

## Celebrating Women's History Month

### The Origins of Women's History Month: A Day, a Week, a Month

The early 1900's was a time of upheaval in the industrialized world. As more and more people moved to the cities, overcrowding and poor working conditions created a fertile ground for unrest and new ideologies. Women, often the victims of oppression and inequality, became more vocal and started actively campaigning for change. In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay, improved working conditions, and voting rights. This protest led the Socialist Party of America to declare the first National Woman's Day, and it was observed on February 28, 1909. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Working Woman in Copenhagen in 1910, [Clara Zetkin](#) proposed the idea of an annual [International Women's Day](#).

The attendees embraced the idea, and International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland on 19 March 1911. Since 1913, IWD has been celebrated on 8 March. In 1975, the U.N. began sponsoring IWD, and 2 years later, in 1977, the General Assembly proclaimed a [United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace](#). Today, [IWD remains a global celebration](#) of the economic, political, and social achievements of women. [Women's History Month](#) in the U.S. began in 1978 as a local, weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma County, California. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year. In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week.

Since 14 states were already celebrating March as Women's History Month in 1986, proponents used this fact as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. The movement was successful and, in 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History month in perpetuity. Each year the sitting president issues a Presidential Proclamation which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women. ([2021 Presidential Proclamation](#)).

#### **President Carter's Message designating March 2-8, 1980 as National Women's History Week:**

*"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well..."*

#### **President Reagan's Proclamation, designating March National Women's History Month:**

*"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..."*

### Matriarchal Societies

Matriarchy is a social system in which females hold the primary power positions in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property. Although the most famous matriarchal society was born out of myth, and no proof was ever found they existed, [the Amazons](#) are part of our collective consciousness. Today, there are still [matriarchal societies](#), where women rule and or control the political, social, and economic structures, in different corners of the world. They include: [Mosuo \(China\)](#), [Minangkabau \(Indonesia\)](#), [Bribri \(Costa Rica\)](#), [Umoja \(Kenya\)](#), [Akan \(Ghana\)](#), and [Khasi \(India\)](#).

**MARCH 2021**

Special Message



**Arlyn Rull**

Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor  
Miami-Dade Aviation Department

I am pleased to share this message with you, on behalf of the Protocol & International Affairs Division, in celebration of Women's History Month. As we shine light on extraordinary women around the world and their achievements, we are reminded that we must continue to empower and inspire women and young girls. This can be achieved through mentorship, advocacy for equal rights and non-discriminatory laws, and standing up against biases and other injustices.

As a woman, I am deeply proud to work for Miami-Dade County. The County has established fair employment programs and promotes diverse, inclusive, and bias-free work environments. This has been made possible in large part by the trailblazing leadership of female elected officials such as Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, our County's first-ever woman mayor, community advocates and our very own female workforce.

This edition of the Protocol Newsletter was produced entirely by the incredible women who are part of the Protocol and International Affairs Division: Vera Philoctete, Moraima Mercade-Meijaard, Cristine Keller and intern Azel Ciriaco. I am grateful for their professionalism, friendship, and contributions to this month's newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the articles!

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# HISTORICAL MILESTONES

## March 3, 1845: Florida becomes the 27<sup>th</sup> State of the Union



After centuries of Spanish rule, 20 years of British control, almost 25 years as a U.S. territory, a referendum in favor of statehood (1938), and an approved state constitution in 1839, Congress finally approved Florida's admission into the Union, and President John Tyler signed the admission bill on 3 March 1845. After admission, the State Legislative Council began to organize the first state election. In May 1845, a governor, a member of Congress, 17 state senators, and 41 state representatives were elected. The total population of Florida in 1845 was approximately 66,000. In 2019, the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) estimated that Florida had a total population of 21.5 million.

### Interesting Facts About Florida

According to [Visit Florida](#):

- \* Florida was named for the day on which it was first seen (April 2, 1513) by Spanish explorer [Ponce de Leon](#), who called it La Florida in honor of Pascua Florida, the Spanish Feast of the Flowers (Easter). Florida has the longest coastline (1,197 miles) in the contiguous United States.
- \* The world's first scheduled passenger airline service operated between St. Petersburg and Tampa, starting January 1, 1914.
- \* Florida produces more than 70 percent of the nation's oranges. It ranks #1 for tomatoes, grapefruit, sugarcane, snap beans, cucumbers, and oranges.
- \* Florida is the boating and fishing capital of the world.
- \* Everglades National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – is the only place on the planet where crocodiles and alligators co-exist.
- \* Florida is the only state that borders both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.
- \* Walt Disney World Resort, opened in 1971, is the planet's most visited and biggest recreational resort.



### Julia Tuttle - "Mother of Miami"

A little more than a century ago, a city sprung up almost overnight. This Magic City, as Miami is often referred to, is the only major American city founded by women. [Julia Tuttle](#), the "Mother of Miami", was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1848. She first visited South Florida in 1875. After her husband died in 1886, she decided to move here and bought several hundred acres of land near the Miami River. She saw the potential of the area, but also realized that it would never develop and prosper unless it could be accessed by railroads. She met with Henry M. Flagler to convince him to extend his railroad network south along Florida's East Coast. After negotiations, Julia Tuttle and her neighbors [William and Mary Brickell](#), the other main landowners in the area, agreed to give Flagler hundreds of acres of their lands in exchange from him extending his railroad line, laying the foundation for a city on either side of the Miami River, and building a large hotel. The first train arrived on 13 April 1896, and Miami was officially incorporated as a city on 28 July 1896.



### Daniella Levine Cava - Miami-Dade County's First Female Mayor

On November 17, 2020, [Daniella Levine Cava](#) was inaugurated as Miami Dade County's first woman Mayor. She enters the Mayor's office following a nearly 40-year career as a relentless advocate for South Florida families in public service and elected leadership. As Miami-Dade County's Mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government with more than 28,000 employees serving nearly 3 million residents, managing an annual budget of approximately \$9 billion.

A social worker, lawyer, and community activist, she was first elected in 2014, and re-elected in August 2018, to serve as the Miami-Dade County Commissioner representing District 8. As Commissioner, she invested in Miami-Dade small businesses and expanded economic opportunity, protected the environment and our water, increased the County police force for underserved areas, advocated for an expanded, reliable public transportation system, worked to create affordable housing, and revitalize neighborhoods, and helped make local government more accountable and transparent.

Born in New York and raised partly in Latin America, Mayor Levine Cava received her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Yale University and graduate degrees in law and social work from Columbia University. She came to South Florida in 1980 to join her husband, Dr. Robert Cava, a Miami native, who returned home to join his father in medical practice. Daniella and Robert raised two children, Eliza, and Edward Cava, in Miami-Dade, supported by strong networks of friends, families, and co-workers.

On March 8, [Mayor Levine Cava discussed her trailblazing role](#). "I just love the fact that little girls everywhere are going to think this is very normal," she said. "And that I may be the first, but I will not be the last madame mayor, and all the other glass ceilings that will be shattered."

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Women Aviation Pioneers



**Élisabeth Thible:** On 4 June 1784, she became the first woman to fly in an untethered hot air balloon. During the 45-minute flight, Mademoiselle Thible, dressed as the Roman goddess Minerva, and pilot Monsieur Fleurant sang two duets from *La Belle Arsene*.



**Raymonde de la Roche** (1882 - 1918): On 8 March 1910, Raymonde received pilot's license no. 36 from the French Aero-Club, making her the first woman with an official pilot's license.



**Thérèse Peltier** (1873 - 1926): In September 1908, she became the first woman to fly solo when she flew 200 meters in a straight line after lifting off from the military square in Turin.



**Harriet Quimby** (1875 - 1912): On August 11, 1911, Harriet Quimby became the first licensed female pilot in the United States. She was also the first woman to fly across the English Channel and over Mexico City.



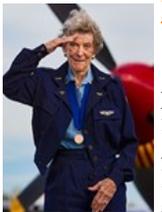
**Bessie Coleman** (1892 - 1926): On 15 June 1921, she became the first African American (man or woman) to earn an international pilot's license. Since attitudes and policies at the time did not allow her to train in the U.S., Bessie learned French and moved to Paris. Once she had received her license, she returned to the U.S., where she spent the remainder of her life flying in air shows and teaching aviation to African Americans.



**Margarete "Marga" von Etdorf** (1907 - 1933): In 1928, Lufthansa hired Marga as a Junkers F-13 pilot, making her the first woman ever hired by an airline.



**Katherine Cheung** (1904 - 2003): In 1932, she was the first Asian American woman to receive a pilot certification in the U.S. Throughout her flying career, she pursued her passion for aerobatics.



**Bernice 'Bee' Haydu** (1920 - 2021): In March 1944, after completing her training through the *Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)* program, Bee became one of the first women to fly military airplanes for the Army Air Force. As president of WASP from 1975 - 1979, she led the fight to gain recognition for the women as veterans.



**Emily Howell Warner** (1939 - 2020): On 29 January 1973, became the first female pilot for a U.S. commercial airline when she was hired by Frontier Airlines.



**Sally Ride** (1951 - 2012): On 18 June 1983, astronaut and astrophysicist Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space aboard the space shuttle Challenger.



The 65<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, will take place from March 15 - 16, 2021 under the theme, "*Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*". The session this year will be mostly virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also an important bridge to the Generation Equality Forum, organized by UN Women and co-hosted by the Governments of France and Mexico, in conjunction with youth and civil society, and will be a pivotal opportunity to change our societies and cement women's leadership as we recover from COVID-19. The Forum will kick-off in Mexico City from March 29 - 31, and culminate in Paris June 30 - July 2, 2021.

### ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is - *To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.*

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For comments, suggestions, event announcements or to opt-out, please send us an email.

### The Women of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division



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# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Memorable Quotes

As we celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day, women everywhere look to the past with gratitude and admiration for all the women who never gave up on their dreams. Their struggles, ingenuity, and dedication paved the way and opened doors that allow us to pursue our dreams today. We also look to the future with hope and determination to continue paving the way for future generations, just like our sisters have done throughout history.

It gives us great pleasure to share the following quotes with you:

"There are quotes that strengthen us as a woman and give us the fortitude of our decisions in life. In knowing ourselves, history and struggles we learn to cherish and be thankful of the woman we have become" - *Moraima Mercade-Meijaard*

"We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced." – *Malala Yousafzai*

"Girls should never be afraid to be smart." – *Emma Watson*

"A woman is like a tea bag: You can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." – *Eleanor Roosevelt*

"Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another steppingstone to greatness." – *Oprah Winfrey*

"If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman." — *Margaret Thatcher*

"Every achievement, big or small, begins in your mind." - *Mary Kay Ash*

"My company mascot is a bumblebee. Because of its tiny wings and heavy body, aerodynamically the bumblebee should not be able to fly. But the bumblebee does not know that, so it flies anyway." - *Mary Kay Ash*

"When it comes to human dignity, we cannot make compromises." – *Angela Merkel*

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - *Maya Angelou*

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## Countries celebrating Independence and National Days in March

**March 1, 1992** - Bosnia and Herzegovina: On March 1, the referendum for independence was completed, and on March 3, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence from Yugoslavia.

**March 2, 1956** – Morocco: After signing the French Moroccan Agreement on March 2, 1956, Morocco gained independence from France. The abolition of the Spanish protectorate, and recognition of Moroccan independence by Spain, were negotiated separately and made final in the Joint Declaration of April 1956.

**March 3, 1878** – Bulgaria: On Liberation Day, March 3, 1878, Bulgaria became an autonomous principality within the Ottoman Empire and remained as such until it gained full independence in 1908.

**March 6, 1957** - Ghana: Formed by the merger of the Gold Coast (British colony) and the Togoland trust territory, Ghana became the first Sub-Saharan country in colonial Africa to gain its independence on March 6, 1957.

**March 11, 1990** – Lithuania: This day, known as Restoration of Independence Day, marks the day Lithuania declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1990.

**March 12, 1968** - Mauritius: On March 12, 1968, Mauritius gained independence from the United Kingdom. 24 years later, on March 12, 1992 it became a republic.

**March 13, 2013** - Holy See (Vatican City): This day commemorates the election of Pope Francis in 2013.

**March 15, 1848** – Hungary: On March 15, Revolution Day, Hungarians commemorate the Revolution and the War of Independence against the Austrian-Hapsburg rule in 1848 – 1849.

**March 17, 1903** - Ireland: Saint Patrick's Day, marks the traditional death of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Although this day was celebrated as early as the ninth century, it did not become an official public holiday and Ireland's National Day until 1903. The Irish American Heritage Month is also celebrated in March to honor the many contributions Irish Americans have made to the U.S.

**March 17, 1861** - Italy: After the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies joined Piedmont-Sardinia, the new Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed.

**March 20, 1956** – Tunisia: The country gained independence from France on 20 March 1956.

**March 21, 1990** – Namibia: On this day, Namibia gained independence from the South African mandate.

**March 25, 1821** - Greece: After being part of the Ottoman Empire since 1453, the War of Greek Independence began on March 25, 1821. Independence was achieved on 3 February 1830, but March 25 continues to be celebrated as Greek Independence Day. Greek American Heritage Month is also celebrated in March to honor the many contributions Greek American have made to the U.S.

**March 26, 1971** - Bangladesh: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the Awami League and "Father of the Nation" declared an independent Bangladesh on March 26, 1971. The fight for independence lasted until 16 December 1971, when Pakistan was defeated, and the nation of Bangladesh was born.