

1776 ABIGAIL ADAMS Wife/Advisor. Warned her husband John Adams that the new constitution should curb “unlimited power [and that if] particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation.” In a subsequent letter to a male acquaintance, John Adams wrote that women and children (like men without property) were lacking in independent judgment and “their delicacy renders them unfit for practice and experience in the great business of life.”

1777 SYBIL LUDINGTON Patriot. Teenager who rode twice as far as did Paul Revere to rouse a local militia to fight the British.

1778 MARY LUDWIG HAYS McCAULEY Wife/Soldier. AKA Molly Pitcher, took up arms against the British when her husband was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth.

1829 JULIA C. ADDINGTON Elected Official. First woman elected to public office: superintendent of schools in Mitchell County, Iowa.

1848 LUCRETIA MOTT & OTHERS Feminists/Activists. Organized the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, demanding equal rights for women, and launching the suffrage movement.

1850 HARRIET TUBMAN Abolitionist/Activist. Former slave who escaped and returned to the south rescue more than 70 enslaved people via the Underground Railroad.

1851 SOJOURNER TRUTH Abolitionist/Activist. Delivered the speech *Ain’t I a Woman?* at the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, which focused on African-American women’s rights.

1866 ELIZABETH CADY STANTON Suffragist/Activist/Abolitionist. First woman to run for the U.S. House of Representatives, even though she was not eligible to vote.

1869 ARABELLA MANSFIELD Lawyer. First woman lawyer in the U.S.; practiced in Iowa.

1872 VICTORIA WOODHULL Suffragist/Author. First woman to run for the U.S. presidency against Ulysses S. Grant and Horace Greeley.

1872 SUSAN B. ANTHONY Activist/Abolitionist. Voted in protest in the presidential election; arrested two weeks later for “unlawful voting,” and fined \$100.

1883 FRANCES ELEN WATKINS HARRER Abolitionist/Suffragist/Writer. Superintendent of the Colored Section of the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Christian Temperance Union.

1884 BELVA ANN BENNETT LOCKWOOD Attorney/Politician/Author. Ran for the U.S. presidency against Grover Cleveland and James G. Blaine.

1889 SUSAN LAFLESCHÉ Doctor/Activist. First Native American woman in the U.S. to receive a medical degree; led a delegation to Washington, D.C. to lobby for prohibition of the opium trade.

1892 ANNA JULIA COOPER Activist/Author/Educator/Scholar. Co-founded the Colored Women’s League of Washington, D.C.; author of *A Voice from the South*.

1893 IDA B. WELLS Abolitionist/Feminist/Journalist. Born into slavery; authored an account of lynching in the U.S. entitled *A Red Record*, and also *The Reason Why the Colored American is Not in the World’s Columbian Exposition*.

1896 MARY ELIZA CHURCH TERRELL Activist/Writer/Feminist. Co-founded the National Association of Colored Women and served as president from 1896 to 1899.

1915 EDITH WILSON First Lady/Advisor. Instrumental in deciding which issues (e.g. the League of Nations) would be addressed by President Woodrow Wilson who had suffered a stroke.

1915 MARY B. TALBERT Orator/Activist/Suffragist. Delivered the speech *Women and Colored Women*, which focused on inequalities in both gender and race.

1916 MARGARET SANGER Activist/Educator/Nurse. Founded a family planning clinic in Brooklyn and successfully sued to allow doctors to advise their married patients about birth control.

1916 ALICE PAUL & LUCY BURNS Suffragists/Activists. Founded the National Women’s Party, which picketed the White House for women’s rights in 1917.

1922 REBECCA FELTON Writer/Politician. First woman appointed to the U.S. Senate, at 87 - served for only two days.

1924 NELLIE TAYLOR ROSS Politician. First woman governor in the US; appointed as the director of the U.S. Mint by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

1925 EDITH NOURSE ROGERS Politician. Represented Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1925 to 1961; helped draft the G.I. Bill of Rights.

1926 ZITKÁLA-ŠÁ Activist/Educator/Writer. Co-founder of the National Council of American Indians, which lobbied for Native people’s rights to citizenship.

1932 HATTIE WYATT CARAWAY Politician. First woman elected to the U.S. Senate; first woman to chair a Senate committee, preside over the Senate, and run a Senate hearing.

1933 ELEANOR ROOSEVELT First Lady/Diplomat/Activist. Promoted the work of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s administration; appointed as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly by Harry S. Truman; served as the first chairperson of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

1933 FRANCES PERKINS Sociologist/Workers Rights Advocate. First female member of a presidential cabinet; appointed secretary of labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1935 MARY McCLEOD BETHUNE Educator/Activist/Philanthropist. Founded the National Council of Negro Women and served as its vice president; advised President Roosevelt on minority affairs and interracial relations

1944 MARTHA GELLHORN Journalist/Author. The only woman to land at Normandy on D-Day; reported from the Dachau concentration camp after it was liberated in 1945.

1950 MARGARET CHASE SMITH Politician. Confronted Joseph McCarthy on the senate floor, saying “The American people are sick and tired of being afraid to speak their minds lest they be politically smeared as ‘communists’ or ‘fascists.’ Freedom of speech is not what it used to be in America. It has been so abused by some that it is not exercised by others.”

1951 HANNAH ARENDT Philosopher/Political Theorist. Published *The Origins of Totalitarianism*; considered one of the most important political philosophers of the 20th century.

1953 MONICA SONE Writer. Japanese-American author of *Nisei Daughter*, which described the experience of Japanese Americans in World War II internment camps.

1955 MARTHA W. GRIFFITHS Lawyer/Judge/Politician. Congresswoman who successfully fought to have women’s rights included in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1955 ROSA PARKS Activist. Refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, which sparked nationwide efforts to end racial segregation.

1961 ANNA PAULINE MURRAY Activist/Lawyer. Served on the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women; co-founder of the National Organization for Women.

1962 DOLORES HUERTA Labor Leader/Activist. Co-founded the National Farm Workers Association; first Latina inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

1962 RACHEL CARSON Biologist/Author/Environmentalist. Published *Silent Spring*, an indictment of synthetic pesticides, which was subsequently confirmed in an investigation authorized by President John F. Kennedy.

1963 KATHARINE GRAHAM Publisher. Became publisher of The Washington Post after her husband’s death; presided during the Watergate scandal and the resignation of Richard Nixon.

1964 FANNIE LOU HAMER Activist/Organizer. Co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and opposed the all-white delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, bringing national attention to the civil-rights movement.

1965 PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK Politician/Lawyer. First Asian-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; co-sponsored amendments barring gender discrimination in academics and athletics at schools.

1966 BETTY FRIEDAN Author/Activist. Co-founded and served as the first president of the National Organization for Women; spearheaded the 1967 Women’s Strike for Equality.

1969 SHIRLEY CHISHOLM Politician/Educator/Author. First African-American woman elected to Congress and to run for the U.S. presidency served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 14 years.

1969 MARSHA P. JOHNSON Activist/Drug Queen. Co-leader of the Stonewall Uprising; protesting for LGBT rights in New York City.

1969 GLORIA STEINEM Feminist/Journalist/Activist. Published the article *After Black Power, Women’s Liberation* which contributed to the feminist movement.

1971 ANGELA DAVIS Politician/Activist/Academic/Author. Charged with capital crimes in 1970, she became a political prisoner and sparked a national protest; acquitted of all charges in 1972; awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in 1979.

1973 NORMA McCORVEY Plaintiff. AKA ‘Jane Roe’ brought a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled abortion bans were illegal.

1973 PAT SCHROEDER Politician. Second-youngest woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; when asked by a male colleague how she balanced motherhood and career, she famously replied, “I have a brain and a uterus. I use both.”

1974 LINDY BOGGS Politician. Congresswoman who fought to have the Equal Credit Opportunity Act ensure that women would have the same access to loans and credit as men.

1974 BELLA ABZUG Politician/Lawyer. Co-introduced the first federal gay rights bill, the Equality Act of 1974; co-founded the National Women’s Political Caucus.

1976 ELLEN McCORMACK Candidate for U.S. Presidency. First woman to qualify as a national candidate, running twice.

1976 BARBARA MIKULSKI Politician/Social Worker. Longest serving woman in congress, in both the House and the Senate first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee.

1977 PATRICIA ROBERTS HARRIS Lawyer/Ambassador/Activist/Educator. First African-American woman to hold a presidential cabinet position when appointed as secretary of housing and urban development.

1977 MARIE ELENA BRADY SANCHEZ/OTSEHTSE’E Chief Tribal Judge, Cheyenne Reservation. Attended the United Nations Convention on Indigenous Rights to argue that Native American women were targets of modern genocide—forced sterilization.

1977 BARBARA WALTERS Journalist. First woman to anchor a national evening news program; interviewed prominent world leaders and newsmakers such as Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, Fidel Castro, Vladimir Putin, and Monica Lewinsky.

1980 AUDRE LORDE & BARBARA SMITH Writers/Feminists/Activists. *Founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press*, supporting African-American feminist writers with resources, guidance and encouragement.

1981 SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR Supreme Court Justice. First woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

1981 bell hooks Author/Professor/Feminist/Activist. Published *Ain’t I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, first in a long line of books examining race, gender and class.

1983 WILMA MANKILLER Activist/Social Worker/Tribal Chief. Appointed deputy principal chief of the Cherokee Nation; first female principal chief (1985); received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1998).

1984 GERALDINE FERRARO Attorney/Politician. First woman vice-presidential nominee, running with Walter F. Mondale; U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

1987 MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS Activist/Journalist. Appointed commissioner to the Board of Public Works by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; delivered the invocation at the second inauguration of Barack Obama in 2013.

1988 LENORA FULANI Activist/Psychologist. Candidate, U.S. presidency as a nominee of the New Alliance Party.

1989 ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN Politician/Lobbyist. First Cuban American/Hispanic woman elected to Congress; first Republican in the the House of Representatives to support same-sex marriage (2012).

1991 ANN RICHARDS Politician. Elected governor of Texas; appointed more women and minorities to official positions (including the first women and African-Americans in the Texas Rangers) than any predecessor.

1991 ANITA HILL Lawyer/Academic. Accused U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. Four female witnesses waiting to support her testimony were not called and Thomas was then confirmed.

1992 DIANNE FEINSTEIN Politician. Elected to the U.S. Senate, served from 1992 to present; helped create AMBER alerts and an assault weapons ban; first woman to chair the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

1992 COKIE ROBERTS Journalist/Author/Analyst. Became a senior news analyst and commentator for NPR; co-anchor of the ABC News’s *This Week with Sam Donaldson & Cokie Roberts*.

1993 JOYCELYN ELDERS Pediatrician/Public Health Administrator. First African-American woman appointed U.S. Surgeon General by President Bill Clinton, who later asked for her resignation because of her progressive views.

1993 BARBARA BOXER Politician. Elected as California’s junior U.S. senator, serving until 2017; wrote the *2004 Freedom of Choice Act*, which prohibited the government from interfering with a woman’s right to abortion.

1993 CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN Diplomat/Lawyer/Politician. First African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate, representing Illinois; worked to advance women’s rights, civil rights, gun control and the preservation of historic Underground Railroad sites.

1993 JANET RENO Lawyer. First woman attorney general of the United States, appointed by President Bill Clinton.

1994 DOROTHY HEIGHT Activist. Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; served as president of the National Council of Negro Women for 20 years; advisors Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

1996 RUTH BADER GINSBURG Lawyer/Supreme Court Justice. Wrote the landmark decision in *United States v. Virginia*, which held that the state-supported Virginia Military Institute could not refuse to admit women.

1996 AMY GOODMAN Broadcast Journalist/Investigative Reporter/Author. Became host of *Democracy Now!*, a news program combining news reporting, interviews, investigative journalism and political commentary.

1997 MADELEINE ALBRIGHT Politician/Diplomat. First female U.S. secretary of state, appointed by President Bill Clinton.

1999 TAMMY BALDWIN Politician. First openly gay woman elected to the U.S. Congress, representing Wisconsin; has served as a senator since 2013.

2000 WINONA LA DUKE Environmentalist/Economist/Activist. First Native-American woman to run for vice president of the U.S., with Ralph Nader, for the Green Party.

2001 ELAINE CHAO Executive/Public Servant. Appointed Secretary of Labor by President George W. Bush; appointed Secretary of Transportation in 2017.

2002 CYNTHIA COOPER, COLEEN ROWLEY, SHERRON WATKINS Accountant/FBI Special Agent/Executive (respectively)/Whistleblowers. Cooper alerted the audit committee at WorldCom to one of largest accounting frauds in history; Watkins warned the Enron CEO of an accounting hoax; Rowley detailed the FBI’s failure to respond to warnings about the September 11 attacks.

2005 CONDOLEEZZA RICE Political Scientist/Diplomat/Professor. First African-American secretary of state appointed by President George Bush; persuaded the White House to support nuclear negotiations with Iran and North Korea.

2006 TARANA BURKE Activist. Founded the *Me Too* movement by using the phrase on social media to raise awareness about sexual abuse and assault in society, sparking a national conversation.

2007 NANCY PELOSI Politician/Speaker of the House. Became House minority leader, first woman in U.S. history to hold the position of speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 to 2011 and from 2019 to present.

2007 GABBY GIFFORDS Politician/Gun Control Advocate. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; resigned in 2012 after an attempted assassination left her with a severe brain injury; lobbies for gun control.

2008 MICHELLE OBAMA Lawyer/University Administrator/Former First Lady. First African-American First Lady; led the first modernization of nutrition labels in over 20 years; promoted healthy eating, arts, girls’ education and numerous college initiatives.

2008 SARAH PALIN Politician/Commentator/Author. First woman to run for vice president on the Republican ticket with John McCain.

2008 RACHEL MADDOW News Program Host/Political Commentator. *The Rachel Maddow Show* premiered; first openly lesbian anchor to host a major prime-time news program in the U.S.

2009 SONIA SOTOMAYOR Lawyer/Supreme Court Justice. First Hispanic American and the third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, appointed by President Barack Obama.

2009 HILLARY CLINTON Politician/Diplomat/Lawyer/Former First Lady. Appointed U.S. secretary of state by President Barack Obama, the third woman in history to hold this position; first woman to secure a presidential nomination for the Democratic Party.

2010 ELENA KAGAN Supreme Court Justice. Appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Barack Obama.

2012 MICHELE BACHMANN Politician. Candidate for the U. S. presidency.

2014 DIANE JOYCE HUMETEWA District Judge. First Native-American woman and tribal member to serve as a federal judge; served as counsel to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and as an appellate court judge for the Hopi Tribe.

2015 MIA LOVE Politician. First African-American female Republican elected to Congress; elected mayor of Saratoga Springs Utah, in 2010.

2016 TAMMY DUCKWORTH Politician/Former Army Lieutenant Colonel. First woman elected to the U.S. Senate to have served in combat.

2017 TERESA SHOOK Lawyer/Activist. Founded the Women’s March held the day after the inauguration of President Donald Trump to protest his statements about women and to advocate for women’s rights; one of the largest single-day protests in U.S. history.

2017 BETH FUKUMOTO Politician. Left the Republican Party after she was ousted from her leadership position in the GOP for taking part in Hawaii’s anti-Trump Women’s March.

2017 ELIZABETH WARREN Politician/Academic. U.S. senator from Massachusetts. On February 9, the U.S. Senate invoked rule 19, barring Senator Warren’s objections to confirm Jeff Sessions as U.S. attorney general. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said “She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted.” The expression went viral with the hashtag reference, and the meaning has expanded to refer broadly to women’s persistence in breaking barriers, despite being silenced, persecuted, or ignored; she announced her candidacy for the U.S. presidency in 2019.

2018 STACEY ABRAMS Politician/Lawyer/Author. First African-American female major-party gubernatorial nominee in the U.S.

2018 ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ Politician. Elected as the U.S. Representative for New York’s 14th district, youngest woman to serve in Congress; advocate for the “Green New Deal.”

2018 CASSANDRA LEVESQUE Politician. Elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives; born in 1999, she is the youngest member to serve in the legislature.

2018 SHARICE DAVIDS & DEB HAALAND Politicians. First Native-American women elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

2018 ILHAN ABDULLAHI OMAR Politician. First Somali American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; one of the first two Muslim women to serve in Congress.

2018 RASHIDA TLAIB Politician/Lawyer. One of the first two Muslim women elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

2019 KAMALA HARRIS Lawyer/Politician. Ran as a candidate for the U.S. Presidency and withdrew in December 2019; elected as California attorney general in 2004; elected to the U.S. Senate in 2017.

2019 MARIANNE WILLIAMSON Politician/Author/Activist. Announced her candidacy for president of the United States and withdrew in January 2020.

2019 AMY KLOBUCHAR Lawyer/Politician. Ran as a candidate for President of the United States and withdrew in January 2020; elected to the Senate in 2006.

2019 MARIE YOVANOVITCH Diplomat/Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. Testified November 15 at the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump who had her removed her from her ambassador post without notice or cause.

2019 FIONA HILL American Foreign Affairs Specialist/Former National Security Council Official. Testified November 15 at the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump; senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, Washington.

2020 TULSI GABBARD Politician. Ran as a candidate for president of the United States; elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013.

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