

March Facts of the Day 2015



DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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Day	Fact	Source
1	<p>In March, we celebrate Women’s History Month. For 2015, the National Women’s History Project has selected the theme "<i>Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives.</i>" The theme presents the opportunity to weave women’s stories—individually and collectively—into the essential fabric of our nation’s history. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Women’s History Movement and the National Women’s History Project.</p>	<p>http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/theme/</p>
2	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://womenshistorymonth.gov/about.html</p>
3	<p>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 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.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/helen-keller-meets-her-miracle-worker</p>
4	<p>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 she 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.</p>	<p>http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_325.html</p>

5	<p>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 airshow rehearsal at age 34.</p>	<p>http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/flygirls/peoplevents/pandeAMEX02.html</p>
6	<p>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 Material Command. She had previously served as 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.</p>	<p>http://archive.airforcetimes.com/article/20120328/NEWS/203280312/Wolfenbarger-confirmed-1st-female-AF-4-star</p>
7	<p>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, <i>The Hurt Locker</i>, 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.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/kathryn-bigelow-becomes-the-first-female-director-to-win-an-oscar</p>
8	<p>Every year since 1911, March 8 has been celebrated as International Women's Day. Events held on this day honor women's economic, political, and social achievements. The 2015 theme for International Women's Day is <i>Make It Happen</i>, encouraging effective action for advancing and recognizing women.</p>	<p>http://www.internationalwomensday.com/the-me.asp</p>

9	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.nwpc.org/tulsigabbard</p>
10	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.military.com/daily-news/2013/03/15/lighthouse-keeper-blazes-trail-for-cg-women.html</p>
11	<p>In 1921, Edith Wharton became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, which she won for her novel <i>The Age of Innocence</i>. 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.</p>	<p>http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/pwwmh/ma34.htm</p>
12	<p>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 racecars, Guthrie was a pilot and aerospace engineer.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/people/janet-guthrie-9323913#early-life-and-career</p>

13	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.ssa.gov/history/fperkins.html</p>
14	<p>Clara Barton, a nurse and suffragist, is best known for organizing the American Red Cross. During the Civil War, Barton worked to organize efforts to distribute food and medical supplies to the troops and worked treating the injured on the front lines. After the war, she pushed for America to recognize the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 1881, when the American Red Cross was founded, Barton became its president. She remained dedicated to relief work until her death.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/clara-barton</p>
15	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://secretary.state.gov/www/albright/albrigh.html</p>
16	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://marines.dodlive.mil/2014/04/08/the-evolving-role-of-women-in-the-corps/</p>

17	<p>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.</p>	<p>https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/tsai-fan-yu/</p>
18	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.holloman.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123197316</p>
19	<p>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. <i>Fortune</i> magazine labeled her the most powerful woman in business, and <i>Forbes</i> rated her as the fourth most powerful woman in the world in 2006.</p>	<p>https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/indra-krishnamurthy-nooyi/</p>
20	<p>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.</p>	<p>https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/susan-brownell-anthony/</p>

21	<p>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 use view photographs, military histories, and individual stories to learn about women who served in the armed forces from the American Revolution to the present.</p>	<p>http://www.womensmemorial.org/About/history.html</p>
22	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.nwhp.org/2015-national-womens-history-month-honorees/</p>
23	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_239.html</p>
24	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=123730</p>

25	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.uwyo.edu/lawlib/libraryinfo/displaycase/nellietayloeross.html</p>
26	<p>Sally Ride became the first American woman in space on June 18, 1983, aboard the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>. Ride attended Stanford University, where she earned a PhD 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.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/people/sally-ride-9458284#nasa</p>
27	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/people/malala-yousafzai-21362253#synopsis</p>
28	<p>Born in 1904, Margaret Bourke-White was an innovator in photojournalism and became <i>Fortune</i> magazine's first staff photographer. <i>Life</i> 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.</p>	<p>http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Margaret_Bourke-White.aspx</p>

29	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.army.mil/article/70556</p>
30	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.nwhp.org/2015-national-womens-history-month-honorees/</p>
31	<p><i>"In the end all women and all men can only benefit from the more truthful and balanced image of women which will emerge from history where they are shown to have been actively involved in shaping their own destiny and that of the country."</i> — Eleanor Flexner</p>	<p>http://www.nwhp.org/2015-national-womens-history-month-honorees/</p>