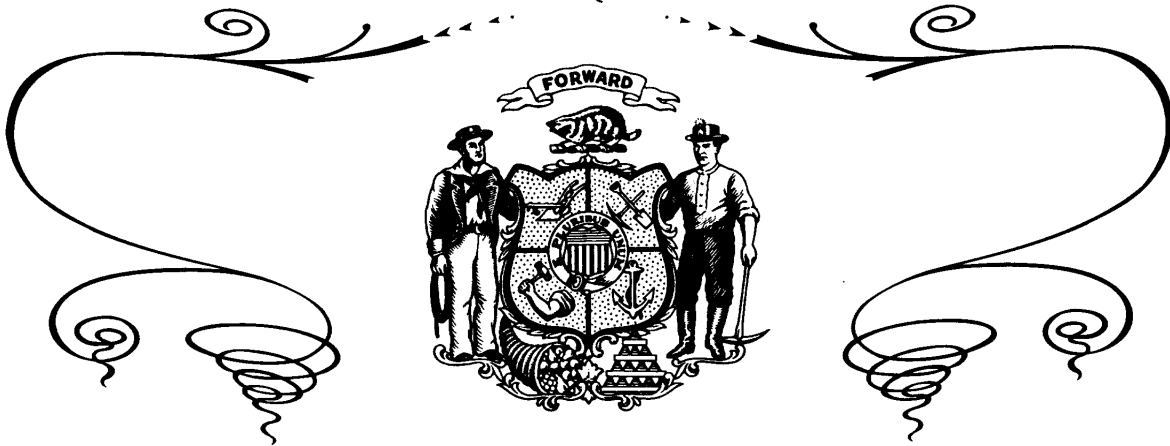


State of Wisconsin



1999 Assembly Joint Resolution 106

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Whereas, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

Whereas, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation; and

Whereas, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, educational and cultural institutions in the Nation; and

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

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

Whereas, Wisconsin has been blessed with many women who have risen above stereotypes and who have become the first to achieve notable station, including Shirley Abrahamson, the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court and the first woman chief justice; Belle Case La Follette, the first woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School; Katherine Lyall,

the first woman president of the University of Wisconsin System; Vel Philips, the first Black constitutional officer in Wisconsin; Dena Smith, the first woman elected to statewide office in Wisconsin; Rosa A. Smith, the first Black woman to serve as a superintendent of schools; Donna Shalala, the first woman chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison; Kathryn Morrison, the first woman elected to the state senate; Barbara Thompson, the first woman to hold the elective office of state 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

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

Whereas, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and 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.

Senator Fred A. Risser
President of the Senate

Representative Scott R. Jensen
Speaker of the Assembly

Date

Charles R. Sanders
Assembly Chief Clerk