



United States  
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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1995

## Senate

### RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF THE "PORTRAIT MONUMENT"

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I want to call attention to the Senate that on August 26, Americans will celebrate the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote was ratified in the State legislatures of the country after having been sent to the States by the Congress of the United States.

Alaska was in the forefront of the suffrage movement. Few people know that during the mining days that preceded this century, in the last part of the last century and the early part of this century, women voted in the mining camps in the organization of local governments in our territory.

As a matter of fact, the first act of the first territorial legislature in Alaska was to grant women the right to vote. That 1913 resolution said that:

In all elections that are now or may hereafter be authorized by law in the Territory of Alaska or any subdivision or municipality thereof, the elective franchise is hereby extended to such women as have the qualifications of citizens required of male electors.

It just so happens that E.B. Collins, who was my first senior partner when I went to Alaska and practiced in Fairbanks, was the speaker of the first house of representatives in that territorial legislature. He said to me that he felt like giving women the right to vote was one of his greatest victories in the days of the Territory of Alaska. I am sure he would be pleased to know today, that his position as speaker of the State of Alaska is held by an Alaskan woman, Gail Phillips of Homer, AK, and the president of our Alaska State Senate is Drue

Pearce, another successful Alaska woman.

Unfortunately, history has not fully recognized the role that these courageous suffragists have played in our history. While a statue was commissioned to honor those women involved in the process, it has been relegated to the basement of the Capitol and faces a back wall. At one time, the inscription was actually painted over with whitewash.

In our Rotunda, most of the statues honor Presidents, and as we know, all to date have been men. Someday I hope the Rotunda will be graced with a statue of the first female President. Until then, it is my hope to honor the role women have played by moving the women's suffrage statue up to the place of honor it should have in the Rotunda. So today I am sending to the desk a resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to move the women's statue from the basement into the Rotunda before August 26.

Mr. President, this concurrent resolution is co-sponsored by Senators Dole, Ford, Hatfield, Pell, Helms, Moynihan, Kassebaum, Hutchison, and Mikulski.

I ask unanimous consent that it be held at the desk until the close of business Monday so all Senators who may wish to do so may cosponsor it, and then having cleared this with the minority and majority, I ask that it be held on the calendar until such time as the leadership will bring it to a vote, which I hope will be very soon.

Mr. President, I thank this young lady, Sherry Little, who works on the Rules Committee staff, who brought this statue to my attention.

*Rededication Ceremony of the  
Portrait Monument to  
Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton,  
and Susan B. Anthony*



*United States Capitol Rotunda  
Thursday, the Twenty-Sixth of June  
Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Seven*

## *The Portrait Monument*

The Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony, the founders and organizers of the National Woman Suffrage Movement, was sculpted by well-known artist Adelaide Johnson (1859-1955) in 1920 through a commission from the National Woman's Party. It was presented as a gift to Congress from the women of the United States in honor of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Congress accepted the monument in 1921 in a majestic public dedication ceremony but, soon thereafter, relegated the monument to the Capitol Crypt after removing its gold-leaf inscription. Attempts to move the statue to a place of honor were made in 1928, 1932, 1950, and 1995, but failed. Finally, through the efforts of the 104th Congress and the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign, representing over 95 organizations and individuals throughout the nation, legislation was passed authorizing the return of the monument to its rightful place in the Capitol Rotunda. The leadership of these three great Americans led to the enfranchisement of the majority of our nation's citizens.

Adelaide Johnson sought not only to create an accurate portrayal of the three suffrage leaders but also to convey the suffragists' understanding that winning the right to vote was only the first step toward women's equality. As well documented in the archival records of the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress, Johnson left the base of the monument unfinished to represent the work yet to be done to achieve justice and equality for all. The unfinished area behind the three founders of the National Woman Suffrage Movement represents all those who would follow to continue the work.



*Lucretia Mott (1793-1880)*

Born in Nantucket, MA, Mott taught school during her early years and became a Quaker Minister in 1821. A prominent abolitionist leader, she founded the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society. With Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she called the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. She was active in the underground railroad from 1850 and a founder of the American Equal Rights Association. Mott also established the Free Religious Association in 1867 and was instrumental in the founding of Swarthmore College. Stanton and Susan B. Anthony considered her their mentor and dear friend. A gentle soul and mother who was acclaimed for her homemaking and hosting skills, Mott often said, "The light is as available today as it was yesterday as it has been everywhere, for all eternity. What is thee doing about it?"

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)*

A committed abolitionist, Stanton incorporated attending London's 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention into her honeymoon. There she met Lucretia Mott for the first time. Both were dismayed when denied entrance into the convention because of their gender. Barred from participating, they were only allowed to listen to the proceedings from a balcony behind drawn curtains. As they walked about London, they discussed the fact that women had little more rights than the slaves they were fighting to free. They vowed to organize an effort to also gain rights for women which culminated in the first Woman's Rights Convention in 1848. Stanton authored the Declaration of Sentiments which was patterned on the Declaration of Independence and detailed the inferior status of women. By calling for extensive reforms, Stanton effectively launched the Woman's Rights Movement. Stanton and Susan B. Anthony made a powerful team; Stanton was a brilliant writer and persuasive orator while Anthony was the main organizer and strategist. The mother of seven children and responsible for managing a large household, Stanton authored countless letters, essays, periodicals and speeches regarding women's rights. Anthony, who visited often, once remarked, "I'll stir the pudding and mind the children, if you will write my speech."

*Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)*

Reared in the Quaker faith, Anthony began her public work in the Temperance and Abolitionist Movements. She founded the Woman's New York State Temperance Society, served as chief New York agent of William Lloyd Garrison's American Anti-Slavery Society, and was secretary of the American Equal Rights Association. Testing the legality of the suffrage provision of the Fourteenth Amendment, Anthony and sixteen other women cast votes in the 1872 presidential election in Rochester, New York. Arrested, convicted, and fined, she refused to pay, responding, "Yes, your honor, I have many things to say, for in your ordered verdict of guilt, you have trampled under foot every vital principle of our government. My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights are all alike ignored. Robbed of the fundamental privilege of citizenship, I am degraded from the status of citizen to that of a subject, and not only myself individually but all of my sex are, by your Honor's verdict, doomed to political subjection . . ."

## *Program*

### **Musical Prelude**

West Potomac High School Singers  
Earnest Johnson, *Conductor*

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Lynn Sherr, *Master of Ceremonies*

### ***America the Beautiful***

### **Reenactment of 1921 Ceremony Processional**

Arlys Angelique Endres, Dana Seay, Anna-Katherine Staser

### **Invocation**

Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, *Senate Chaplain*

### **Remarks**

Representative Carolyn Maloney  
Representative Louise Slaughter  
Other Members of Congress

### **Frederick Douglass Monologue**

Fred Morsell

### **Friends of the Statue Introductions**

Duane Burtham, Ania Estell, Dorothy Ferrell,  
Shelley Hereryk, Barbara Irvine, Coline Jenkins-Sahlin,  
Nina May, Edith P. Mayo, Ann E. W. Stone, Joan B. Wages

### **Remarks**

Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich

### **Unveiling and Presentation of Portrait Monument**

#### **Remarks by Congressional Hosts**

Representative Constance Morella  
Senator John Warner

#### **Declaration of Sentiments**

Elizabeth Perry

#### **Presentation of Portrait Monument to Congress**

Karen K. Staser  
*President*  
National Museum of Women's History  
Co-Chairs, Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign

Joan Anderson Meacham  
*Vice President*

#### ***God Bless America***

Nancy Schultz

#### **Benediction**

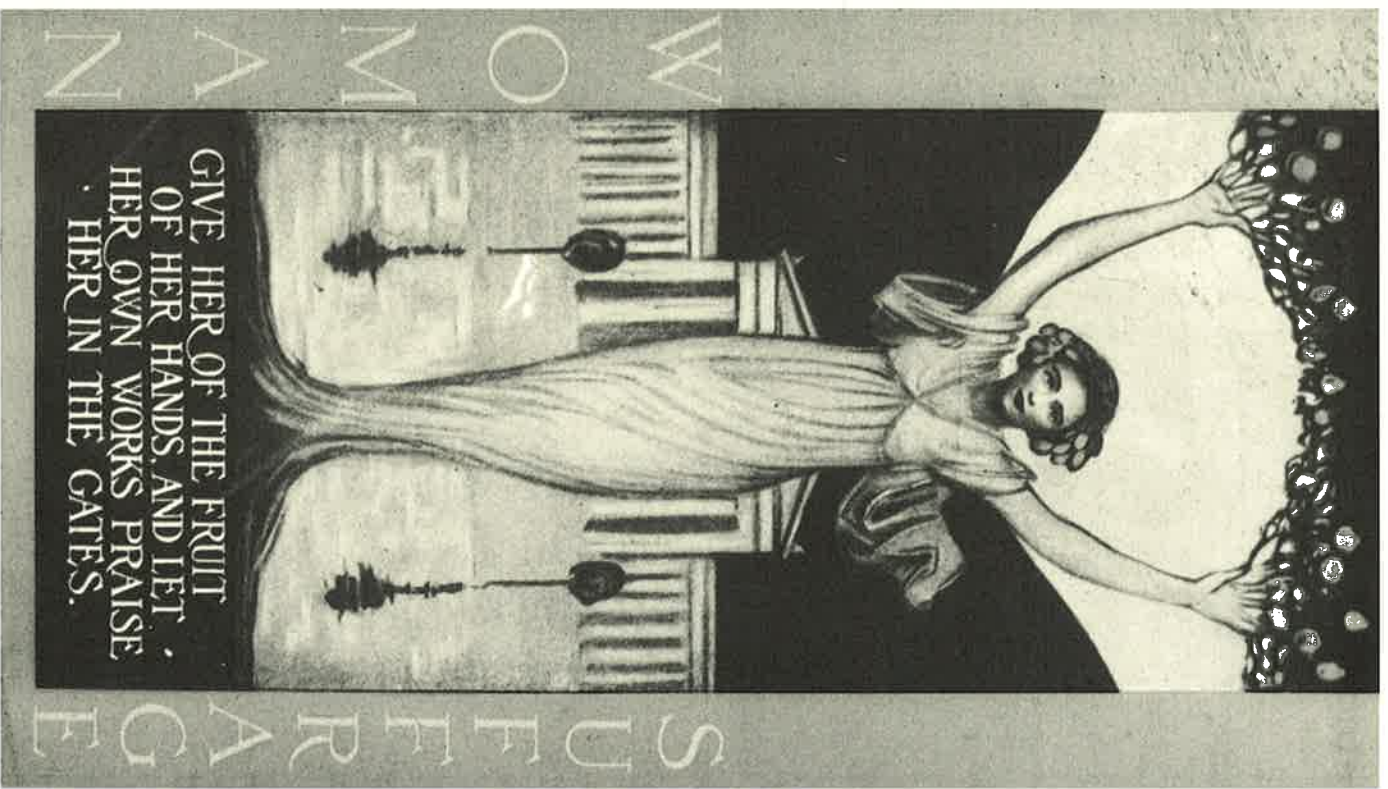
Pastors Katherine Hayes and Derozette Banks

## *Other Suffragist Leaders*

The Portrait Monument to the founders of the Woman Suffrage Movement was meant to be symbolic of a mass movement of women who organized politically to gain the right to vote.

One such remarkable woman was Sojourner Truth. Born into slavery in Ulster County, New York, Sojourner Truth obtained her freedom in 1827. At the age of thirty, having survived abuse as a child and later cruelly separated from her children and family, she became a charismatic and significant preacher, abolitionist, and suffragist. She fought against discrimination in public transportation and developed and lobbied for a plan to settle freedmen in the West at government expense. Sojourner Truth made her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the 1851 Woman's Rights Convention. "Nobody helps me into carriages or over puddles, or gives me the best place—and ain't I a woman? I have plowed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me—and ain't I a woman? . . . I have born thirteen children and seen most of 'em sold into slavery and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me—and ain't I a woman?"

Many other leaders, both black and white, such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Frederick Douglass, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Julia Ward Howe, Alice Stokes Paul, Parker Pillsbury, Lucy Stone, Mary Church Terrell, and Ida B. Wells contributed substantially to the suffrage cause. Each of them deserves an honored place in history.



## *The Woman Suffrage Movement*

“We were but a handful . . .” recalled Elizabeth Cady Stanton reminiscing about the supporters of woman suffrage at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, when the right to vote was women’s most radical demand. Between the first convention advocating the rights of women, and the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteeing women’s right to vote in 1920, lay a long and arduous journey. Victory was never assured until the final moment. . .”

(Excerpt from introduction written by Edith P. Mayo in *Jailed for Freedom*, New Sage Press, 1995.)

In 1923, Carrie Chapman Catt and Nettie Rogers Shuler wrote in *Woman Suffrage and Politics*, “Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could. It was a continuous, seemingly endless, chain of activity. Young suffragists who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who forged the first links were dead when it ended. It is doubtful if any man, even among suffrage men, ever realized what the suffrage struggle came to mean to women before the end was allowed in America.”

Women’s rich political legacy, largely glossed over in standard history texts, constitutes a dynamic chapter in the American past, and the largest single extension of democratic freedoms in our nation’s history. To this day, the Woman Suffrage Movement, formally launched in 1848, remains the “largest bloodless revolution in the world.” Women were not given the right to vote—it was a protracted, 72-year struggle that included dramatic political parades, public pageantry, peaceful demonstrations, and the pioneering use of non-violent confrontation as a political tactic. The struggle for women’s right to vote included the political jailing and force feeding of the suffragists, and even produced a martyr, Inez Milholland Boissevain.



*The rededication of the Portrait Monument was made possible  
by the vision of the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign  
and the thousands of Americans who gave their time,  
effort and financial resources to this worthy cause.*