

Ronald Reagan's Proclamation of Women's History Month, 1987

by ReadWorks



women's suffrage parade in New York City, May 1912

The first proclamation of Women's History Month was signed by Ronald Reagan in 1987. The following is the text of that proclamation.

From earliest times, women have helped shape our Nation. Historians today stress all that women have meant to our national life, but the rest of us too should remember, with pride and gratitude, the achievements of women throughout American history.

Those achievements span the wide range of human endeavor. They have not been attained without the quiet courage and sacrifice of millions of women, some famed, most not. Women have established themselves in business and the professions, and today women outnumber men as undergraduates at our colleges and universities. Women have fought for moral and social reform and have taken part in and led many great social and political movements of our land. Women have founded many of our philanthropic, cultural, educational, and charitable institutions. Women have served our Nation with valor and distinction during wartime, nursing the wounded, piloting airplanes, performing vital jobs in defense plants. Women have forged a place for themselves in public life, serving on the Supreme Court, in the Congress, and in Cabinet posts; becoming Ambassadors; and holding Federal Executive posts that affect the lives of every citizen.

Most importantly, as women take part in the world of work, they also continue to embrace and nurture the family as they have always done. All Americans can be truly grateful for the role of women as the

heart of the family and for their every accomplishment today and throughout our history.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 20, has designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 1987 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to mark this month with appropriate observances to honor the achievements of American women.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following occupations held by women does Ronald Reagan *not* mention in his proclamation?

- A. institution founders
- B. hospital surgeons
- C. ambassadors
- D. wartime pilots

2. Which paragraph recognizes the role of women within families?

- A. paragraph 2
- B. paragraph 4
- C. paragraph 1
- D. paragraph 3

3. Read this sentence from the passage:

"Those achievements span the wide range of human endeavor."

Which statement is closest to the meaning of this sentence from the passage?

- A. Women's accomplishments extend far back into history.
- B. The accomplishments of women extend over many areas.
- C. Women have made very deep impacts in all they do.
- D. Women's accomplishments will affect humans far into the future.

4. Read the sentence:

"Women have forged a place for themselves in public life, serving on the Supreme Court, in the Congress, and in Cabinet posts; becoming Ambassadors; and holding Federal Executive posts that affect the lives of every citizen."

What definition of the word "**post**" reflects the meaning of the word as used in this sentence?

- A. post (*noun*): an assigned position, usually an appointed public office
- B. post (*noun*): a support in the framework of a structure
- C. post (*verb*): to put forward or present for consideration by the public
- D. post (*noun*): the physical place of employment

5. What is Ronald Reagan's proclamation mostly about?

- A. the establishment of Women's History Month to honor the achievements of American women
- B. Senate Joint Resolution 20 designating that the month of March would be Women's History Month
- C. the role of women as the heart of the family and thus most American communities
- D. the struggle of women to establish themselves in business and other professions

6. How should Women's History Month be celebrated, according to Ronald Reagan?**7. Read the sentence:**

"They have not been attained without the quiet courage and sacrifice of millions of women, some famed, most not."

What does Ronald Reagan mean when he states "some famed, most not"?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Women have held many posts in the federal government, _____ at the Supreme Court, in Congress, and in the Cabinet.

- A. including
- B. above all
- C. except for
- D. obviously

9. **Vocabulary Word:** embrace (*verb*): to accept, include, or hold close.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

Answers will vary.