



# Women's History Month



Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 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 Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."<sup>1</sup> The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. Within the month of March, there are two other days dedicated to celebrating women and their achievements; International Women's Day and Rosie the Riveter Day.

## International Women's Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>)

A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The theme for 2019 was #BalanceforBetter, stating "a balanced world is a better world" and asking the question, "how are you forging a more gender-balanced world?" International Women's Day (IWD) has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.<sup>2</sup>



International Women's Day  
#BalanceForBetter On March 8

## Rosie the Riveter Day (March 21<sup>st</sup>)

More than 70 years after the end of World War II, the war effort's working women finally have a national day of recognition. As of 2017, per a Senate resolution, March 21<sup>st</sup> has been proclaimed National Rosie the Riveter Day in a "collective national effort to raise awareness of the 16,000,000 women who worked during World War II." These aforementioned women, dubbed "Rosies" after the iconic Rosie the Riveter poster campaign used to recruit women into the wartime work force, filled gaps in the labor force left by men who had gone off to fight. These women did everything from producing planes and munitions, as well as other equipment that proved vital to the war effort, to serving on ration boards, volunteering for the American Red Cross and driving trucks.<sup>3</sup>

# We All Can Do It!



### Sources:

- <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/about/>
- <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
- [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/national-rosie-the-riveter-day-is-finally-a-reality\\_n\\_58d170bae4b0ec9d29dfeb7](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/national-rosie-the-riveter-day-is-finally-a-reality_n_58d170bae4b0ec9d29dfeb7)

### Photo Sources:

- Header photos - Bing.com
- IWD photo - <https://familyapp.com/international-womens-day/>
- Rosies - OPEIU512AFLCIO creation by Krystle Anderson - NPC Digital Media