## **1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 106**

- March 7, 2000 Introduced by Representatives Berceau, Sherman, Young, Turner, Bock, Travis, Spillner, Musser, Krug, Porter, Sinicki, J. Lehman, Owens, Pocan, Ladwig, Waukau, Hasenohrl, Albers, Sykora, Kreuser, Boyle, Gunderson, Huber, Riley, Miller, Coggs, Morris-Tatum, Richards, Vrakas and Ryba, cosponsored by Senators Burke, Moen, Risser, Moore, Roessler, Plache, Erpenbach, Wirch, George and Darling. Referred to Committee on Rules.
- Relating to: urging all Wisconsinites to observe March as "Women's History
   Month".
- Whereas, American women of every race, class and ethnic background have
  made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless
  recorded and unrecorded ways; and
- 6 Whereas, American women have played and continue to play a critical 7 economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of life of the Nation by constituting 8 a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and 9 Whereas, American women have played a unique role throughout the history 10 of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation; and 11 Whereas, American women were particularly important in the establishment 12 of early charitable, philanthropic, educational and cultural institutions in the 13 Nation: and

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Whereas, American women of every race, class and ethnic background served
 as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;
 and

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Whereas, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own
rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the Abolitionist Movement, the
Emancipation Movement, the Industrial Labor Movement, the Civil Rights
Movement and other movements, especially the Peace Movement, which create a
more fair and just society for all; and

9 Whereas, Wisconsin has been blessed with many women who have risen above 10 stereotypes and who have become the first to achieve notable station, including 11 Shirley Abrahamson, the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin State Supreme 12 Court and the first woman chief justice; Belle Case La Follette, the first woman to 13 graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School; Katherine Lyall, the first 14 woman president of the University of Wisconsin System; Vel Philips, the first Black 15 constitutional officer in Wisconsin; Dena Smith, the first woman elected to statewide 16 office in Wisconsin; Rosa A. Smith, the first Black woman to serve as a 17 superintendent of schools; Donna Shalala, the first woman chancellor of the 18 University of Wisconsin–Madison; Kathryn Morrison, the first woman elected to the 19 state senate; Barbara Thompson, the first woman to hold the elective office of state 20 superintendent of public instruction; and

Whereas, Wisconsin women have earned the outstanding achievement of winning the Pulitzer Prize, including author Edna Ferber for the novel *So Big*, and author Zona Gale for the novel *Miss Zulu Bett*; and

Whereas, Wisconsin women have been national leaders in women's suffrage,
including Kathryn Clarenbach, founder of the National Organization of Women and

the National Women's Political Caucus; and Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist and
 president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which she
 reorganized as the League of Women Voters; and

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Whereas, in 1920 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (women's
suffrage) was ratified, and Wisconsin was the first state to deliver its ratification to
Washington; and

7 Whereas, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history
8 has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and
9 study of American History; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That* the members of the
Wisconsin legislature call upon the citizens of Wisconsin to observe March as
"Women's History Month" with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities;
and, be it further

*Resolved, That* communities in Wisconsin are encouraged to continually
 recognize the abilities and contributions of women and girls who have contributed
 to the progress and success of our state from its founding to the present day.

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(END)