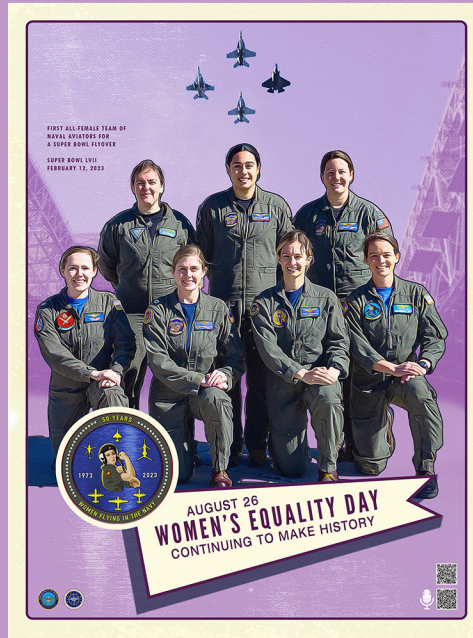


CULTURAL
AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE



AUGUST 26
WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
CONTINUING TO MAKE HISTORY



On Women's Equality Day, we honor the movement for universal suffrage that led to the 19th Amendment. We celebrate the progress of women over the years and renew our commitment to advancing gender equity.

The amendment changed federal law and the face of the American electorate forever.

The determination to win the vote was an expansive and diverse effort. While the Alaska Territory granted Alaskan women full voting rights in 1913, seven years before the 19th Amendment, many women still did not have the right to vote after the amendment's ratification.

American Indian women fought for their right to vote until 1924, Chinese American women until 1943, and Japanese and other Asian American women until 1952.

A strong suffrage movement existed in many Black communities. However, the laws, particularly in the South, barred Black women from voting for decades after 1920. It wasn't until the passing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 that these women obtained suffrage as well.

Female firsts still occur to this day. Seven women from the U.S. Navy recently made history when they conducted the first all-female pregame flyover at Super Bowl 2023. The Navy flyover honored "50 years of women flying" for the maritime service branch, which began teaching women to fly in 1973.

In November 2022, Captain Rhea McFarland became the first Black female C-17 pilot to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross for her leadership in Afghanistan. The Distinguished Flying Cross is the Air Force's highest honor awarded for acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement during aerial operations.

McFarland was on one of the last aircraft to depart Kabul, marking the final withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Her crew made three harrowing trips to the Afghan capital.

Today as we celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment, we are reminded we all have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to create a society that gives both men and women an equal voice.