Wimbledon singles, doubles, and mixed titles in 1967. By 1979, King had taken 20 Wimbledon titles, six of them in women's singles. She had captured many world titles, including the U.S. Singles, the U.S. Indoor Championships, and the French Open. She also won the U.S. Doubles titles in 1964 and 1980. (2:194-195)

Peggy Gale Fleming (1948 -) was the only first place winner for the United States at the 1968 Olympic Games, winning a gold medal for figure skating. Altogether, Fleming won five national ladies figure skating championship titles along with the North American title and three world championships. (2:136)

Florence Griffith-Joyner (1959 - 1998) became known as the fastest woman alive when she shattered U.S. and world records in the 1988 Olympic Trials. She went on that year to win three Olympic Gold medals (100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, and 400 meter relay) and one Silver medal (1600 meter relay) in Seoul, South Korea. She broke the world record in the 200-meter dash semi-final competition and her own record in the finals by running it in 21.34 seconds. (46)

Conclusion

The story of America is one of journey and discovery – the journey of many groups and individuals who share common dreams and challenges, and the discovery of individual differences that shape our culture. (53) New and exciting information concerning women’s activities that are key to the development of communities is continually being discovered. As society becomes more diverse, so will the faces of those who make major contributions.

This publication provides highlights of accomplishments that positively affect society's fundamental outlook about women. The highlights represent only a small number of individuals and events that have had a direct impact on women and their roles in society. The magnitude of their significance goes well beyond the specific area of interest. They set the stage for further opportunities and success by future generations worldwide in all fields of study.

The series of significant firsts and breakthroughs highlighted are but a mere reflection of countless events that have taken place to redefine the feminine mystique. Women have made tremendous progress, and the number and proportion of them in traditionally male-dominated roles are steadily increasing. However, the key to continued advances is society's acceptance of the value placed on women and their contributions. (3:52-53)

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