



"The Voice of Working Women"

Women's History Month



Recognizing and Honoring American Women

President George W. Bush has proclaimed March 2003 as Women's History Month.

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In this Proclamation, President Bush calls upon all citizens to observe the month of March with ceremonies and activities that recognize the contributions of American women - contributions that continue to shape this country and enrich our society.

"Through vision, hard work, and determination, countless American women have broadened opportunities for themselves and for others at home, in the community, and in the workplace", says President Bush.

The Proclamation highlights the achievements and contributions of particular women, including:

- Mary Kies, who in 1809 became the first woman to receive a U.S. patent by creating a method of weaving straw with silk. She played an important role in the progress of American industry and became an inspirational figure for other American women.
- Madam C.J. Walker, who started her own business in 1905 by developing and selling hair care products for African-American women. After a decade of hard work, her company was highly successful, employing more than 3,000 people. It was the largest African-American owned business in America during this period.

At the dawn of the 21st century, women continue to make extraordinary strides and have more economic and educational options than ever before. For example:

- Between 1992 and 2002, the number of female college graduates in the United States has increased from 15.9 million to 23.6 million.

Article 1

- [Women's History Month](#)

Article 2

- [Rebuilding Afghanistan](#)

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- [ILAB Project for Afghan Women](#)

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- Women account for 47 percent of all employed persons and are entering the American workforce in record numbers. In the last 10 years, their ranks have increased by 8.7 million.
- Women-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other U.S. firms, employing 7 million Americans and contributing to the vitality of our economy.



This month, as we celebrate all the remarkable women who have played a significant role in contributing to America's greatness, the Women's Bureau joins President Bush and Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao in encouraging all citizens to recognize the countless women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social, and cultural life of our great nation.

To read the text of President Bush's proclamation, please visit [The White House's website](#).

Many agencies and departments within the Federal Government will have their own events in March as a part of the Federal Women's Program. The Women's Bureau is no exception as we continue to advance the opportunities for working women during Women's History Month, and beyond.

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