



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home, from the US Department of Labor, the percentage of women in the labor force Jan. 2025 was 57.5%; and

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing much of the volunteer (read: unpaid!) labor force of the Nation, according to the Levy Economics Institute, Bard College, unpaid family labor in US is worth \$3.6 trillion annually; women do 80% of it.; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; for example, closer to home, religious women founded hospital groups that continue today, such as Sister Elizabeth Ann Seton, and on a more macro level, Clara Barton founded American Red Cross in 1881; and further, women continue to increase their philanthropic giving noted by Arizona State University; and

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, American women have served our country courageously in the military, from the Civil War (where an estimated 1,000 women disguised themselves as men to serve in the military) on, women served in the military where they currently comprise 17.5% of our active-duty service members; and

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching, and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Women's History Month 2025 is “Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations,” demonstrating when women gather together, from the Seneca Falls convention in 1848 through the suffrage movement years to today as women fight to get to a level playing field in the workspace, the status of women continue to move forward and upward but still lagging behind their male counterparts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court declare March 2025 as Women’s History Month in Williamson County to respect the contributions of all women who inspire us and bring fairness and change to past and present generations, as well as those in the future.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members