

CHATHAM COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Res. #2009-26
2009 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration of women's history to the entire month of March;

Whereas, since then the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate;

Whereas, women in North Carolina of every race, class, ethnicity, ability, national origin, age, and religious background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our state in countless ways such as those listed in the attached timeline;

Whereas, women of every race, class, ethnicity, ability, national origin, age, and religious background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major social change movement;

Whereas, women have continued their leadership in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity and also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements that create a more fair and just society for all;

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

Whereas, women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of our county;

Whereas, women have and continue to serve in leadership roles in Chatham County including on boards, task forces, and other leadership groups in county and town governments and institutions; and

Whereas, the role of women in history has often been under-reported in the literature, teaching, and study of American history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners proclaims **March 2009** as **Women's History Month** in Chatham County and encourages its schools and citizens to participate in activities to celebrate the contributions of women to the county, the state, and the nation.

Adopted this 16th day of March, 2009.



George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:



Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S HISTORY TIMELINE

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- **1587:** Virginia Dare, born on Roanoke Island, became the first English child born in the New World.
- **1774:** Fifty-one "patriotic ladies" gathered in Edenton to announce in writing their boycott of East Indian tea as long as it is taxed by the British.
- **1809:** North Carolina native Dolley Madison became first lady.
- **1842:** Harriet Jacobs, an Edenton slave, was smuggled aboard a ship to escape.
- **1848:** Dorothea Dix lobbied to build a hospital for the mentally ill.
- **1862:** Mary Jane Patterson, a free black from Raleigh, became the first African-American woman to receive a bachelor's degree.
- **1872:** Dr. Susan Dimock became the first female member of the North Carolina Medical Society.
- **1878:** Tabitha Ann Holton became the first licensed female lawyer in the South.
- **1887:** Dr. Annie Lowrie Alexander became the state's first licensed female doctor.
- **1898** Sallie Walker Stockard became the first woman to graduate from the University of North Carolina.
- **1918:** Harriet Morehead Berry was appointed head of the Road Commission and the "Mother of Good Roads in North Carolina."
- **1902:** Charlotte Hawkins Brown, granddaughter of slaves and a native of Henderson, founded Palmer Memorial Institute.
- **1920:** Lillian Exum Clement of Buncombe County became the first woman elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives.
- **1921:** Kate Burr Johnson became the first woman in the country to serve as state commissioner of public welfare.
- **1928:** Annie Wealthy Holland of Gates County formed the North Carolina Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers.
- **1946:** Eliza Jane Pratt became the first woman to represent NC in Congress.
- **1947:** Elreta Alexander became the first African-American woman licensed as a lawyer in NC.
- **1949:** Susie Sharp became NC's first female superior court judge.
- **1962:** Judge Susie Sharp became the first woman to serve on the NC Supreme Court.
- **1968:** Margaret Taylor Harper entered the race for lieutenant governor of NC, becoming the first woman to run for statewide office.
- **1977:** Isabella Cannon was elected mayor of Raleigh, becoming the first female mayor of a major NC city.
- **1988:** Gertrude B. Elion and research partner George H. Hitchings won the Nobel Prize for medicine.
- **1992:** Eva M. Clayton became the first African-American woman to represent NC in Congress.
- **1993:** At ages 104 and 102, NC natives, Sadie and Bessie Delany, published their book, *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*.
- **1996:** Elaine F. Marshall was elected NC's first female secretary of state.
- **2000:** Beverly Perdue was elected NC's first female lieutenant governor.
- **2008:** Beverly Perdue was elected NC's first female governor.