



**Chris Danou's Capitol Report**  
March Celebrates Women's History

Every year, the month of March brings the official start of the spring season, the WIAA Boys and Girls State Basketball Championship and the "March Madness" of the NCAA Tournament. Since 1987, the month of March also has given us the chance to celebrate Women's History Month and remember the achievements and contributions of women in the United States.

As a member of the Assembly Democratic Caucus, I'm proud to serve with over one dozen women from around Wisconsin who represent rural, suburban and urban districts alike. Their presence and voice not only set a positive example for women, but they also bring experience and perspective that makes our caucus more inclusive and diverse. This helps us work together in a way that make our communities a great place to work, live and raise a family, and helps move our state forward.

As I did research on Women's History Month, I came across several great resources that honor the significant and historical achievements of women in our country, and highlights those who had a significant impact with their leadership in government and public service. I also found a proclamation from February 29<sup>th</sup>, in which President Obama released a Presidential Proclamation honoring March as Women's History Month 2016. He is the third President to issue such a proclamation, following precedents set by Presidents Clinton and Bush. I encourage you to read the proclamation in its entirety: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/29/presidential-proclamation-womens-history-month-2016>.

Another resource I came across highlights the work of women who are still alive, as well as those who have passed on. Some women of note include Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, who is public health leader and former Minnesota Commissioner of Health, Ella Grasso, former Governor of Connecticut and first woman to be elected Governor in the US in her own right and Nancy Grace Roman, former Chief of Astronomy at NASA. These are just a few of the noteworthy and interesting women who have contributed so much to their community and country. For more information, please visit: <http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2016-theme/>.

Countless books could be written about the women who have helped shape the American landscape, but no matter their contribution or accomplishment, the overall significance is that women matter. Not only have they blazed the trail for future women, but they have also made contributions that have driven overall progress forward. They broke carriers, overcame obstacles and redefined boundaries that proved they were capable of doing all that a man could do and more. Their efforts have led to advances, discoveries and progress that have positive impacts on us all.

While there has been great improvement for women in our community, state, country and the world, we know there is still work to be done. Recognizing the many contributions of women brings necessary awareness to women's equality and puts us on the right path moving forward. Please take a moment to remember the accomplishments of women in history this March!

