



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Women's History Month was first observed in 1981 and is now recognized worldwide every March, to celebrate women's achievement and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, thousands of women, named and unnamed, have laid the foundation for New Jersey's robust economic, cultural, social, and business environment:

- Lenape women were the first and majority peoples in the land now known as New Jersey;
- Elizabeth Carteret, among the first female leaders in New Jersey, who held inheritance and administrative rights to the colony of East New Jersey in 1682, and for whom the City of Elizabeth is named;
- Sybilla Righton Masters, in the early 1700s, held the first American patent for a machine that prepared native corn;
- Esther Edwards Burr, mother of former Vice President Aaron Burr, helped to establish and advance New Jersey's first college;
- Clara Barton founded the first public schools in New Jersey in the 1800s;
- Mary Philbrook, who in 1895, was the first woman admitted to the state bar in New Jersey;
- Toni Morrison, esteemed author and activist, Nobel Prize winner, Pulitzer Prize winner, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and revered educator hailed from New Jersey;

WHEREAS, generations of women of all backgrounds, political and religious persuasions and economic circumstances have made essential contributions to enhancing their communities; and

WHEREAS, following in those footsteps, women today are advancing farther than ever in a variety of fields, and act as role models in leadership and service positions through participation in community, county and state activities, charting their own course for future women leaders to build upon; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Division on Women, in the state Department of Children and Families, continues to highlight and advance women's issues in this state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to undertake a comprehensive survey of women's historic sites, resulting in the establishment of the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail, which uses historic locations to tell the collective story of women who have contributed to the agricultural, industrial, labor, cultural and domestic advances of the state; and

WHEREAS, on International Women's Day - March 8 - and all throughout the month of March, communities across the globe, the country and here in New Jersey, join in honoring previous and current achievements made by women;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2020 AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twentieth day of February in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR