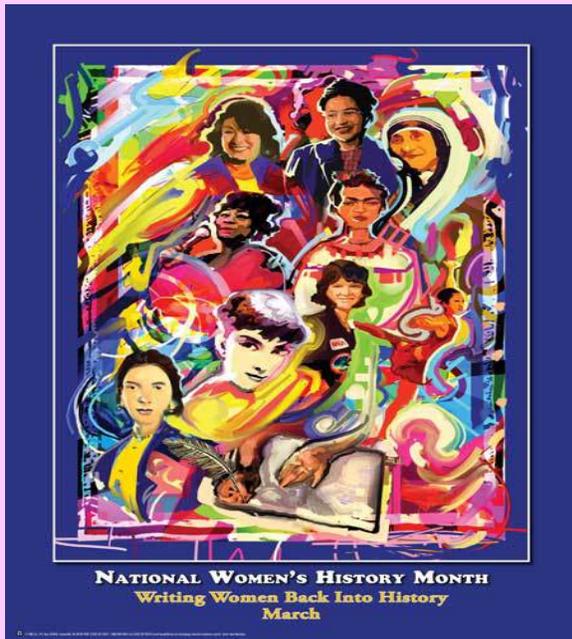# NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. National Women's History Month is a way to celebrate the role of all American women, of all backgrounds, who have helped to shape America.

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National 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. Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month.

The significance of the month of March dates to the mid-19th century when, on March 8, 1857, a group of female garment workers in New York City staged a protest to demand better working conditions and pay. Police aggressively halted the demonstration, but several years later the determined women formed their own union.

Did you know?

Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote.

In 1770, a bill proposing that women using makeup should be punished for witchcraft was put forward to the British Parliament.

Women often wrote under pen names in times when it was not seen as appropriate for them to contribute to literature.

Until 1846, the practice of obstetrics was a female-dominated field. It was then that most medical colleges decided women could not attend and the newly founded American Medical Association barred women.

Sources:

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