



Introduced Version

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

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1           A HOUSE RESOLUTION celebrating International  
2 Women's Day and recognizing the essential role of women in  
3 history during Women's History Month.

4           *Whereas, The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was*  
5 *passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and was ratified by the*  
6 *states on August 18, 1920;*

7           *Whereas, A U.S. Supreme Court decision was needed to*  
8 *ensure that women could vote throughout the country, and 97*

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1     *years ago, on February 27, 1922, the U.S. Supreme Court*  
 2     *upheld the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing that the right to vote*  
 3     *could not be denied based on sex. Leser v. Garnett ensured that*  
 4     *no matter what any state constitution said, women could vote;*

5     *Whereas, American women were leaders in securing their*  
 6     *own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but were also*  
 7     *leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation*  
 8     *movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights*  
 9     *movement, and the peace movement, helping to create a fairer*  
 10    *and more just society for all;*

11    *Whereas, The first International Women's Day (IWD)*  
 12    *gathering was held in 1911 and was supported by over a*  
 13    *million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland*  
 14    *after many years of campaigns for women's equality;*

15    *Whereas, Less than a week later, on March 25th, the tragic*  
 16    *"Triangle Fire" in New York City took the lives of more than*  
 17    *140 working women, most of them immigrants. This drew*  
 18    *significant attention to working conditions and labor legislation*  
 19    *in the United States that became a focus of subsequent IWD*  
 20    *events;*

21    *Whereas, IWD has grown and belongs to all groups*  
 22    *collectively everywhere. It does not belong to any specific*  
 23    *country, group, or organization, and is celebrated annually on*  
 24    *March 8th;*

25    *Whereas, IWD is a global day celebrating the social,*  
 26    *economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The*  
 27    *day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.*  
 28    *The theme for International Women's Day for 2019 is "Better*  
 29    *the Balance, Better the World" and many notable women have*  
 30    *exemplified this. We remember a few here;*

31    *Whereas, Marie Curie was born in 1867 and founded the*  
 32    *science of radioactivity, which led to the discovery of various*  
 33    *cures for cancer. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize,*  
 34    *the first female professor at the University of Paris, and the*  
 35    *first person to win a second Nobel Prize;*



1       *Whereas, Rosa Parks challenged the racial segregation that*  
 2       *existed in many parts of the country by refusing to give up her*  
 3       *seat on a bus to a white man. The United States Congress has*  
 4       *called her "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the*  
 5       *freedom movement";*

6       *Whereas, Amelia Earhart became the first female pilot to*  
 7       *cross the Atlantic Ocean during a solo flight. She spent five*  
 8       *years beating speed and flying records, and was subsequently*  
 9       *declared missing after making an attempt to fly solo over the*  
 10       *Pacific Ocean;*

11       *Whereas, Grace Hopper was the first woman to earn a Ph.D.*  
 12       *in math from Yale University in 1934 and became a*  
 13       *revolutionary figure in the world of computer science. She*  
 14       *spent the majority of her life serving her country as part of the*  
 15       *U.S. Navy and is credited with visionary work on early*  
 16       *computer systems that led to COBOL, a commercial*  
 17       *programming language that revolutionized how businesses*  
 18       *operate around the world;*

19       *Whereas, Bessie Coleman was the first woman to earn an*  
 20       *international pilot's license in France but could only work as a*  
 21       *stunt pilot in the U.S. due to racial and gender bias. She*  
 22       *succeeded in building nationwide support to fund a pilot school*  
 23       *that trained black aviators;*

24       *Whereas, Carrie Chapman Catt served as president of the*  
 25       *National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) over*  
 26       *100 years ago from 1900 to 1904. She served again from 1915*  
 27       *through the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, 99 years*  
 28       *ago;*

29       *Whereas, Alice Paul broke away from NAWSA and founded*  
 30       *the National Woman's Party (NWP). She organized parades*  
 31       *and pickets of the White House starting in 1913 and joined*  
 32       *1,000 "silent sentinels" in support of suffrage in January 1917.*  
 33       *Paul and fellow suffragettes with banners picketed the White*  
 34       *House gates over the course of the next 18 months;*

35       *Whereas, Dr. Alice Hamilton became the first and, for many*  
 36       *years, the only woman on the Harvard faculty in 1918. While*



1 *teaching pathology at Northwestern University, she came to*  
 2 *know Jane Addams and other reformers who encouraged her to*  
 3 *find a way to apply her scientific knowledge to social problems.*  
 4 *Her pioneering research in the field of toxicology raised*  
 5 *awareness about industrial hazards found in the workplace for*  
 6 *many Americans;*

7 *Whereas, Dr. Mae Jemison was the first African American*  
 8 *woman in space. She had previously served as an Area Peace*  
 9 *Corps Medical Officer and managed the health care systems for*  
 10 *Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa. She was selected by*  
 11 *NASA for the astronaut program in 1988 and was chosen as the*  
 12 *science mission specialist for an eight-day mission on board the*  
 13 *Endeavour in 1992, logging over 190 hours in space;*

14 *Whereas, The late State Representative and State Senator,*  
 15 *Anita Bowser of Michigan City, Indiana, was the first woman*  
 16 *to hold the role of Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore in the history*  
 17 *of Indiana. She was a founding member of, and the first female*  
 18 *teacher at, Purdue University North Central. Her priorities*  
 19 *included education, economic development, health care, and*  
 20 *the environment, and she was considered by some to be "the*  
 21 *conscience of the Indiana State Senate";*

22 *Whereas, Sgt. Nora Werner is a Michigan City native and*  
 23 *the first female Indiana State Police trooper to patrol the*  
 24 *Indiana Toll Road. Sgt. Werner emphasized doing the right*  
 25 *thing "no matter what" and served as a mentor and role model*  
 26 *for many state troopers until her retirement in 2017 after*  
 27 *serving for 34 years;*

28 *Whereas, Dorothy Journey was born in Michigan City in 1909*  
 29 *and began her career at the Michigan City News, later*  
 30 *becoming the women's editor at the Miami Herald, Detroit Free*  
 31 *Press, and Philadelphia Inquirer. She shifted the focus of*  
 32 *women's pages from society news to serious issues, such as the*  
 33 *women's movement, female political candidates, and women in*  
 34 *the workplace;*

35 *Whereas, Anita King was born in Michigan City in 1884 and*  
 36 *began her career in modeling and theater, learned to drive, and*  
 37 *competed in auto races in the early 1910s. She was the first*



1 *female driver to complete a solo trip across the United States,*  
 2 *reporting that her only companions were a rifle and a*  
 3 *six-shooter. She used her fame for charitable works, and helped*  
 4 *organize a recreation club for young girls trying to start a*  
 5 *career in the film industry;*

6 *Whereas, Harriet Colfax, who was the lighthouse keeper in*  
 7 *Michigan City, served from her appointment in 1861 until her*  
 8 *retirement at age 80 in 1904. She retained an impeccable*  
 9 *service record during her 43 years of rain, snow, and many*  
 10 *storms, never allowing the light to fail; and*

11 *Whereas, Recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments*  
 12 *of women in history may inspire future generations to work*  
 13 *toward equality for all Hoosiers: Therefore,*

14 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
 15 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

16 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives:  
 17 recognizes the achievements of these and many other  
 18 remarkable and tenacious women who have led the way for  
 19 others; celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political  
 20 achievements of women, because visibility and awareness help  
 21 drive positive change for women; recognizes and honors the  
 22 women in the U.S. and in other countries who have fought and  
 23 continue to struggle for gender equality and women's rights;  
 24 thanks the members of the Indiana Commission for Women and  
 25 the individual Commissions for Women serving in several  
 26 cities in Indiana for their efforts in support of women; and  
 27 encourages women to run for elected office and apply to serve  
 28 on boards and commissions.

29 SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
 30 celebrates the month of March as Women's History Month and  
 31 March 8, 2019, as International Women's Day in the state of  
 32 Indiana.

