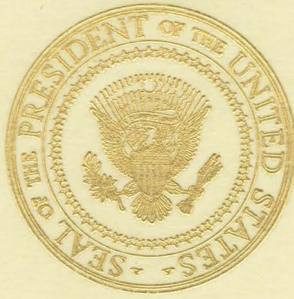


The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “Women's Equality Day” of the William J. Barody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Women's Equality Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On August 26th, 1920, American women finally gained the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was certified as part of our Constitution.

Today, fifty-four years later, the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life. Many obstacles on the road to equal opportunity have been removed as legislative and executive actions have helped to reduce sex discrimination in education, training and employment. Special efforts have been made in the Federal Government, so that women now contribute more fully than ever before to the formulation and execution of public policy.

But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go. In 1970, on the floor of the House, I said that the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution was an idea whose time had come. Today I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to that amendment. The time for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has come just as surely as did the time for the 19th Amendment.

As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women's Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation's life. We must also strengthen and support laws that prohibit discrimination based on sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all Americans to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day, with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I further urge Americans to consider the essential role of women in our society and their contribution to our economic, social and political well-being. As a Republic dedicated to liberty and justice for all, this Nation cannot deny equal status to women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



Women's Equality Day, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States adopted a proposed amendment to our Constitution providing equal rights for men and women. By August 26, 1972, twenty States had ratified the proposed constitutional amendment, only eighteen more were needed for the proposed amendment to become part of our Constitution.

August 26 is a significant date because it was on that day in 1920 that the Nineteenth Amendment, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex with regard to voting, was certified as part of our Constitution after ratification by the necessary three-fourths of the States. Recognizing that the proposed Equal Rights Amendment is the logical and rightful extension of the Nineteenth Amendment to rights other than voting, the President has, since 1972, annually set aside the 26th of August in recognition of the real and practical need to ensure that equal legal rights are enjoyed by women and men.

This year, 1975, has been designated as International Women's Year, dedicated to equality between men and women. It is also the two-hundredth year of our Nation—a Nation born, nurtured and dedicated to the proposition that all people are entitled to be equal before the law.

Several more States need to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished during our Nation's two-hundredth year. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, to remind all Americans that it is fitting and just to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment adopted by the Congress of the United States of America, in order to secure legal equality for all women and men, do hereby designate and proclaim August 26, 1975, as Women's Equality Day.

I call upon all the citizens of the United States to mark this day with appropriate activities, and I call upon those States who have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to give serious consideration to its ratification and the upholding of our Nation's heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two-hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford



Women's Equality Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During this Bicentennial Year we celebrate a dynamic history which began with that inspirational declaration that all individuals are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

To give substance and form to those self-evident truths, "We the People of the United States" created a constitutional republic to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

However, it was not until August 26, 1920, that the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution unambiguously secured for each of us, regardless of sex, that precious mark of liberty—the right to vote.

In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States proposed a new amendment for our consideration—an amendment, completing the process begun by the Nineteenth, which would secure "equality of rights under the law" regardless of sex, for men and women.

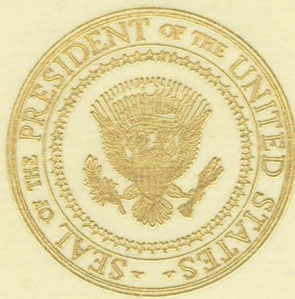
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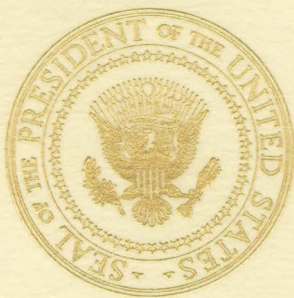
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Gerald R. Ford

WOMEN' EQUALITY DAY PROCLAMATION

MAILING LIST



Dr. Anne Campbell
President
American Association of
University Women
2401 Virginia Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037

✓ Mrs. Margaret Fitch
President
American Home Economics Assoc.
2010 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Ms. Rosamond Gabrielson
President
American Nurses Assoc.
1030 15th St., N. W., Suite 408
Washington, D. C. 20005

Honorable Jacqueline Gutwillig
Chairman
Citizens' Advisory Council on
the Status of Women
14th and Constitution, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20210

✓ Ms. Janice Mendenhall
President
Federally Employed Women
1249 National Press Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20004

✓ Dr. Jean Simmons
President
Federation of Organizations for
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1346 Connecticut Ave., N. W., Rm. 1122
Washington, D. C. 20036

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Clubs
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Ms. Mary Allen
✓ President
Intercollegiate Assoc. of
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Box 2
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Suite 922
Washington, D. C. 20008

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1155 East 16th St.
Chicago, Ill. 60637

Mrs. Eleanor Marvin
✓ President
National Council of Jewish Women
1 West 47th St.
New York, N. Y. 10017

Mrs. Marie Bowden

President

✓ National Federation of Business &
Professional Women's Clubs
2012 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Ms. Karen DeCrow

President

National Organization for Women
1107 National Press Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20004

Ms. Elizabeth Chittick

National Chairman

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144 Constitution Ave., N. E.
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Ms. Sissy Farenthold

President

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1302 18th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Ms. Arvonne Fraser

President

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National Press Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20004

Ms. Margaret Lawrence

Chairman

Women United
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway
Suite 805
Arlington, Va. 22202

Mrs. Elizabeth Genne

✓ President

YWCA
600 Lexington Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10022

✓ Ms. Eleanor Jammal

President

Zonta International
59 E. Van Buren St.
Chicago, Ill. 60605

Miss M. Ursulle Gallerani

President

✓ National Secretaries Assoc.
2440 Pershing Rd.
Suite G 10, Crown Center
Kansas City, Mo. 64108

Ms. Mary Gereau

Chairman

✓ National Equal Rights Amendment
Ratification Council
National Treasury Employees Union
1730 K St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Mrs. Maurice Kubby

President

American Legion Auxiliary
1301 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Mrs. Clarie Collins Harvey

President

Church Women United
National Council of Churches
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Mrs. Albert Stoutner

✓ Chairman
Country Women's Council, U. S. A.
397 N. Fulton
Keota, Iowa 52248

~~Miss Muriel Mawer
President~~

~~✓ Altrusa International
332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60604~~

Ms. Jean Rainey
President

✓ American Newspaper Women's Club Falls Church, Va. 22044
1607 22nd St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

Mrs. Ruth Klotz
President

Soroptimist Federation of the Americas Washington, D. C. 20024
1616 Walnut
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Mrs. Phyllis Manning
President
Pilot Club International
P. O. Box 4844
Macon, Ga. 31208

Mrs. Patricia Nealin
President

✓ American Women in Radio
and Television, Inc.
1321 Connecticut Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Mrs. Rosalie McGuire
President

National Assoc. of Negro BPW Clubs Glenview, Ill. 60025
3411 Lynchester Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21215

Ms. Juanita Brown
President

National Assoc. of Colored
Women's Clubs
5808 16th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20011

Judge Elizabeth Athanasakos
Chairperson

Secretary's Advisory Committee
on the Rights & Responsibilities
of Women
2633 N. Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33306

Ms. Virginia Allan
Former Chairman, President's
Task Force on Women's Rights
and Responsibilities
3504 Stoneybrae Dr.

Falls Church, Va. 22044

Ms. Eleanor Coakley
Information Officer
Women's Bureau
420 O St., S. W.

Ms. Mary Louise Smith
Co-Chairman
Republican National Committee
310 First St., S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Mrs. Connie Armitage
President
National Federation of Republican
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8731 East Jefferson Ave.
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Mrs. Esther Strickland
President
Delta Kappa Gamma
P. O. Box 1589
Austin, Tx. 78767

Mrs. Lynette Oliver
President
Quota International
1145 19th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20026

Ms. Margot Sherman
President
Women in Communications
8305 A. Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, Tx. 7875 8

Sister Carol Coston
Executive Director
Network Staff
224 D. St., S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dr. Ruth Bacon
Director
U. S. Center for IWY
Meridian House
1630 Crescent Pl., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

August 30, 1974



MEMORANDUM FOR: ROLAND ELLIOTT
FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE
SUBJECT: Women's Equality Day Proclamation

Please arrange to have the attached letter robo-typed to the individuals on the enclosed list. Only those names which are preceded by check marks need be done.

August 30, 1974



Dear

President Ford recently signed a Proclamation designating August 26th as Women's Equality Day, 1974. In his Proclamation the President states, "Today . . . the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life.. . . But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go . . . As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women's Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation's life."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplicate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

**William J. Baroody, Jr.
Special Consultant to the President**

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Aug. 30



Mr. Broody-

List provided by
Karen Kleshing of Mrs
Armstrong's staff.

Those who will receive
the Proclamations are desig-
nated by check marks.
We only have 20 copies
of this Proclamation left.

Margaret

WOMEN' EQUALITY DAY PROCLAMATION

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Washington, D. C. 20009

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1974



Dear Marguerite:

Attached is a list of organizations and individuals which you requested for the distribution of the Women's Equality Day Proclamation.

Thank you again for stopping by to discuss International Women's Year. It looks like we are beginning to move.

Keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Karen Keesling
Director
Office of Women's Programs

Ms. Marguerite McAuliffe
Room 187
Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Attachment

8/22/74

Marguerite:

August 26, 1974

Katie



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

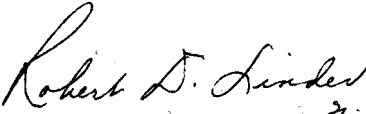
WASHINGTON

August 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Marguerite McAuliffe

The President has signed a Proclamation entitled:

'Women's Equality Day, 1974'


Robert D. Linder

8/23

Please send John Carlson 5 copies of
the Proclamation.

8/23

Spoke with Karen Klesling + she will
send a list for distribution on Monday.



Office of the White House Press Secretary

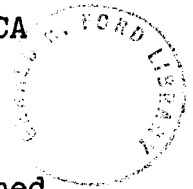
THE WHITE HOUSE

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 1974

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION



On August 26th, 1920, American women finally gained the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was certified as part of our Constitution.

Today, fifty-four years later, the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life. Many obstacles on the road to equal opportunity have been removed as legislative and executive actions have helped to reduce sex discrimination in education, training and employment. Special efforts have been made in the Federal Government, so that women now contribute more fully than ever before to the formulation and execution of public policy.

But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go. In 1970, on the floor of the House, I said that the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution was an idea whose time had come. Today I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to that amendment. The time for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has come just as surely as did the time for the 19th Amendment.

As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women's Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation's life. We must also strengthen and support laws that prohibit discrimination based on sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all Americans to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day, with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I further urge Americans to consider the essential role of women in our society and their contribution to our economic, social and political well-being. As a Republic dedicated to liberty and justice for all, this Nation cannot deny equal status to women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

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Women's Equality Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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Gerald R. Ford



Women's Equality Day, 1976

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A Proclamation

During this Bicentennial Year we celebrate a dynamic history which began with that inspirational declaration that all individuals are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

To give substance and form to those self-evident truths, "We the People of the United States" created a constitutional republic to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

However, it was not until August 26, 1920, that the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution unambiguously secured for each of us, regardless of sex, that precious mark of liberty—the right to vote.

In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States proposed a new amendment for our consideration—an amendment, completing the process begun by the Nineteenth, which would secure "equality of rights under the law" regardless of sex, for men and women.

Several more States need to ratify that Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished as we begin our third century. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, to remind all Americans that it is fitting and just to secure legal equality for all women and men, do hereby designate and proclaim August 26, 1976, as Women's Equality Day.

I call upon all the citizens of the United States to mark this day with appropriate activities, and I call upon those States who have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to give serious consideration to its ratification and the upholding of our Nation's heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

Gerald R. Ford