

***Honoring
Our
Past***

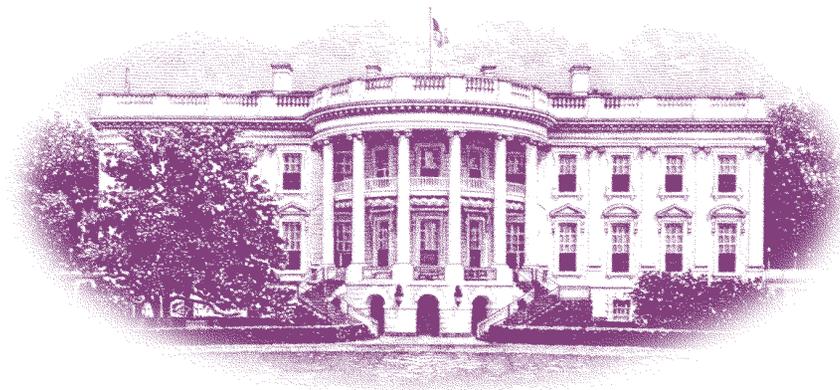
*Report and
Recommendations*

*Prepared by
The President's Commission on the
Celebration of Women in American
History*

November 15, 2000

“Only by studying the history of America’s women - their triumphs and their struggles - can we truly understand the history of America.”

— **Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton**
February 18, 2000

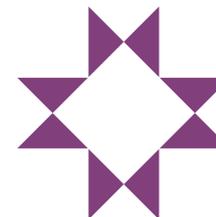
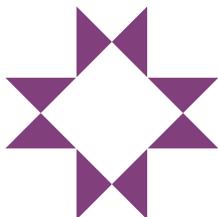


Honoring Our Past

*Report and Recommendations
prepared by the*

President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History

November 15, 2000



***Commission Co-Chairs:** Ann Lewis and Beth Newburger*

***Commission Members:** Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, J. Michael Cook,
Dr. Barbara Goldsmith, LaDonna Harris, Gloria Johnson,
Dr. Elaine Kim, Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt,
Irene Wurtzel*

“The Commission shall make recommendations to the President, through the Co-Chairs of the Commission, on ways to best acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in American history”

— **Executive Order 13090:**
Establishing the President’s Commission
on the Celebration of Women in American History
July 2, 1998

Executive Order 13090 established a Presidential Commission to recommend how America should recognize the contributions of women to the creation and development of our country. In establishing the President’s Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History (the Commission), William Jefferson Clinton became the first President to recognize the importance of women’s historical contributions to our nation.

In July, 1999, President Clinton took another historic step toward incorporating women’s achievements into the mainstream of American

history by extending the life of the Commission to December 31, 2000. The President took this unprecedented step to provide time for the Commission to explore the implementation of the recommendations outlined in their March 1, 1999 report.

The following report provides an overview of the Commission’s findings and the actions taken by the Commission to implement our recommendations. The activities and further recommendations offered in this report are based on the suggestions

received in the open meetings of the Commission, by letter and through our Website.

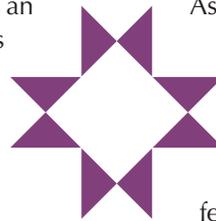
The work of the Commission was not an ordinary process. We met as a diverse group of women whose interests in celebrating the historic contributions of our sisters was clear.

As a Commission, and as individuals, our work has had a profound impact on us.

Like all of those who testified before us, we too have changed in our own feelings about the significance of the Commission’s mission. Today, we understand that bringing the

“other half” of our diverse history into focus is more than important. It is essential for the future of our democracy.

Throughout the two years in which the Commission deliberated, we were greeted with universal enthusiasm around the country. In each meeting, participants expressed their appreciation for the leadership of the President and First Lady in making this work possible. The Commissioners join these leaders in expressing our appreciation for the privilege of contributing to this important effort to tell the whole story of America’s history.



FINDINGS

While professional historians, archivists, and academicians drive the recognition and documentation of women's lives, much of the work in site preservation and community celebrations has traditionally been undertaken by dedicated volunteers and community activists. Once again, the challenge to bring history home to our local communities was broadly supported by volunteers. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an excellent example of an organization that embraced the Commission's suggestions for community involvement. Not only did the GFWC invite the Commission to meet jointly with their national board, but they also encouraged their local clubs to undertake at least one of our recommended projects. The result is that communities from American Samoa to Arizona benefited from new women's history projects driven by a local GFWC chapter.

Along with an increase in community activism, the Commission found an

increase in the inclusion of women's history in elementary and secondary school curricula. Credit was given to The National Women's History Project for raising the national awareness of the importance of women's history by creating March as National Women's History Month. The National Women's History Project was cited again and again as a national resource deserving greater support.

Women's history organizations and historians in both the public and private sectors often equated "support" to a need for underwriting. The Commission found that along with a growing interest in the field of women's history, there is a parallel growth in the need for funding to support the research, documentation, and resulting projects that such interest spawns. At every meeting and in the majority of our correspondence, we heard the case for financial aid. Suggestions included establishing an annual women's history fundraising event, creating a women's history granting organization, and developing public-private

partnerships to fund challenge grants. The Commission was also asked to create official recognition of projects that could be used to lend credibility to funding requests.

Despite the absence of funding sources, we found a growing body of information in new books, articles and journals, a coordinating council for women in history to encourage networking at local and national levels, and conferences for historians and historic sites. There is more attention to the importance of preserving the papers of women pioneers, an increasing emphasis on oral history projects to preserve the stories of women in every walk of life, and an increasing number of television dramas on both Public Broadcasting Stations and Lifetime cable television dealing with notable American women.

There is also a growing trend to preserve women's historical sites. Congress acknowledged our need to focus attention on these sites by creating the Women's Progress Commemorative Commission. The purpose of our sister

commission is to determine and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior what sites of importance to women should be preserved. We are equally proud of the leadership in honoring women of history by federal agencies, including the National Parks Service of the Department of the Interior, the National Archives, the Department of Education, the General Services Administration, NASA, Library of Congress, and the Millennium Council.

As the appreciation for the value of recognizing women's history increases, we found an even greater demand:

- more public recognition of the contributions women have made to building this country
- more emphasis on bringing history to life by connecting exciting academic discoveries with community celebrations, school classrooms and the popular culture
- more attention to ways in which as we honor our past, we acknowledge the role that women have played, and imagine a future in which women's lives and achievements are fully valued.

We Recommended:
Overview of Recommendations to President William Jefferson Clinton March 1, 1999

To develop the recommendations required by Executive Order 13090 and included in the report to the President filed on March 1, 1999, the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History traveled to every region of the country. In each, the Commission held open meetings and solicited ideas from historians, archivists, activists, academics, business leaders, students and many others. We heard testimony from people who came to volunteer ideas and from those who interacted with us via our website.

From these meetings, the Commission distilled hundreds of ideas to focus on ways to celebrate women in American history that will have the greatest impact in the twenty-first century. We developed recommendations for national and local initiatives that would meet the

dual goals of creating awareness and documenting the contributions of women to American life. This millennial agenda begins at the national level, reaches across the country with 10 recommendations for states, communities and local organizations, recommends a focal point in the nation's capitol and provides a challenge to the popular culture.

At the national level, the Commission recommended designing and displaying a travelling exhibit, writing and distributing a how-to community handbook, and building a national umbrella women's history website.

At the community level, the Commission recommended ten specific activities that local organizations could undertake. These suggestions included developing archives, involving young women and men in history projects, documenting local women's history trails and erecting historic markers, creating city spaces, local exhibits and honor rolls that highlight women in the local community, and holding "Her-itage" celebrations.

As an agenda for the nation's capital, the Commission recommended designating a women's history site in Washington, D.C. and creating an important millennial celebration of Women's History Month.

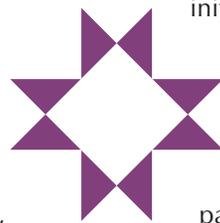
During our second year, we continued to meet in public sessions across the country. These sessions were conducted to elicit both feedback on our recommendations and ideas for implementing them. We broadened our audience through media interviews with mass-market print and broadcast outlets. The Commission Co-Chairs also accepted several invitations to speak on behalf of our recommendations.

The response to our efforts was positive and constructive. The initial excitement and enthusiasm for the work of the Commission translated into action on several of our initiatives. We inspired activity everywhere, gaining participation from national organizations and local clubs in communities across America. We witnessed national celebrations marking the 80th Anniversary of the

Women's Suffrage Amendment and created a national millennial celebration of women's history month in Washington, D.C.

We recognize that ours is a work in progress. While many of our recommendations have been adopted and creatively adapted, we believe that there are underlying principles that must be acknowledged and addressed.

1. There is an urgent need for funding to continue the research and documentation required to interweave women's history into the nation's history.
2. There is acknowledgement among women's organizations that leadership from the White House through a permanent Presidential Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History would increase the visibility of women's contributions to our society.
3. There is a growing tide of support for bringing the stories of women into the popular culture.



We Recommend:
4 Steps to Create a Lasting Legacy
November 15, 2000

While we were unable to implement all of our recommendations, we were able to implement some and test the feasibility of others. Taken together, our experiences suggest that the visibility created by a Presidential commission is an outstanding mechanism to focus attention on the issue of including women in the story of American history. Furthermore, national coverage in the popular media is equally important to reach young people and capture their interest.

Therefore, we recommend that:

1. A permanent Presidential commission is created to celebrate women in American history.
2. The President creates an annual President's Women Making History Award to celebrate women in American history.
3. The Commission partners with a non-profit organization that can provide the academic research and funding required to support the work of the Commission and produce the awards program.
4. One or more publications be

The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women In American History has taken a dramatic and valuable step in uncovering women's place and contributions to the nation. By developing the first roadmap to this other half of our story as a nation, it sets us on the path to collect and preserve women's history. The Commission is to be congratulated on being inclusive and unbiased yet pragmatic and visionary."

*— Wilma L. Vaught
Brigadier General USAF (Ret.)*

developed and marketed on behalf of the Commission to focus on women in American history.

We believe that if implemented, these recommendations will ensure that future generations will continue the vital work begun by President William Jefferson Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to secure women's rightful place when we tell the stories of American history.

REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the detailed report that follows, we include both our observations on what is needed to strengthen or support each recommendation in our first report and what was actually accomplished subsequent to filing it.

THE NATIONAL AGENDA

We Recommended
Design and Display a Traveling Exhibit

The Commission recommended creation of a traveling exhibit that tells the story of women's history. We envisioned its installation in communities throughout the country during our millennial year.

We Implemented
The National Women's Hall of Fame mounted a travelling exhibit in honor of Women's History Month, March, 2000. The exhibit featured panels on which the picture and story of each honoree was outlined under a banner signifying the field in which the woman made her contribution. Both living and dead women were

included. The exhibit was funded by Eastman Kodak and displayed at the airport in Rochester, New York.

A smaller version of the exhibit was mounted at the request of the Commission and displayed at the U.S. Custom House (One Bowling Green, New York) in conjunction with the United Nations Beijing + 5 meeting. Several thousand visitors who gathered to discuss women's rights as human rights visited this exhibit.

Next Steps

While the Commission was unable to secure the additional funding necessary to continue travelling this exhibit, we remain convinced that such an exhibit is both feasible and an excellent investment for sponsors. The high levels of interest among those who saw the show reinforce our conviction that graphic representations in public spaces will create new awareness of women's contributions to our society. Therefore, we encourage the National Women's Hall of Fame to seek funding for a permanent travelling exhibit.

We Recommended

Write and Distribute a How-To Community Handbook

To increase awareness of the important roles local women have played throughout American history, the Commission recommended that a handbook be published to guide communities in recognizing and celebrating local women. Because we were especially aware of the importance of including all segments of our American communities, we recommended the inclusion of guidelines that would ensure the diverse and inclusive nature of each project.

We Implemented

The Commission agreed to undertake this project, ourselves. We researched and wrote a how-to community handbook entitled *Women's History is Everywhere: 10 Ideas for Celebrating in Communities*. The Handbook was designed and published in November, 1999, by the General Services Administration, our sponsoring Federal agency.

The Handbook includes a short description of each recommended

“The recognition which Paulsdale received in the initial report of the President’s Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History gave a very special boost to the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation’s campaign to save the property. Funders suddenly sat up and took notice. We are thrilled to report that we have subsequently raised the funding needed to rehabilitate the property and will begin construction in March, 2001.”

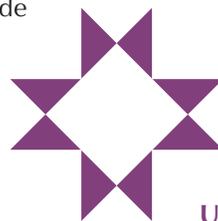
*—Barbara Irvine
Trustee, Alice Paul Foundation*

project and specific suggestions for getting started. We also gathered and published a wealth of resources for the amateur historian. There are listings of websites that link to multiple other sites with similar topics, relevant organizations with their phone and fax numbers, and over 200 locations where women made history. Through the cooperation of the National Archives, every state and territory is included in the section of Historic Places.

To date, we have distributed over 10,000 copies to libraries, organizations and individuals throughout the United States.

Next Steps

The Handbook should be a living document where resources may be added or deleted and best practices can be highlighted. The Commission encourages the General Services Administration to find a home for this publication and continue to increase its value by keeping it up-to-date.



THE COMMUNITY AGENDA

***We recommended
Undertake a project that
centers on a woman or women
from your community***

We recommended ten projects for community action in the Women’s

History is Everywhere (Handbook). Projects included telling the story of women’s suffrage, finding and documenting the hidden women in local communities, establishing statewide women’s history initiatives, honoring the work of women’s organizations, developing a map of local women’s history sites, creating a women’s history park, building a cooperative community project such as designing and placing historic markers, encouraging youthful participation by girls and boys, creating women’s history exhibits and holding all-inclusive Heritage celebrations.

We Implemented

In order to ensure a strong level of activity for the ten recommended projects included in the Handbook, the Commission partnered with the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. The Commission met with the GFWC national board to encourage their members to commit to at least one project. In addition, Commission Co-Chair Beth Newburger met with state and regional GFWC groups.

The Handbook was posted on the Commission’s website and promoted

actively through national radio interviews and local newspapers.

Twenty-seven GFWC partner clubs successfully completed the required 75% of their projects by September 1, 2000. An additional seven organizations and nine individuals also completed projects by the deadline. Each participating club or individual received a certificate of recognition from the Commission

Next Steps

Local projects and initiatives that are endorsed by a Presidential Commission provide high visibility for the participants. This visibility often defines the difference between success and failure for the participating group. As Sally Kranz, Director of Public Relations for GFWC told us, "We are going to start things in this year and we are going to want to keep the ball rolling...Word from this Commission to our organization to say, 'keep it going for the next 110 years of your existence' would be good for us." Therefore, the Commission recognizes a need for ongoing support from a Presidential Commission or similar entity if such local endeavors are expected to continue and succeed.

"There is no way I can thank the Commission enough for their work. Without their support, the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers would still be a dream in my heart. Their skillful use of the bully pulpit for women's history shed light on our projects, helped us clarify our strategy, broadened our networks, and sustained our faith in times of financial uncertainty."

***—Allida Black, Research Professor of History,
The George Washington University.***

AGENDA FOR THE NATION'S CAPITOL

We Recommended **Designate a Washington, DC Women's History Site**

At every hearing in the two years of its existence, the Commission heard concern about the invisibility of women in Washington D.C., especially among the institutions dedicated to teaching and celebrating our nation's history. The difficulties encountered in moving the statue of the suffragette leaders out of the basement of the Capitol, and the fact that the Suffrage exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of American History is still designated as temporary, were cited by speakers before the Commission

as examples of the problems that can be expected. On the other hand, the success of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the high traffic at the new Women in Military Service of America Memorial are examples of the support and interest that accompany serious representations of women's real role in our lives. Therefore, The

Commission concluded that appropriate celebration of women's history in the nation's capital should include designation of a focal point for women's history.

We Implemented

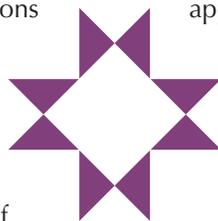
Rather than create a single focal point, the Commission published a booklet describing 14 sites of historical significance for women in

the nation's capital. Following the successful example of the National Parks Service and our own suggestion to create a women's history trail, we created the first one in Washington, D.C. The booklet titled Women Who Made History, A guide to Women's History Sites in Washington, D.C. includes a map, directions for using public transportation to reach each site, hours, website address, and a short description explaining the site's historical significance.

Virginia Williams, mother of Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, endorsed the booklet and urged that it be included in every District school library. To date, we have distributed over 15,000 copies through local libraries, schools and embassies throughout the metropolitan region.

Next Steps

The sites included in Women Who Made History are the most visible ones in the region. We know that further research could expand the publication and therefore enrich the experience of visitors to the nation's capital. This work would require funding and could be undertaken through a public-private partnership.



Such a partnership could also distribute the booklet through commercial outlets such as travel agencies, hotels, and visitor information centers.

We Recommended
March 2000: A National Celebration

The Commission agreed that observing Women’s History Month in the Millennial Year deserved a very special kind of celebration. Many speakers before the Commission raised the possibility of a national event in March 2000 that would celebrate the changes in women’s lives during the last century and reaffirm our commitment to even greater change and opportunity in the next. The Commission suggested that several organizations could partner to bring this celebration to fruition.

We Implemented
The National Women’s History Project, led by founder Molly MacGregor, rose to the challenge and formed a partnership with our Commission, the Congressional Women’s Caucus, and The White House Office for Women’s Initiatives and Outreach. An overflow crowd of men and women filled Statuary Hall,

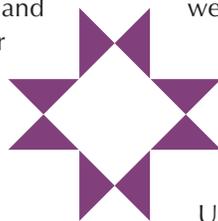
“The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History provided a pivotal public forum for organizations, archivists, librarians, teachers, community activists and interested individuals to give voice to the importance of celebrating and recognizing women's lives. The Commission's work validated the importance of creating and sustaining a national priority to influence all American institutions to honor the important contributions women have made to American culture and history.”

***— Molly MacGregor, President and Co-Founder,
National Woman’s History Project.***

United States Capitol, on March 22, 2000 to listen to 15 women members of the House and Senate recount the influential women in their lives. Commission Co-Chair Ann Lewis and Commissioner LaDonna Harris welcomed the attendees who included an African women’s delegation from 17 countries and Sen. Orrin Hatch, the sponsor of the Congressional Resolution twenty years ago to recognize March as Women’s History Month.

The Commission created a celebration earlier in the day that included the dedication of the Clara Barton Missing Soldier’s Office, a property that was discovered by the General Services Administration

during demolition of a row of pre-Civil War townhouses and preserved at the urging of the Commission. *The Women Who Made History Guide* was launched as part of the celebration. Eighty middle-school children from a Washington, D.C. school attended the dedication and were given a guided bus tour of several listed women’s history sites. Dr. Allida Black, Director of the Eleanor Roosevelt papers at the George Washington University and General Wilma Vaught (Ret.), founder of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery were among the volunteer guides.



Next Steps
Based on the success of the Millennial celebration in the Nation’s Capital, the Commission recommends creating an annual celebration to mark Women’s History Month in Washington, D.C. This celebration will continue to act as a catalyst for focusing the attention of our nation’s leaders on the issues of inclusion in telling the story of America’s history.

We Recommended
A Challenge and Opportunity for the Popular Culture

We continue to believe that we must do a better job of teaching our children and ourselves about women’s history, in our classrooms, museums and archives. But the most powerful means of telling these stories is through the popular culture which reaches every one of us. We urged our friends in the media, to consider the possibilities offered by dramatic events involving women.

We influenced
Both Public Broadcasting Systems and Lifetime Television have recognized the value of presenting

these stories. In the past several months, PBS aired documentaries on Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt. Lifetime is partnering with the National Woman's History Project to produce a series of biographies with related school curricula.

While these programs may have been influenced by the work of the Commission, there is no doubt that we have had an impact on West Wing, one of the most popular programs on television today. In the November 1, 2000 episode, the "President" is urged to acknowledge the importance of telling the story of women in American history. The script quotes from our March 1, 1999 report regarding the disproportionate number of monuments to men and has "President Bartlett" honor women who made history in his weekly radio address..

The surge of interest we have found for so many other aspects of women's history recorded in this report — from the growth in visitors to National Parks Service sites to the construction of new museums — suggests that these stories about women's contributions to America will continue to find a receptive and appreciative audience.

“We celebrated another major milestone for women. President Clinton announced the first female space commander, Colonel Eileen Collins, at a White House ceremony. At the Shuttle launch we convened special events for organizations for women and girls and discussed with female pioneers in aerospace the past, present and future of women in aerospace. During her flight, Col. Collins chatted via internet with girls across America. We look forward to continuing our [women’s outreach] initiative and supporting the goals of the Commission.”

*—Terri Hudkins
Manager, Women’s Outreach
Office of Public Affairs, NASA Headquarters*

**WE RECOMMEND
4 STEPS TO
CREATE A LEGACY**

**We Recommend
Establish a Permanent Presidential
Commission
to Celebrate Women in
American History**

The response to the Commission was positive and supportive. However, many of the hundreds of suggestions offered during our meetings will require a Commission with a longer life span than ours to evaluate. More importantly, however, was the dismay and frustration expressed by community



leaders when they realized that their projects could not be accomplished within the timeframe required for Presidential recognition through our Commission. We all know that the merit of our mission should be significant enough to inspire continued support for our

recommendations. However, we are also realistic enough to recognize that people are more likely to respond to support from the most powerful office in the land than to anyone else.

We recommend that an eleven-member bipartisan Presidential Commission be established. Commissioners would be appointed by the President for a three-year term.

They would meet at least four times per year.

The purpose of the Commission is to continue to incorporate the stories of American women into the mainstream culture. Part of the way in which the Commission will meet its mission is to act as jury for the proposed President's Women Making History Award.

**We Recommend
Establish Annual President's Women
Making History Award**

In the same way that the weight of the Presidential commission moves people into action, so will the establishment of an Annual President's *Women Making History Award* that honors influential women in American history. The President's *Women Making History Award* would bestow an honor equivalent in importance to other Presidential rank awards and would establish the fact that American women are, indeed, worthy of recognition.

The Commission would invite the spouse of the President to be the honorary chairperson of the President's *Women Making History Awards Committee*.

We envision an awards process that will begin each year with the nomination by the Commission of two groups of women: 1) those who made significant contributions to history and lived before the 21st century, and 2) contemporary women who are making history and living in the 21st century.

Women will be nominated who have made significant contributions to history in the four categories listed below. Two women, one who lived before the 21st century and one alive today, will be selected in each category, making a total of eight honorees. The living honoree in each category will accept both awards for her category. In this way, we recognize that our modern achievements are built on the historical foundation laid by our predecessors and role models.

The proposed categories are suggested because, together, they provide a broad umbrella for all of the ways in which women have contributed to our communities. The examples indicate the diverse categories of achievement that might be considered in each category but

are in no way suggested to limit the scope of the awards.

Category 1: Activism & Service.

Nominees in this category have demonstrated a commitment to community activism and community service. This could include the work of women who fought for the right to vote, women who marched for civil rights, native American women who struggled for rights and cultural recognition, women who help feed the homeless, and women who raise funds to combat breast cancer.

Category 2: Creativity. This category could include all women who have contributed creative endeavors to our society. This could include fine arts, literature, scientific exploration, innovative technology, etc.

Category 3: Valuing Families.

This category recognizes women for their contributions in valuing families. This could include women who courageously supported their families while their husbands fought overseas, members of the “sandwich” generation responsible for the simultaneous care

of their young children and elderly parents, women who advocate for reformed family law, single women raising families, and women living in poverty who manage to raise college-educated children.

Category 4: New Americans. This category includes women new to the United States who have overcome cultural barriers and are the pioneers for the growing diversity in the 21st century. For example, this could include African women who were brought to this country as slaves in the 19th century, Hispanic farm workers, Russian-born women who immigrated in the early 20th century with no knowledge of American customs, European Jews who survived concentration camps during World War II, and today’s

immigrants.

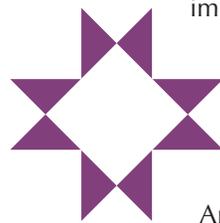
The President’s *Women Making History* Award will be presented by the President and spouse at an Annual Women in American History Awards Presentation. We recommend that the gala event be nationally televised to achieve maximum recognition. This annual

production, similar in scale to the Kennedy Center Honors, would bring women’s history into the popular culture with the certainty of annual recognition for the contributions of women to the nation.

We Recommend
Establish a Partnership with a Foundation for Women in American History

The Commission recognizes that preserving the symbols of our past is only the first step toward ensuring the place of women in our history books. We must work to make sure that our nation knows these stories. Time, money and continuous outreach is needed to achieve this goal. That will require both the endorsement of the Presidential commission and the consistency of a non-profit organization whose purpose is to make it a reality.

During the two years in which the Commission met, we heard powerful examples of sound scholarship told in creative, determined styles. Again and again, we searched for mechanisms to



provide the research we needed to carry on the Commission's work. Using the Millennium Council model in which the Council partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to Save America's Treasures, we recommend partnering with a foundation that will provide the essential academic and fundraising capabilities for the Commission. Just as Title IX put the muscle into women's athletics, so will the partnership of a Presidential Commission and a dedicated foundation liberate women's history.

The Commission envisions a partnership with a foundation to manage the President's Women Making History Award process. The Foundation will serve as a screening board to prepare recommendations and identify nominees. The Foundation will submit written reports on the historical significance of each nominee to the Commission. The Commission will review the reports and select the eight women who will receive the First Lady Awards.

The Foundation will then prepare documentary and visual presentations on each of the award recipients based on archival data and interviews with the contemporary recipients. These documentaries will be shown at the Annual Women in American History Awards Presentation gala event.

The Foundation will plan and sponsor the gala event. In its role as producer, it will be responsible for raising the necessary funds in much the same way that the National Trust for Historic Preservation supports the Millennial Save America's Treasures campaign. Any profits from the annual event will be used to award grants to academic and community projects that meet the criteria established by the Commission.

The grants awarded by the Commission would be reviewed by an independent panel of historians, teachers, project directors, and community leaders. The panel will forward their recommendations to the

Commission for approval. Grants may cover start-up and/or operating costs traditionally excluded by granting organizations. Existing projects will be eligible. The Commission will encourage proposals that fall within the guidelines recommended in the March 1, 1999 report. Part of their work will be an annual review and updating of the guidelines.

The foundation may also produce a body of publications that continue to provide guidance for historians and community leaders on the subject of documenting women's contributions to American life.

The Commission may select an established foundation with which to partner or may choose to work with a foundation created for the express purposes outlined here. In either case, the foundation will be required to prove its fiscal independence and will not be funded by the Federal government.



We Recommend **Publish One or More Publications with a Commission Imprimatur**

The success of the Commission's Community Handbook and Women's History Guide to the Nation's Capital suggests that there is a market for Commission publications. A single mention in Parade Magazine generated approximately 96,000 requests for the publications.

Marie Salerno, the award-winning author of the New York City commemorative pop-up book, and her publisher, Rizzoli Press, have proposed creating a book of women's history artifacts for the Commission. The book will carry the endorsement of the Commission and be an official Millennial Council project. It will be distributed through gift shops at historic sites and through the Federal Consumer Information Center. Proceeds from the book will benefit Save America's Treasures.

The Commission encourages other authors and publishers to consider producing commemorative publications that could benefit the public-private partnership envisioned in this report.

APPENDIX

COMMISSION MEMBERS

President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History

Ann Lewis, Co-Chair
Washington, DC
Counselor to the President. Former White House Director of Communications. Former Vice President for Public Policy at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Led study group on *Going First: Women as Leaders in Contemporary Politics* for Harvard University's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

Beth Newburger, Co-Chair
Washington, DC
Associate Administrator for Communications, U.S. General Services Administration. Commissioner, Women's Progress Commemoration Commission. Publisher, *Washington Woman Magazine*, founder of three technology companies, executive at the *Washington Post* and the *New Republic Magazine*. Winner of several community service awards.

Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole
Atlanta, GA
President Emerita, Spelman College and Presidential Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Women's Studies and African American Studies at Emory University. Author. Received numerous awards, including honorary degrees from 41 colleges and universities and the first Eleanor Roosevelt Education Award on the 75th Anniversary of the Women's National Democratic Club.

J. Michael Cook
Greenwich, CT
Chairman and CEO of Deloitte & Touche. Chairman of the Board of Governors of the United Way of America and Chairman of the Board of Catalyst, the nation's leading organization for the advancement of women in business.

Dr. Barbara Goldsmith
New York, NY
Author and social historian. Has received three doctorates and numerous awards for four best-selling books emphasizing the lives of women. In 1998-99 *Other Powers: The Age of Suffrage, Spiritualism and the Scandalous Victoria Woodhull* has received three major awards. Also, Ms. Goldsmith is a national leader in the preservation and conservation of our cultural heritage and served on the Presidential Commission for

Preservation and Access. She writes for *The New Yorker* and the *New York Times*. She has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

LaDonna Harris
Bernalillo, NM
President of Americans for Indian Opportunity. Founding member of the National Urban League and Common Cause.

Gloria T. Johnson
Camp Springs, MD
President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Chair of the IUE Women's Council and Director of the Union's Department of Social Action. Elected a Vice President of the AFL-CIO in 1993, the second African-American woman to hold that position. Received NAACP's First Annual Pathway to Excellence Award "Women of Labor."

Dr. Elaine H. Kim
Berkeley, CA
Author, film producer, and Professor of Asian-American Studies and Comparative Ethnic Studies and Associate Dean of the Graduate Division at the University of California, Berkeley. Co-Founder and Member of the Board of Directors of Asian Women United of California and Co-Founder of Asian Immigrant Women Advocates.

Dr. Ellen Ochoa
Houston, TX
Mission Specialist Astronaut at the NASA Johnson Space Center. Has received numerous awards, including several NASA Space Flight Medals and the Albert Baez Award for Outstanding Technical Contribution to Humanity from Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
Chicago, IL
Executive Director of the Brain Research Foundation, an affiliate of the University of Chicago. Former Director of the Mayor's Office of Program Development for the City of Chicago. Chair of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Foundation and Vice President of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in New York.

Irene Wurtzel
Washington, DC
Playwright, freelance writer and teacher of play writing. Winner of the Margo Jones Play Writing Award, the Jane Chambers Award for outstanding woman playwright and a Cine Award for a documentary film script on the history of the American labor movement. Former Chair of the Board of the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia, a commission aimed at preventing domestic violence and child abuse in Virginia.

COMMISSION MEETING VENUES

July 16, 1998

Canandaigua, NY
Ontario County Courthouse
Judge Henry Courtroom

September 25, 1998

Albuquerque, NM
Albuquerque Museum

October 19-20, 1998

Chicago, IL
Chicago Cultural Center
Caludia Cassidy Theatre

November 12-13, 1998

Washington, DC
Department of State
East Auditorium

December 10, 1998

Berkeley, CA
West Coast Fact Finding Sessions
University of CA Berkeley
Barrows Hall

January 22, 1999

Atlanta, GA
Martin Luther King Jr. National
Historic Site

March 15, 1999

Washington, DC
The White House
Millennium Evening: Presenting
Commission Report to President Bill
Clinton

March 16, 1999

Washington, DC
State Plaza Hotel

September 8, 1999

Portland, OR
Portland Marriott - Downtown

January 18, 2000

New York, NY
New York Public Library

March 21-22, 2000

Washington, DC
White House Conference Center/
Clara Barton Missing Soldiers'
Office/Capitol Rotunda

June 6, 2000

New York, NY
U.S. Custom House

November 15, 2000

Washington, DC
George Washington University

SPEAKERS

ALBUQUERQUE

Evelyn Lance Blanchard

Indian Welfare Activist/Graduate
Student, American Studies
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Dr. Veronica E. Tiller

President, Tiller Research, Inc.
Author - *Tiller's Guide to Indian
Country*
Albuquerque, NM

Bridgid O'Farrell

Visiting Scholar
Women's Research & Education
Institute
Washington, DC

Molly Murphy MacGregor

Co-Founder
National Women's History Project
Windsor, CA

Millie Santillanes

Civic Activist, Retailer
Author - *Nuestras Mujeres*
Albuquerque, NM

Karen K. Staser

Founder and President
National Museum of Women's History
Washington, DC

CHICAGO

Cathy Bonner

President
Bonner Inc.
Founder, Women's History Museum:
Institute for the Future, Dallas TX
Austin, TX

Christine Helen Grumm

Executive Director
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago, IL

Norma L. Seledon

Director
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
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Jean S. Hunt

Founder & Former President
Chicago Area Women's History
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Chicago, IL

Valerie Tyler-Evans

Consultant
Oracle Corporation
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Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Cece Lobins

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Chicago Humanities Festival
Chicago, IL

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Wilma L. Vaught

Brigadier General USAF (Ret.)
President
Women In Military Service For
America Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Washington, DC

Brook M. Wiseman

Executive Director and CEO
Girl Scouts of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Lynn Y. Weiner

Professor of History and Associate
Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
Roosevelt University Chicago
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Amina J. Dickerson

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Mary B. Richardson-Lowry

Commissioner
Department of Buildings
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WASHINGTON

Dorothy Ruth Ferrell

National Woman's Party
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Curatorial Consultant
National Museum of Women's
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Washington, DC

Sister Dolores Liptak

President
Archivist, Congregation for Women's
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Trinity College
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Sarah Larson

Executive Director
Reston Historic Trust for Community
Revitalization
Reston, VA

Dr. Page Putnam Miller

Director
National Coordinating Committee for
the Promotion of History
Washington, DC

Barbara Irvine

Founding President and Foundation
Trustee, Alice Paul Centennial
Foundation, Inc.
Chair, Capital Campaign Committee
Mt. Laurel, NJ

Maxine S. Scarbro

President
General Federation of Women's
Clubs
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The Honorable Pat Schroeder

President and CEO
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Washington, DC

Mary Ellen Henry

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U.S. Naval Academy
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Industrial Organizational Program
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Mary Lou Beatty

Acting Director of Communications
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National Endowment for the
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Washington, DC

Eleanor Smeal

President
Feminist Majority Foundation
Working for Women's Equality
Washington, DC

Dr. Jane Smith

President, National Council of Negro
Women, Inc.
Washington, DC

Marsha Semmel

Director and CEO
Women of the West Museum
Boulder, CO

Rev. Image B. Stewart

National President
African-American Women's Clergy
Association
Washington, DC

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Washington, DC

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George Meany Center for Labor
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Congresswoman
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**WEST COAST SPECIAL FACT-
FINDING SESSION PARTICIPANTS****Faculty****Barbara Christian**

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Martin Luther King, Jr., Center For
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Atlanta, GA

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Director
Emory Women's Center
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Atlanta, GA

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Yellow Springs, OH

Jeannie Jew

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June Griffin

Bill of Rights Bicentennial Commission
Medal of Honor winner
Dayton, TN

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PORTLAND**June Tremain**

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Equality of the American Jewish
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New York, NY

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Commission Honoring the
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President, Museum of Women: The
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Rutgers University

Josie Fernandez

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National Historical Park
Seneca Falls, NY

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President and CEO
New York Public Library
New York, NY

Catharine Stimpson

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Dean of the Graduate School of Arts
and Science
New York University
New York, NY

Elizabeth Hubbard

Director
New York Office
Hubbard and Revo-Cohen, Inc.
New York, NY

Elinor Guggenheimer

Founder, Childcare Action Council
New York, NY

Linda Gordon

Department of History
New York University
New York, NY

Liz Abzug

Attorney and Adjunct Professor,
Urban Studies
Barnard College and Columbia
University
New York, NY

Mary Ann Oppenheimer

Executive Director
National Women's Hall of Fame
Seneca Falls, NY

Marilyn Bero

President
National Women's Hall of Fame
Seneca Falls, NY

Meredith Wagner

Senior Vice President of Public Affairs
Lifetime Television
New York, NY

Dianne Miller

Assistant Professor,
University of Georgia
Atlanta, GA

WASHINGTON, DC

Lauren Supina

Deputy Assistant to the President
Director of White House Office of
Women's Initiatives and Outreach
Washington, DC

Joyce Antler

Samuel Lane Professor of American
Jewish history and Culture
Brandeis University
Boston, MA

Karen K. Staser

Founder and President
National Women's History Museum
Washington, DC

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught,

USAF (Ret.)
President, Board of Directors
Women in Military Service for
America Memorial Foundation
Arlington, VA

Marty Langelen

Economist and Author
Washington, DC

Virginia Williams

Activist
Washington, DC

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Awarded Presidential Commission Certificate of Recognition

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Travelers Club of Chamberlain 1209 S. Main

Chamberlain SD, 57325
Documented club history including oral history of founder's daughter.

Woman's Wednesday Club Texas Federation of Women's Clubs 306 North Travis Granbury TX 76048

Organized in 1897, the club documented its charitable support of 19 local organizations.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Of South Dakota Lillian Johnson 1209 S Main Chamberlain, SD 57325

Produced a collection of women's histories from women who were pioneers in South Dakota

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Lagniappe Woman's Club Literary and Civic Club 13115 Todd Avenue Baton Rouge, LA, 70815

Club honored six club women whose work in GFWC programs has made significant contributions to the community. Also cooperated with the Louisiana State Archives on an exhibit honoring Distinguished Women of Louisiana in the fields of athletics, arts, government, military, communications and entertainment.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs West Essex Woman's Club 36 Beechwood Road West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Six club members participated in oral interviews about various historical periods. The interviews were entered at the Women's History and Resource Center. Club members also researched lives of local prominent women, compiled a booklet and honored the women as West Essex Women of Achievement.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Paradise Valley Woman's Club 4350 E. Winchcomb Phoenix, AZ 85032

Club enlisted the support of nearly 20 service groups as well as local, city and state agencies to promote safety awareness in their community.

The Lake Forest Woman's Club 1705 Surrey Lane Lake Forest, IL 60045

Club created a new board position of Historian to sort through records and write articles periodically for the Club newsletter about the organization's rich 98-year history

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Junior Woman's Club of Racine 740 Lake Avenue Racine, WI 53406

Initiated a process to continuously update the history of their accomplishments.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Miles City Woman's Club P.O. Box 743 Miles City, MT 59301

Started a program called "Let's Celebrate Women in Our Communities" to collect historical information about local women's

organizations. The group purchased a large cupboard and installed it in the Miles City Public Library where it is being used to store historic materials.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Sylvester Woman's Club 2508 Jacqueline Circle Moultrie, GA 31768

This group of 60-75-year old women renovated and decorated their building which is an historic landmark. They published a "Past & Present" cookbook featuring historic recipes.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs Somis Thursday Club 24141 Village 24 Camarillo, CA 93012

The Club is located in an old schoolhouse that is on the Historic Landmarks of Ventura County, CA list. The Club creates scholarships for deserving high school seniors.

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Greater West Palm Beach Women's Club**

2323 23rd Lane

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Created a project to honor and support Mrs. Claire Siefker, a "Woman of History." Ms. Siefker has organized a project to provide supplies for newborns of indigent parents in the community.

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Sierra Vista Woman's Club**

P.O. Box 981

Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

This 40-year old club maintains a written history since its first meeting. The club will identify and develop a community honor roll.

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Hillcrest Women's Club**

5333 Golfway Lane

Lyndhurst, OH 44124-3737

In their newsletter, the Club writes a monthly article about a significant woman in American History. In addition, they preserve the club's history in a scrapbook.

Lyndhurst Woman's Club

368- Wilson Avenue

Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

For the past five years, our club had displays in March, in the town library, honoring women in history.

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Tullahoma Woman's Club**

709-Wilson Avenue

Tullahoma, TN 37388

Our 130-member club volunteered 2704 hours of community service and recycled 9 tons of materials to actively support women and family rights as listed in the Constitution.

The Women's Club of Orange

604 Fifth Street

P.O. Box 543

Orange, TX 77631

The Club initiated and dedicated the Official Texas Historical Marker on April 9, 2000 at the Clubhouse to honor the women who started the club as a Reading Club in the late 1800's. The founders continued to promote reading by starting a library in the Clubhouse in the early 1900's.

Florida Federated Woman's Club of District 7

1520 South Pointe Drive

Leesburg, FL 34748

The Club compiled information about women who have been honored and made a "difference" in their communities.

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Port St. Lucie Woman's Club, Inc.**

671 SE Stow Terrace

Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

The Club created a special Woman's History Month celebration on March 15, 2000 to honor a century-old member, Carolyne Reed. Ms. Reed is a World War 11 Veteran who founded the First Congregational Church of Port St. Lucie. Second Speaker was author and columnist, Strelsa Schreiber. Her book, "The Early Years of Port St. Lucie, Florida, A Personal Memoir" gives a modern version of history.

High Springs New Century Woman's Club, Inc

40 NW First Avenue

High Springs, FL 32655

The High Springs New Century Woman's Club is celebrating their 100th birthday this year, 2000. A committee was selected to research

women who have made a difference in High Springs, Florida. They documented the founder and first President of their club and selected women who were the first or founder of noteworthy projects. A luncheon was held to honor these women. A gallery display was mounted to document their achievements.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs

Peterstown Woman's Club

110 Thomas Street

Peterstown, WV 24963

The Peterstown Woman's Club honored 101-year old Gladys Larew for her contributions to Monroe County, West Virginia. Among her many accomplishments, she was the first woman to vote in the county, started the hot lunch program for school children, and served as midwife for over 30 births.

General Federation of Woman's Clubs

Metropolis Woman's Club

4439 Crestwood Road

Metropolis, IL 62960

The Club was established in 1897 as a woman's literary society and in 1908 became a part of the General

Federation of Women's Clubs. Recorded minutes, financial records and annual program books are on file and complete from 1897-2000. This year the club is having the minutes typed and bound for presentation to the Metropolis Public Library.

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Women's Club of Pittsford
P.O. Box 208
Pittsford, NY 14534**

The Club honored Dr. Logan-Young who established the "standard of care" in this country for the diagnosis of breast disease. She founded her breast cancer clinic in 1976. Named in honor of her mother, the Clinic treats 60,000 patients annually.

**National Black Herstory
Task Force, Inc.
P.O. Box 55021
Atlanta, GA 30308**

The Task Force established an annual conference and awards Banquet to honor women of African descent and their allies. Conference is held at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, fourth weekend in March. The Group plans to develop a research library and museum to showcase their stories and artifacts.

**Women of Achievement in Maryland
History, Inc.
12125 A Veirs Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906**

The Women of Achievement in Maryland History project will chronicle the evolving roles and hard-won rights of women in Maryland history. The project's primary objective is the publication of a book recounting women's history throughout the lives of individual women whose spirit, accomplishments and determination have created the fabric of today's Maryland.

**Girl Scouts Lone Star Council Area II
Janice Jentsch
216 E. Humphreys
Seguin, TX 78155**

Each troop is focusing on a chosen woman in history. They will research and plan how to deliver their information. Their delivery will include skits, costuming, song, dance, readings, etc. On a selected weekend, 500-700 girls and adults will gather for a camping weekend. Each troop will give a 5 to 10 minute presentation on their chosen woman. Each troop is making an individual quilt square reflecting their historical

woman to include in a millennium quilt. On Saturday, each girl and adult will go from tent site to tent site to learn something about each troop's woman of focus.

**The Prudence Crandall Museum
Junction Routes 14 & 169
Canterbury, CT 06331-0058**

The Building is site of the first school for young black women, established by Prudence Crandall in 1833. The school initially opened in the winter of 1832 as one to educate children from local upper-middle class white families. When Sarah Harris, a young black woman, approached Prudence Crandall about entering the student body, Crandall was faced with having many white students withdrawn, having the school fail — or finding a way to remain open. Her solution was to close the academy and reopen on April 1st, 1833 with all black students. Though she faced legal action from the State of Connecticut, harassment and violence, she stood strong until a mob attack on Sept. 9, 1834 forced her to close the Academy. The museum's interpretation honors Prudence Crandall, Connecticut's State Female Hero, and the courageous actions of her student body. The Museum Hosts

"Annual Prudence Crandall Day" on Labor Day weekend to particularly recognize these events.

**Edna Dean Pemberton
9438 Sohpora Drive
Dallas, TX 75249**

In Dallas Texas on March 18, 2000 at the Concord M.B. Church located 6808 Boulder Drive, 2000 women of all cultures gathered in fellowship around exhibits, conversations, and refreshments. The highlight of the event was the grand march of all women with their own cultural attire/flag. The theme song is "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

**Vickie Lewis
1243 S. Forest Drive
Arlington, VA 22204**

Coffee table book highlights the strength and courage of women in military service through poignant photographs and personal narratives, offering a fresh perspective on American history. An inspiring book, with more than 150 images from the American Revolution through Desert Storm. It is a moving and thought-provoking tribute to American heroines.

Laura Laitala
127 E Boundary Street
Ely, MN 55731

Laura Laitala documented her mother's life. Born and raised in a Finnish American community in northeastern Minnesota, she struggled to help keep her family afloat by running a boarding house after her father died when she was seven. Beginning school only knowing the Finnish language, she had to master the English language with a double-vision disability. She completed school as one of the highest achievers, went on to attain her B.A as an educator and later returned to college in her mid-forties to earn her Masters degree. Her work as a pioneer in developing a sex education program in public schools earned her a place on a governor's committee.

OTHER CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

**Methacton High School's Women's
Performance Group**
1001 Kriebel Mill Road
Norristown, PA 19403

Dianna Diatz
421 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301-2233

Stephanie A. Patterson
6040 DeLong Road
Indianapolis, IN 46254

Michelle Sisco
5540 Danville Highway
Lebanon, KY 40033

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
IFC**
75 Excalibur Court
Lafayette, IN 47905

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Mesquite Club, Inc.**
Post Office Box 14424
Las Vegas, NE 89114

**General Federation of Woman's Clubs
Oconomowoc Woman's Club**
W385 N5045 Lakeshore Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again, we extend our thanks to the women and men who attended our meetings, at their own expense, to share their ideas with this Commission. Their thoughtful testimony shaped the concepts in this memo and provided the priorities for our work.

Commissions cannot accomplish their missions without competent staff. Ours was beyond compare. Martha Davis and Cindy Gilbert managed our schedules flawlessly. April Kaufman and Eleni Martin managed our media outreach superbly. Aprill Springfield recorded our every word with inordinate patience.

We extend special notes of appreciation to Sondra Seba, Agency Representative at The White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach. Her unique talent for ferreting out resources in the women's community enriched our deliberations. We also recognize the enormous contributions of Professor Allida Black, Director, the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, and Molly Murphy MacGregor, Co-Founder of the National Women's History Project.

We are especially grateful to Steve Trachtenberg, President, George Washington University, for recognizing the importance of our mission. President Trachtenberg's comments, delivered at the event he created in our honor, are a model for every University President and could well serve as a guide for raising awareness of the contributions of women to American history.

To Robert Peck, Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, our thanks for saving the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office and allowing us to dedicate it at our Millennium Women's History Month Celebration. To Ellen Lovell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Advisor to the First Lady for the Millennium Program, our thanks for inviting us to present our report to President Clinton at a special White House Millennium Evening. To Dave Barram, Administrator, General Services Administration, another round of applause for allowing us to continue our work well beyond the originally envisioned one-year time frame.

Finally, our enormous gratitude to President William Jefferson Clinton for his vision and encouragement. He took the unusual step of extending the life of this Commission so we could implement many of the recommendations included in this report. To Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose inspirational words guided us throughout our journey to discover our foremothers, a special vote of thanks.

We present this report as a testimony to our past and a hope that the future we imagine will include women as equal partners in the greatness that is America.

Ann Lewis & Beth Newburger
Co-Chairs

November 15, 2000



*Presenting the Commission Report, The White House Millennium Evening, March 15, 1999
L to R, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Irene Wurtzel, LaDonna Harris, Gloria Johnson, President William
Jefferson Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, J. Dr. Barbara Goldsmith, Dr. Elaine
Kim, Beth Newburger, and Ann Lewis (Not pictured: Dr. Ellen Ochoa and Michael Cook)*

Office of the Press Secretary
(Hong Kong, People's Republic of China)

For Immediate Release

July 2, 1998

EXECUTIVE ORDER

**PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE CELEBRATION
OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to celebrate the role of women in American history, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History (the Commission). The Commission shall be composed of not more than 11 members appointed by the President from the public and private sectors. The public sector members shall include such persons as the President deems appropriate, including (a) the Assistant to the President and Director of Communications and (b) a person recommended by and who shall be the representative of the Administrator of General Services. The President may designate two members as Co-Chairs of the Commission. The private sector members shall represent entities interested in the Commission's work on American history, particularly the history of women in America. These entities may include, but need not be limited to, academic institutions, business entities, labor organizations, public interest organizations, arts and humanities institutions, State and local governments, athletic groups, and organizations devoted to civil rights and opportunities for minorities and women. The private sector members shall not be considered special Government employees.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Commission shall make recommendations to the President, through the Co-Chairs of the Commission, on ways to best acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in American history. Recommendations may include, among other things, the feasibility of a focal point for women's history located in

Washington, D.C., and the use of the latest technology to connect existing and planned women's history sites, museums, and libraries.

(b) The Commission shall meet to carry out its work concerning the celebration of women in American history.

(c) The Commission shall report its recommendations, through the Co-Chairs of the Commission, in a final report to the President by March 1, 1999.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable, provide the Co-Chairs of the Commission with such information with respect to women's history in America as the Co-Chairs may request.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation for their work on the Commission. While engaged in the work of the Commission, members appointed from the private sector may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(c) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the General Services Administration shall provide the Commission with funding, administrative services, facilities, staff, and other support services necessary for the performance of the functions of the Commission. With respect to the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall perform the administrative functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress.

(d) The Commission shall terminate 60 days after the submission of its final report.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON



THE WHITE HOUSE,
June 29, 1998

