

## Chronology of Women's Achievement

- 1587 - Virginia Dare is born on Roanoke Island, Virginia, first person born to English parents in the New World
- 1608 - First women arrive at Jamestown, Virginia Colony
- 1620 - Pilgrim Women arrive at Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts
- 1637 - Anne Hutchinson is banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony for preaching unorthodox views; she moves to Rhode Island
- 1650 - Anne Bradstreet's book of poems, *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*, is published in England, making her the first published American woman writer
- 1692 - Salem Witch Trials are held; sixteen women are executed as witches
- 1707 - Henrietta Johnston becomes professional woman artist in America, painting in Charleston, South Carolina
- 1766 - Mary Katherine Goddard, becomes the first woman publisher in America, publishing the *Providence Gazette* newspaper and the annual *West's Almanack* in Baltimore. In 1777 she is the first printer to offer copies of the Declaration of Independence that included the signers' names
- 1790 - Mother Bernardina Matthews establishes the first community of Roman Catholic nuns in the United States when she founds the Carmelite convent near Port Tobacco, Maryland,
- 1792 - Suzanne Vaillande appears in *The Bird Catcher*, in New York, the first ballet presented in the U.S.
- 1795 - Anne Parrish establishes the House of Industry, in Philadelphia; it is the first charitable organization for women in America
- 1805 - Sacagawea saves the Lewis and Clark expedition
- 1809 - Mary Kies becomes the first woman to receive a patent
- 1836 - Juana Briones, a Hispanic, establishes San Francisco
- 1837 - Mary Lyon founds Mount Holyoke, the first women's college
- 1847 - Maria Mitchell discovers a comet and becomes America's first woman astronomer
- 1848 - First Women's Rights Convention is held at Seneca Falls, NY
- 1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell is first woman in U.S. with a medical degree when she receives her MD degree from the Medical Institution of Geneva, NY,
- 1849 - Amelia Bloomer publishes *The Lily*, the first national magazine for women
- 1851 - Sojourner Truth delivers famous *Ain't I a Woman* speech at a women's rights convention in Ohio
- 1864 - Rebecca Lee Crumpler becomes the first black woman to receive an MD degree when she graduates from the New England Female Medical College
- 1864 - Dr. Mary E. Walker wins the Medal of Honor during Civil War; only woman to win it
- 1866 - Lucy Hobbs is the first woman to graduate from dental school

1869 - Arabella Mansfield becomes the first woman lawyer in the country when she is granted permission to practice law in Iowa

1870 - Ada H. Kepley, of Illinois, graduates from the Union College of Law in Chicago, becoming the first woman lawyer to graduate from a law school

1872 - Victoria Claflin Woodhull becomes the first woman presidential candidate in the United States

1872 - Susan B. Anthony is arrested for voting in a federal election and fined \$100

1873 - Ellen Swallow Richards earns her BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and becomes the first female professional chemist in the U.S.

1879 - Belva Ann Lockwood is the first woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court

1879 - Mary Baker Eddy establishes the Church of Christ, Scientist, becoming the first woman to found a major religion - Christian Science

1881 - Clara Barton founds the American Red Cross

1885 - Sarah E. Goode becomes the first black woman to receive a patent,

1887 - Susanna Medora Salter is the first woman elected mayor of an American town, in Argonia, Kansas

1889 - Jane Addams founds Hull House in Chicago

1889 - Nellie Bly goes around the world in 72 Days

1893 - Ida B. Wells-Barnett crusades against black lynching in America

1896 - Alice Guy Blaché, the first American woman film director, shoots the first of her more than 300 films, a short feature called *The Cabbage Fairy*

1901 - Annie Edson Taylor, a Michigan schoolteacher, is the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel

1904 - Gertrude Pridgett (Ma Rainey) introduces the Blues to America

1912 - Juliette Gordon Low founds the Girl Scouts of America

1916 - Jeannette Rankin, of Montana, is the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

1920 - Women gain the right to vote through the 19th Amendment

1920 - Novelist Edith Wharton wins a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Age of Innocence*

1924 - Nellie Tayloe Ross is elected governor of Wyoming, first woman to become a governor

1926 - Gertrude Ederle is the first woman to swim across the English Channel

1928 - Margaret Mead publishes *Coming of Age in Samoa*

1932 - Amelia Earhart flies solo across the Atlantic

1932 - Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate

1933 - Frances Perkins is appointed secretary of labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, making her the first woman member of a presidential cabinet

1934 - Lettie Pate Whitehead is the first American woman to serve as a director of a major corporation, the

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- 1934 - American adventurer Jeanette Piccard sets an altitude record for female balloonists
- 1935 - Mary Mcleod Bethune founds the National Council of Negro Women
- 1946 - Mother Maria Frances Cabrini, canonized by Pope Pius XII, is the first U.S. citizen to become a saint
- 1946 - Edith Houghton is the first woman hired as a major-league baseball scout
- 1950 - Margaret Chase Smith stands up to Joseph McCarthy and delivers her *Declaration of Conscience* speech in the U.S. Senate
- 1950 - Babe Didrikson is named Woman Athlete of the Half Century
- 1950 - Gwendolyn Brooks wins the Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen*
- 1956 - Tennis-Pro Althea Gibson becomes the first black woman to win Grand Slam Tourney
- 1959 - Lorraine Hansberry's Play *Raisin in the Sun* is produced
- 1960 - Wilma Rudolph wins three gold medals at the Olympics
- 1960 - Oveta Culp Hobby is the first woman to serve as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare
- 1960 - Jacqueline Cochran breaks the sound barrier
- 1963 - Betty Friedan launches the New Women's Movement
- 1964 - Margaret Chase Smith is the first woman nominated for President of the United States by a major political party, at the Republican National Convention in San Francisco
- 1965 - Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii is the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress
- 1967 - Muriel "Mickey" Siebert is the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange
- 1969 - Shirley Chisholm is first black woman elected to Congress
- 1969 - Joan Ganz Cooney launches Sesame Street
- 1970 - Diane Crump is the first woman jockey to ride in the Kentucky Derby
- 1972 - Title IX is passed, creating parity in women's and men's athletics and education
- 1973 - Roe v. Wade strikes down anti-abortion laws
- 1975 - Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first native-born American to be made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church
- 1978 - Nancy Lopez wins her first LPGA tournament
- 1978 - Mary Clarke is first woman to reach the rank of Major General in the U.S. Armed Forces
- 1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor is appointed by President Reagan to the Supreme Court
- 1983 - Dr. Sally K. Ride becomes the first American woman to be sent into space
- 1985 - Wilma Mankiller is the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- 1989 - Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is the first Hispanic woman elected to Congress
- 1990 - Sharon Pratt Dixon is first black woman to serve as mayor of Washington, D. C. and first black woman to serve as mayor of a major U.S. city
- 1992 - Carol Moseley-Braun, is the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate

1993 - Sheila Widnall is the first woman appointed a secretary of a branch of the U.S. military when she heads the Air Force

1993 - Janet Reno is first woman appointed U.S. attorney general

1993 - Toni Morrison is first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature

1997 - Madeleine Albright is first woman sworn in as U.S. Secretary of State

1999 – Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins is the first woman astronaut to command a space shuttle mission

2001 - Condoleezza Rice is the first woman to serve as national security adviser

2005 - Condoleezza Rice is the first black woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State