

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Observed each March, Women's History Month recognizes the significant influences and contributions of women throughout history. This month provides an opportunity to acknowledge the various roles women have played in politics, technology, science, the arts, activism, and parenthood. It is encouraged that we reflect on the progress made toward gender equality and continue the necessary work for a more inclusive future. Celebrating Women's History helps make sure that the achievements and experiences of women are remembered, this month and always.



Explore the timeline by clicking on a link to discover impactful laws, events, and executive orders that are known to have shaped women's rights in the United States from the 1800s to present day:

- [1839: The Married Women's Property Act](#)
- [1848: The Seneca Falls Convention](#)
- [1869: Wyoming became the 1st state with women's voting rights](#)
- [1920: The 19th Amendment](#)
- [1924: The Indian Citizenship Act](#)
- [1942: Women Joined the Workforce during World War II](#)
- [1963: The Equal Pay Act](#)
- [1964: The Civil Rights Act](#)
- [1965: The Voting Rights Act](#)
- [1972: The Education Amendments are added to Title IX policy.](#)
- [1974: The Equal Credit Opportunity Act](#)
- [1978: The Pregnancy Discrimination Act](#)
- [1991: The Civil Rights Act of 1991](#)
- [1993: The Family & Medical Leave Act](#)
- [1994: The Violent Crimes Against Women Act](#)
- [2013: Military Combat Exclusion Policy is lifted](#)

NEW JERSEY'S VERY OWN

A New Jersey Native known for her impact in the women's suffrage movement, Alice Paul used her voice to advocate for the woman's right to vote. Born in 1885 in Mount Laurel, Alice was said to have been raised by Quaker parents who highly advocated for equality in education and societal pressures on gender roles. After earning two degrees in the arts and biology, Anna left for England to study social work which is where she learned about public strikes and other public protest methods. Paul and other women later formed the *National Women's party* in 1918 and focused on the *Equal Rights amendment* in hopes of guaranteeing women the constitutional protection from discrimination.



Image Source

1957

The New Jersey National Guard ceased to be an all-male organization due to the 114th Mobile Surgical Hospital

2019

NJ Assembly recognized the first black woman Army warrant officer aviator in New Jersey

2020

The first Hispanic woman made history by holding the rank of CW5 in the New Jersey National Guard

Women's History Month pays homage to the trailblazers before us, builds hope and inspiration in us, and offers an example of pride and excellence for younger generations."

— Kron Moore, in Forbes

THE ONE STAR BRIGADIER GENERAL

On Veterans Day of 2024, Harriet Tubman was posthumously honored with the rank of Brigadier General by the Maryland National Guard. Harriet was known to have previously served as a spy, scout, nurse, and cook during the Civil War. Unfortunately, she never received official military recognition during her lifetime for her contributions to the freedom fight. Despite this, she was sometimes referred to as "General Tubman" by other abolitionists even before her significant war contributions. The ceremony

HARRIET TUBMAN DAY

[Click here to learn more about the recent Biopic, 'Harriet'](#)

She was born Araminta Ross in 1822, but later adopted her mother's name, Harriet Tubman was raised in Maryland during the time of slavery. Escaping in 1849, Harriet made her way to Philadelphia. She is best remembered for her role in the Underground Railroad, helping enslaved individuals escape to freedom in the North of the

was held at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Maryland, with many distinguished guests and Tubman's descendants in attendance. This honor acknowledges Tubman's fearlessness, guidance, and long-lasting impact on both the abolitionist movement and America's Journey away from slavery.

To explore more about the underground Railroad and its mapped locations, [click here!](#) Dive deeper into the stories of this time period through visuals and archived resources.

Harriet Tubman Museum of NJ

If you ever make the trip or happen to find yourself in Cape May, New Jersey, stop by the Harriet Tubman Museum. Though small, the impact is powerful and provides a glimpse into the life and sacrifices of the courageous abolitionist. Located in the heart of an historically rich area, the museum focuses on Harriet's time in the city of Cape May. While there, she helped fund her missions of guiding enslaved people to freedom by becoming a servant and cook. Visiting the museum not only honors her legacy but also opens visitors to a pivotal moment in the fight for freedom.

[Click on Harriet to learn more about the museum](#)

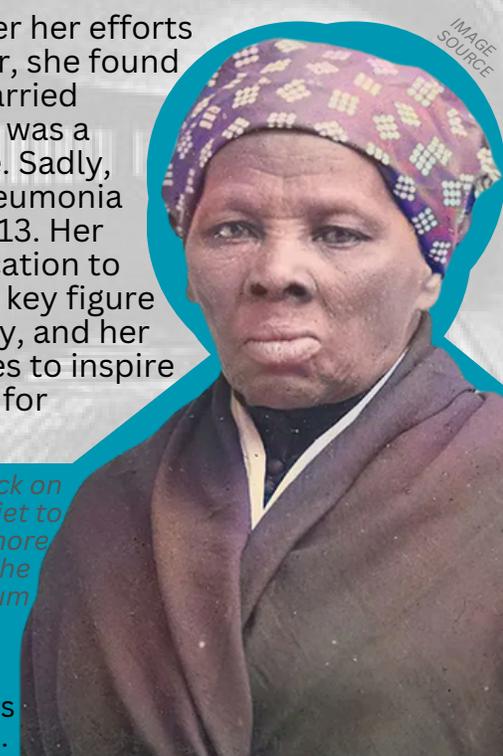


IMAGE SOURCE

EMANCIPATION OF PUERTO RICO DAY

Taking place on March 22nd, Emancipation of Puerto Rico Day highlights their national assembly and the decision to abolish slavery, even as the island was still a Spanish colony. The history of this celebration dates back to March 22nd of 1873, when the Spanish government's enacting of the Moret Law had officially been set in stone. This Law was also applied in Cuba as well as Puerto Rico, granting freedom only to enslaved individuals born after September 17, 1868. According to the Library of Congress, the owners were compensated with 35 million pesetas per slave and slaves were unfortunately required to continue working for three more years. Though the journey was long and draining for those who lived the experiences of slavery in Puerto Rico, this day holds profound cultural and historical importance for the island and for the United States. The resilience and strength of the Puerto Rican people is still reflected today in their pursuit of freedom and equality.

The NJ Puerto Rico Comission

[Click here to learn more](#)

The New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission was established in 2021 to strengthen ties between Puerto Rico and New Jersey. The goal of the commission is to concentrate on issues related to economic development, cultural exchange, and the well-being of Puerto Rican communities within the state.

Waving their True Colors

Since the 19th century, the Puerto Rican Flag has represented the fight for independence. The first flag that was referred to as *'el Grito de Lares'* as well as the Cuban flag are believed to be the inspirations for the territory's more recent designs. The first established Puerto Rican flag featured a light blue triangle with a white star at the center, three light red stripes, and two white stripes. When Puerto Rico

became an American territory, the flag was outlawed from the years of 1898 to 1952. The decision was later made to bring back the flag but changed all colors to darker hues, aligning itself with the US flag.



'Against the Norm'

Known for being one of Puerto Ricos most significant labor leaders, feminists, and writers, Louisa Capetillo fought for workers' rights and gender equality in the early 20th century. As one of the first women in Puerto Rico to wear pants in public, she questioned traditional gender norms and dealt with social backlash for her resistance efforts. Her passion for women's rights and labor reform labeled her as a way-maker, inspiring younger generations of women and children to fight for their place in both their careers and public life. Capetillo's boldness and lack of fear continue to serve as a symbol of empowerment for women striving to break barriers and shape history.



Image source