

February Highlights in US Women's History

Feb 1, 1978 - First postage stamp to honor a black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued in Washington, DC

Feb 4, 1987 - First National Women in Sports Day is celebrated in Washington, DC.

Feb 6, 1973 - Government Printing Office rules that the prefix "Ms." is acceptable optional identifying label in government publications.

Feb 9, 1973 - First convention of National Women's Political Caucus meets in Houston, TX.

Feb 12, 1962 - Eleanor Roosevelt becomes first chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Feb 15, 1921 - The Suffrage Monument, depicting Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott and carved by Adelaide Johnson, is dedicated in the nation's capitol.

Feb 15, 1953 - Tenley Albright is the first American woman to win the world figure skating championship.

Feb 18, 1953 - Rachel Carson is elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Feb 21, 1980 - AFL-CIO votes to reserve 2 seats on its 35 member executive team for a woman and a member of a minority group.

Feb 24, 1912 - Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah, the world's largest and oldest women's Zionist organization focusing on healthcare and education in the US and Israel.

Feb 27, 1922 - US Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees women the right to vote .

February Birthdays

Feb 1, 1878 (1950) - Hattie Wyatt Caraway - First woman elected to the US Senate (1932) and first woman to preside over the Senate in 1943.

Feb 3, 1821 (1910) - Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell - First woman awarded a medical degree in U.S. (1849).

Feb 4, 1913 - Rosa Parks - "Mother of Civil Rights Movement;" her arrest after refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, leads to Dr. Martin Luther King's bus boycott and eventual Supreme Court decision to integrate buses.

Feb 4, 1921 - Betty Friedan - Author, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963); Cofounder of National Organization for Women (NOW).

Feb 7, 1867 (1957) - Laura Ingalls Wilder - Author of beloved "Little House" books.

Feb 9, 1944 - Alice Walker - First African American woman to win Pulitzer Prize for fiction, *The Color Purple* (1983) .

Feb 15, 1820 (1906) - Susan B. Anthony - Leader of 19th century women's right movement; strategist; lecturer.

Feb 16, 1870 (1927) - Leonora O'Reilly - Labor organizer; founding member of Woman's Trade Union League; helped found NAACP.

Feb 18, 1931 - Toni Morrison - Pulitzer Prize winning novelist; first African-American to win Nobel Prize for Literature. Born Chloe Anthony Wofford, in 1931 in Lorain (Ohio), she studied humanities at Howard and Cornell Universities, followed by an academic career at Texas Southern University, Howard University, Yale, and in 1989, a chair at Princeton.

Feb 21, 1855 (1902) Alice Freeman Palmer - Educator; Founded American Assn. of University Women (AAUW) in 1882.

Feb 22, 1876 (1938) - Gertrude Bonnin (Zitkala-Sa) - Writer; Sioux Indian activist; founded National Council of American Indians (1926).

Feb 22, 1892 (1950) - Edna St. Vincent Millay - First woman to receive Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1923).



Laura Ingalls Wilder



Toni Morrison