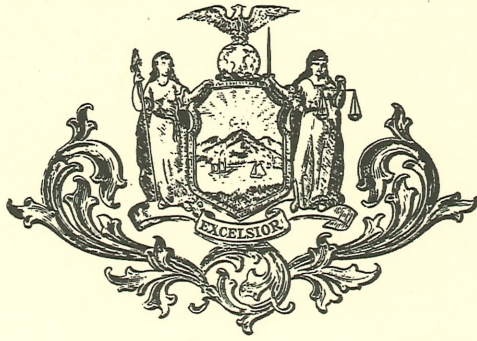




State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the national observance highlighting the role of women in history, today celebrated throughout the entire month of March, and New York State joins with Americans everywhere to recognize women of all backgrounds who have made significant contributions to our country and to global humankind in countless ways; and

Whereas, Women's History Month originated with the passage of a joint U.S. Congressional resolution signed on August 4, 1981 to become Public Law No. 97-28, requesting and authorizing 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 this weeklong observance until 1987 when, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, the law was amended to expand the observance to a full month that year, with the monthlong observance made permanent on an annual basis; and

Whereas, since then, presidents have issued annual proclamations designating March as Women's History Month to celebrate the contributions women have made to our country and to recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in various professions, educational pursuits, other areas of skilled expertise and endeavor, and leadership in causes of profound impact; and

Whereas, this past year, we marked a significant milestone in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in the United States, achieved with the August 26, 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and the fulfilled quest of generations of women who sought the right to vote – ever symbolic of the first major victory in women's fight to achieve full equality; and

Whereas, the Empire State is the birthplace and foundation of women's suffrage and site of the first Women's Rights Convention held at Seneca Falls in 1848, where one hundred participants – 68 women and 32 men – signed a Declaration of Sentiments modeled after the Declaration of Independence; this historic document is considered the single most important factor in spreading news of the women's rights movement across the country, then and into the future promoting the issue of women's suffrage as a fundamental tenet of the national women's movement; and

Whereas, women in New York State secured the right to vote on Election Day, November 6, 1917, preceding the national suffrage victory that came three years later; we remember the visionary leaders of women's suffrage in New York – those brave heroines with ties to our state who helped forge the path to voting equality for women – from Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda Joslyn Gage who were among the earliest organizers and strategists, to Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association who led the fight for the vote through state-by-state campaigns; and

Whereas, women's suffrage was a milestone achievement in New York State and a transformative moment in American democracy, yet, universal suffrage was not truly realized until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965; we honor the courageous women of color who led and challenged the suffrage movement, from the women of the Iroquois Nation whose leadership influenced early suffragists to the remarkably visionary Black women, such as Sojourner Truth and Mary Burnett Talbert, who faced discrimination on the basis of both gender and race, yet rose to become forceful voices for women's suffrage, and for civil, economic, and social rights for women and formerly enslaved Black persons; and

Whereas, by paying tribute to all women throughout history who led the way for various causes, we acknowledge their efforts that have earned them a distinct place in America's past as they continue to serve as important role models for women today and future generations who show the promise of further adding to this proud legacy;

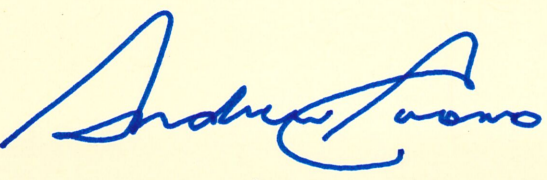
Now, Therefore, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

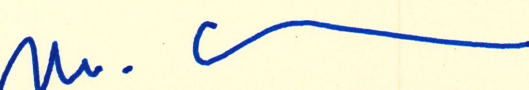
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this twenty-sixth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-one.


Governor


Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa