

About Women's History Month

In the United States, Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed legislation which authorized and requested the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1981 as "Women's History Week."

Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed legislation which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month."

- President Reagan then issued a proclamation designating March 1987 as "Women's History Month" and calling upon all Americans to mark the month with observances to honor the achievements of American women and their courageous action to benefit families, communities and the country.
- Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month.
- Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

Women's History Month honors and celebrates the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States. American women have struggled throughout our history to gain rights not simply for themselves but for many under represented and disenfranchised groups in America.

While this SCR acknowledges the historical significance of Women's History Month nationally and internationally, it specifically honors the proud legacy of the women of Idaho. Notably, Idaho was the 4th state to extend to women the right to vote.

Women constitute 52% of Idaho's population and play a critical role in every area of endeavor in our state. Women continue to contribute tirelessly to all that is Idaho though their contributions have been largely overlooked in the history books.

Women have proven their talents, skills, abilities and leadership serving their families, in elective office, on boards and commissions, as well as in the private and public sectors. The state of Idaho and her citizens are greatly served when women participate in the public arena and in leadership positions to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

This legislation serves not only to support and recognize the Women of Idaho but also to encourage all Idahoans to learn more about the roles Idaho women have played in the history of our state and nation. And further to encourage and support the on-going participation of women, from all walks of life.

To that end,

- The Idaho Historical Society has provided the hand out before you.
- And thanks to the Idaho Historical Society, Director Janet Gallimore and the Department of Administration we will there will be a Women's History Month Exhibit
- February 27 – April 3, 2016 (1 month)
- **Location:** Capitol building, 4th floor, Statuary Hall