**Honoring Women’s History Month**

The Declaration of Independence was signed 239 years ago. This singular act officially recognized the United States of America as an independent nation and purportedly declared that “All Men Were Created Equal.” Unfortunately, this clause meant literally that “All White Males with Property,” were created equal. This literal interpretation of our founding documents left many groups clamoring for inclusion in our nation, even though many assumed that those original documents were inclusive of all Americans. Since the founding of our republic many minority groups have suffered from discrimination as a result of being excluded from this interpretation. One these groups, women, have been on the front lines since the nation’s founding fighting to be considered equal to men.

One of the most neglected topics in the history of the United States of America, is the role that women played in its founding. The effort for recognition has oftentimes created an environment where women are treated as second-class citizens. The Women’s Suffrage Movement began decades before the Civil War and culminated on August 18, 1920 when the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This recognition of women has been celebrated in numerous ways; the best known of these is Women’s History Month.

Women’s History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as “Women’s History Week.” Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as “Women’s History Week.” In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as “Women’s History Month.” Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Follow the link to increase you understanding of this most important honor. <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>