

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—DESIGNATING MARCH 22, 2018, AS “NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY”

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 447

Whereas rehabilitation counselors support individuals with disabilities by—

- (1) conducting assessments;
- (2) providing counseling;
- (3) supporting families; and
- (4) assisting in the development of individualized plans for employment for individuals with disabilities who are in need of rehabilitation;

Whereas the purpose of professional organizations for rehabilitation counseling and education is to promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to individuals with disabilities through quality education for counselors and rehabilitation research;

Whereas various professional organizations have vigorously advocated for up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education, including—

- (1) the National Rehabilitation Association;
- (2) the Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association;
- (3) the National Council on Rehabilitation Education;
- (4) the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association;
- (5) the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association;
- (6) the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification;
- (7) the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation; and
- (8) the Council on Rehabilitation Education;

Whereas, in March of 1983, the president of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education testified before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and was instrumental in bringing to the attention of Congress the need for qualified rehabilitation counselors; and

Whereas credentialed rehabilitation counselors provide a higher quality of service to individuals in need of rehabilitation and the development of an accreditation system for rehabilitation counselors supports the continued education of rehabilitation counselors: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) designates March 22, 2018, as “National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day”; and

- (2) commends—

(A) rehabilitation counselors for their dedication and hard work in providing counseling to individuals with disabilities who are in need of rehabilitation; and

(B) professional organizations for their efforts in assisting individuals with disabilities who are in need of rehabilitation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—DESIGNATING MARCH 2018 AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN,

Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas National Women’s History Month recognizes and spreads awareness of the importance of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas throughout the history of the United States, whether in the home, their workplace, school, the courts, or in wartime, women have fought for themselves, their families, and all people of the United States;

Whereas, even from the early days of the history of the United States, Abigail Adams urged her husband to “Remember the ladies” when representatives met for the Continental Congress in 1776;

Whereas women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the United States;

Whereas women led the efforts to secure suffrage and equal opportunity for women, and also served in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, labor movements, civil rights movements, and other causes to create a more fair and just society for all;

Whereas suffragists wrote, marched, were arrested, and ultimately succeeded in achieving the enactment of the 19th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, section 1 of which provides that “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex”, as well as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), which extended the protection of the right to vote to women of color and language minorities;

Whereas women have been and continue to step up as leaders in the forefront of social change efforts, business, science, government, math, art, literature, music, film, athletics, and more;

Whereas women now represent approximately half of the workforce of the United States;

Whereas women once were routinely barred from attending medical schools of the United States, but now are enrolling in medical schools of the United States at higher numbers than men;

Whereas women previously were turned away from law school, but now represent approximately half of law students in the United States;

Whereas women have been vital to the mission of the Armed Forces since the American Revolution, serving in volunteer and enlisted positions, with more than 200,000 active-duty servicewomen and 2,000,000 veterans representing every branch of service;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 women own businesses in the United States;

Whereas Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in 1916 and Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas was the first woman elected to the United States Senate in 1932;

Whereas Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress;

Whereas, in the 115th Congress, a record 22 women serve as United States Senators, and 89 women serve in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation designating March 2 through 8, 1980, as “National Women’s History Week”;

Whereas, in 1987, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced the first joint resolution to pass Congress designating “Women’s History Month”;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan issued the first “Women’s History Month” Presidential Proclamation in 1987; and

Whereas, despite the advancements of women in the United States, much remains to be done to ensure that women realize their full potential as equal members of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) designates March 2018 as “National Women’s History Month”;

(2) recognizes the celebration of “National Women’s History Month” as a time to reflect on the many notable contributions that women have made to the United States;

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe “National Women’s History Month” with appropriate programs and activities.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Women’s History Month to reflect on the remarkable contributions women have made to the United States and the challenges we must still face today to ensure women are able to realize their full potential as equal partners in American society.

For over 30 years, we have set aside this month to pay tribute to the amazing women who have fought tirelessly for themselves, their families, and all Americans.

I look back on their courage with great admiration and continue to be inspired by those who blazed the trail for women like me. When I first came to Washington in 1992, they called it the “Year of the Woman,” with four women being elected to the Senate. Today, we have a record 22 women serving in the United States Senate and 89 women serving in the House of Representatives.

Even at record levels, women only account for about 20 percent of the 115th Congress, which falls far short of the 51 percent of our nation’s population that are women.

Still, women have proven themselves as true political forces and I have great hope for the next generations of women who will also lead the way in building a better California and United States.

Women have been and continue to step up as leaders in the forefront of social change efforts, business, science, government, math, art, literature, music, film, athletics, and more.

Today, half of our workforce is made up of women and more than 10 million American businesses are women owned.

Where women were once turned away from attending medical and law schools, enrollment numbers are now almost evenly split between men and women.

Women have risen to the top of Fortune 500 companies and fill the domes of capitol and the halls of universities.

Women now also have a larger role in the U.S. Armed Forces, with more than 200,000 active-duty servicewomen proudly serving and 2 million veterans representing every branch of service.